
HOUSE 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
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30 WHEREAS, currently over one thousand people in Hawaii are
31 fighting liver cancer and bile duct cancer, both of which are
32 almost always fatal; and



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



