
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA JOHN A. BURNS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO CONDUCT A STUDY THAT INVESTIGATES THE
PREVALENCE OF THE RS-12252-C VARIATION OF THE IFITM3 GENE
AMONG HAWAII RESIDENTS.

1 WHEREAS, in addition to factors such as nutrition,
2 underlying disease, and immunity to past infection, a person's
3 genetic predisposition can contribute to the severity of
4 infection that person experiences; and
5

6 WHEREAS, research shows that mutations to the IFITM3 gene,
7 such as the RS-12252-C variation, can lead to complications
8 during the course of certain infections, such as various forms
9 of influenza; and
10

11 WHEREAS, a study of the impacts of the 2009 H1N1 virus
12 found that sixty-nine percent of patients of Chinese descent
13 with severe H1N1 symptoms carried the RS-12252-C variation,
14 while only twenty-five percent of patients of Chinese descent
15 with mild symptoms carried the variation, suggesting that the
16 RS-12252-C variation may increase the likelihood of developing
17 more serious complications as a result of an H1N1 infection; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the RS-12252-C variant occurs in approximately
20 twenty-five percent of persons of Chinese descent and forty-four
21 percent of persons of Japanese descent, but in only eight
22 percent of those of Northern European descent; and
23

24 WHEREAS, influenza and related pneumonia complications are
25 the fourth leading cause of death in Hawaii, killing six hundred
26 thirty-seven people in 2017 alone – the highest per capita death
27 rate for influenza and related pneumonia complications in the
28 United States; and
29

30 WHEREAS, despite the particular susceptibility of persons
31 of Asian descent to carrying the RS-12252-C variation and the



1 approximately thirty-eight percent of Hawaii residents who are
2 of Asian descent, no studies have been conducted regarding the
3 prevalence of the RS-12252-C variation of the IFITM3 gene among
4 Hawaii residents; and

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6 WHEREAS, this lack of scientific study leaves the
7 Department of Health with no knowledge as to how this genetic
8 variation could affect Hawaii in the event of a public health
9 crisis; now, therefore,

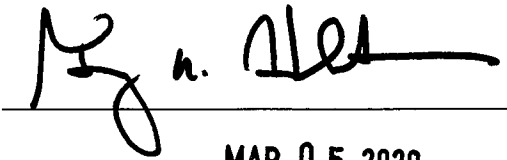
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
13 2020, that the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns
14 School of Medicine is requested to conduct a study that
15 investigates the prevalence of the RS-12252-C variation of the
16 IFITM3 gene among Hawaii residents; and

17
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the John A. Burns School of
19 Medicine is requested to submit a report of its findings and
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
21 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
22 the Regular Session of 2021; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
25 requested to incorporate the research findings from the John A.
26 Burns School of Medicine regarding the RS-12252-C variation of
27 the IFITM3 gene into its public health and pandemic planning;
28 and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Dean of the University of
32 Hawaii at Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine and Director of
33 Health.

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OFFERED BY: 
MAR 05 2020

