

MAR 12 2021

SENATE 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 of the liver and liver cancer, diseases that affect
13 the State's residents at disproportionately high rates; and

14
15 WHEREAS, communities at higher risk for developing viral
16 hepatitis include indigenous communities, African Americans,
17 veterans, incarcerated persons, those experiencing homelessness,
18 pregnant women, and 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

33
34 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, United States Senators Mazie
35 Hirono and Brian Schatz, Lieutenant Governor, and the Harm



S.R. NO. 143

1 Reduction Services Branch of the Department of Health issued
2 "Hep Free 2030", a ten-year statewide strategy to help eliminate
3 viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in Hawaii; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the "Hep Free 2030" strategy emphasized the need
6 to integrate culturally appropriate services into a
7 comprehensive system of care and to promote the core values of
8 harm reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha;
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS, continued coordination and ongoing efforts are
12 needed to further implement the statewide strategy to eliminate
13 viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in Hawaii; now, therefore,
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
17 that the Legislature recognizes and supports ongoing
18 collaborative efforts by state agencies and private
19 organizations to implement the "Hep Free 2030" statewide
20 strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in
21 Hawaii; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Committee on Health
24 and the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and
25 Homelessness are requested to convene a joint informational
26 briefing after the completion of the Regular Session of 2021 and
27 before the commencement of the Regular Session of 2022 to assess
28 the progress and status of the "Hep Free 2030" statewide
29 strategy implementation; and
30

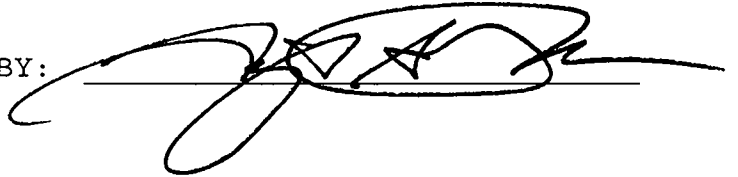
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to United States Senators Mazie Hirono
33 and Brian Schatz; Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Chairperson of
34 the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness;
35 Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health; Director of
36 Health; Branch Chief of the Harm Reduction Services
37



S.R. NO. 143

1 Branch of the Department of Health; Executive Director of the
2 Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center; and Executive Director
3 of Hep Free Hawaii.
4
5
6

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. A. A.", is written over a horizontal line.