
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY OF EACH YEAR AS LIVER AND BILE DUCT CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that according to the
2 National Cancer Institute of Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End
3 Results Program (SEER), Hawaii has the highest death rate of
4 liver and bile duct cancer in the nation; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that according to
7 SEER, Asian and Pacific Islanders have the highest risk of being
8 diagnosed with liver and bile duct cancer compared with other
9 ethnicities; and
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11 WHEREAS, according to the University of Hawaii Cancer
12 Center Hawaii Tumor Registry, there are 184 new cases of liver
13 cancer and bile duct cancer in Hawaii every year; and
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15 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii Tumor Registry, liver and
16 bile duct cancer are among the top ten newly diagnosed cases and
17 cause of cancer deaths each year; and
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19 WHEREAS, according to SEER, Hawaii has a 33 percent higher
20 incidence of liver and bile duct cancer than the national
21 statistical norm; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that according to
24 the Hawaii Tumor Registry, from 2004 to 2013, for which data is
25 available, data on liver cancer and bile duct cancer indicates
26 an annual increase in Hawaii of 2.1 percent in males and 1.3
27 percent in females, while the incidence of many other cancers
28 such as colon, lung, prostate, and stomach cancer declined; and



H.C.R. NO. 200

1 WHEREAS, currently over one thousand people in Hawaii are
2 fighting liver cancer and bile duct cancer, both of which are
3 almost always fatal; and
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5 WHEREAS, research indicates that liver flukes and
6 aflatoxins may also cause liver and bile duct cancer in addition
7 to the hepatitis B or hepatitis C virus and liver diseases; and
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9 WHEREAS, liver flukes, a type of parasitic flatworm found
10 in freshwater fish, shellfish, cattle, and vegetables grown in
11 fresh water, have been previously found in Hawaii; and
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13 WHEREAS, aflatoxins, a toxin produced by a fungus abundant
14 in warm and humid climates that can grow on foods such as rice,
15 grains, and nuts that are stored improperly or for long periods
16 of time may also be present in Hawaii; and
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18 WHEREAS, research shows that the most common way to get a
19 liver fluke infection is by eating raw or undercooked freshwater
20 fish and freshwater vegetables, such as watercress, that are
21 contaminated with the parasites which, after having been
22 ingested, travels from the intestines to the bile ducts in the
23 liver where they then live and grow; and
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25 WHEREAS, there is little public awareness and education
26 around liver and bile duct cancer and the relationship and risks
27 that Hawaii's local diet and environment present to increasing
28 the risk of contracting these diseases; and
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30 WHEREAS, it is critical to reinforce the need for people to
31 discuss their individual risk factors for liver and bile duct
32 cancer with their healthcare providers and understand the
33 recommendations and benefits of reducing risks and increasing
34 prevention efforts; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
38 2019, the Senate concurring, that beginning in 2020, and every
39 year thereafter, the month of February shall be designated as
40 Liver and Bile Duct Cancer Awareness Month in Hawaii; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii Department
 2 of Health, the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, the American
 3 Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc., the City and County
 4 of Honolulu, and the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui are
 5 urged to continue to work towards promoting awareness and
 6 educating the public about liver and bile duct cancer and the
 7 relationship and risks the local diet and environment may have
 8 on contracting the disease; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Mayor
 12 of the City and County of Honolulu; the Mayor of the County of
 13 Kauai; the Mayor of the County of Maui; the Mayor of the County
 14 of Hawaii; the Director of Health; the Director of the
 15 University of Hawaii Cancer Center; and the President of the
 16 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.
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OFFERED BY:

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