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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING ONGOING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO  
IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE VIRAL HEPATITIS  
TYPES A, B, AND C IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, viral hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver  
2 caused by a viral infection; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the most common forms of viral hepatitis in the  
5 United States are hepatitis types A, B, and C; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, about sixty-three thousand people in Hawaii are  
8 living with viral hepatitis types B or C, and many persons may  
9 be unaware that they are infected; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, viral hepatitis types B and C have been linked to  
12 cirrhosis and liver cancer, diseases that affect the State's  
13 residents at disproportionately high rates; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, communities at higher risk for developing viral  
16 hepatitis include people who are indigenous, African American,  
17 incarcerated, veterans, experiencing homelessness, pregnant, or  
18 members of the LGBTQ+ community; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the State is currently engaged in proactive  
21 measures to help eliminate viral hepatitis in underserved and  
22 at-risk communities by expanding Med-QUEST to cover hepatitis C  
23 medications; offering syringe service programs to reduce the  
24 spread of hepatitis C among people who use injectable drugs;  
25 identifying and supporting foreign-born women and families at  
26 high risk of contracting hepatitis B; and ensuring that homeless  
27 communities are immunized against hepatitis A; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, state agencies and private organizations are also  
30 helping to reduce and eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and  
31 C by offering vaccines, testing, education, training programs,  
32 and care services; and



1 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, the United States Senators for  
2 Hawaii, Lieutenant Governor, and Harm Reduction Services Branch  
3 of the Department of Health issued "Hep Free 2030", a ten-year  
4 statewide strategy to help eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B,  
5 and C in Hawaii; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the "Hep Free 2030" strategy emphasized the need  
8 to integrate culturally appropriate services with a  
9 comprehensive system of care and promote the core values of harm  
10 reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha; and  
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12 WHEREAS, continued coordination and ongoing efforts are  
13 needed to further implement the statewide strategy to eliminate  
14 viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in Hawaii; now, therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
17 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
18 of 2021, that this body recognizes and supports ongoing  
19 collaborative efforts by state agencies and private  
20 organizations to implement the "Hep Free 2030" statewide  
21 strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in  
22 Hawaii; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Health,  
25 Human Services, and Homelessness and Senate Committee on Health  
26 are requested to convene two joint informational briefings after  
27 the completion of the Regular Session of 2021 and before the  
28 commencement of the Regular Session of 2022 for the following  
29 purposes:  
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- 31 (1) To assess the progress and status of the "Hep Free  
32 2030" statewide strategy implementation; and  
33  
34 (2) To receive proposed legislation that the Executive  
35 Director of Hep Free Hawaii is urged to submit for the  
36 Regular Session of 2022; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Senators for  
40 Hawaii; Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Chair of the House  
41 Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness; Chair of  
42 the Senate Committee on Health; Director of Health; Branch Chief  
43 of the Harm Reduction Services Branch of the Department of



- 1 Health; Executive Director of the Hawaii Health and Harm
- 2 Reduction Center; and Executive Director of Hep Free Hawaii.

