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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BLOOD BANK OF HAWAII TO IMMEDIATELY ADOPT THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S UPDATED GUIDANCE, WHICH SHORTENS OR ELIMINATES THE DEFERRAL PERIOD FOR CERTAIN BLOOD DONORS.

1           WHEREAS, due to fears of the coronavirus disease 2019  
2 (COVID-19) pandemic, blood bank donations decreased  
3 substantially in 2021, resulting in an historic blood inventory  
4 shortage in the State; and

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6           WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii is the sole provider of  
7 blood to the eighteen civilian hospitals in the State and one on  
8 Guam; and

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10          WHEREAS, regular blood inventory maintenance requires one  
11 hundred and fifty blood donors every day; however, because of  
12 the State's blood shortage, the Blood Bank of Hawaii has not  
13 been able to adequately supply the State's hospitals, leaving  
14 them with between sixty and eighty percent of the normal supply;  
15 and

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17          WHEREAS, the blood supply shortage is a health crisis and  
18 poses a significant risk to those who suffer medical emergencies  
19 that require blood transfusions; and

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21          WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is  
22 the government agency that determines blood donor eligibility  
23 requirements; and

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25          WHEREAS, due to the shortage of blood donations nationally  
26 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the FDA revised its blood donor  
27 eligibility guidance for several categories of blood donors,  
28 which shortened or eliminated completely the deferral period, or  
29 the amount of time these donors must wait before donating blood;  
30 and

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1 WHEREAS, for male donors who would have been deferred for  
2 having sex with another man, the FDA changed the recommended  
3 deferral period from twelve months to three months since the  
4 donor's last sexual encounter; and  
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6 WHEREAS, for female donors who would have been deferred for  
7 having sex with a man who had sex with another man, the FDA  
8 changed the recommended deferral period from twelve months to  
9 three months since the donor's last sexual encounter; and  
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11 WHEREAS, for those donors who would have been deferred for  
12 tattoos or piercings, the FDA changed the recommended deferral  
13 period from twelve months to three months from receiving the  
14 tattoo or piercing; and  
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16 WHEREAS, for those donors who would have been deferred for  
17 traveling to malaria-endemic areas (and are residents of malaria  
18 non-endemic countries), the FDA changed the recommended deferral  
19 period from twelve months to three months, or no deferral period  
20 in certain cases; and  
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22 WHEREAS, for those donors would have been deferred for  
23 spending time in certain European countries or on military bases  
24 in Europe who were previously considered to have been exposed to  
25 a potential risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease or  
26 Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the FDA eliminated its  
27 recommended deferrals; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the FDA's updated guidance relating to blood  
30 donation has been in place since at least August 2020; and  
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32 WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii states on its website  
33 that it "strictly adheres to FDA regulations"; and  
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35 WHEREAS, the Blood Bank of Hawaii has yet to adopt any of  
36 the FDA's updated guidance; now, therefore,  
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
40 that the Blood Bank of Hawaii is requested to immediately adopt  
41 the Food and Drug Administration's updated guidance, shortening  
42 or eliminating the deferral period for certain blood donors; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Chair of  
4 the Blood Bank of Hawaii.

