

MAR 10 2023

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 preventable, treatable viral infection; and
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4 WHEREAS, the most common forms of viral hepatitis in the
5 United States are hepatitis types A, B, and C; and
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7 WHEREAS, viral hepatitis types B and C have been linked to
8 cirrhosis and liver cancer, diseases that affect Hawaii
9 residents at disproportionately high rates; and
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11 WHEREAS, the State's hepatitis B mortality rate is higher
12 than that of the nationwide average and was nearly triple the
13 nationwide average in 2019; and
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15 WHEREAS, the life expectancy for Hawaii residents living
16 with hepatitis C is twenty years less than that of residents
17 living without hepatitis C; and
18

19 WHEREAS, certain communities are at higher risk for
20 developing viral hepatitis, including indigenous, Asian American
21 and Pacific Islander, incarcerated, veteran, homeless, pregnant,
22 and LGBTQ+ communities; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the State is engaged in proactive measures to help
25 eliminate viral hepatitis in underserved and at-risk communities
26 by expanding Med-QUEST to cover hepatitis C medications;
27 offering syringe service programs to reduce the spread of
28 hepatitis C among people who inject drugs; identifying and
29 supporting foreign-born women and families at high risk of
30 contracting hepatitis B; and ensuring that homeless communities
31 are immunized against hepatitis A; and
32

33 WHEREAS, state agencies and private organizations are also
34 helping to reduce and eliminate viral hepatitis types A, B, and



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1 C by offering vaccines, testing, education, training programs,
2 and care services; and
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4 WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, Hep Free Hawaii, a coalition
5 dedicated to increasing viral hepatitis awareness, issued "Hep
6 Free 2030: The Hawaii Hepatitis Elimination Strategy 2020-2030"
7 (Hep Free 2030), a ten-year statewide strategy to help eliminate
8 viral hepatitis types A, B, and C in Hawaii; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hep Free 2030 identifies awareness and education,
11 access to services, advocacy at all levels, equity, and data
12 driven decision-making as priorities to eliminating viral
13 hepatitis in Hawaii by 2030; and
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15 WHEREAS, continued coordination and ongoing efforts are
16 needed to further implement Hep Free 2030; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
20 that this body recognizes and supports ongoing collaborative
21 efforts by state agencies and private organizations to implement
22 Hep Free 2030: The Hawaii Hepatitis Elimination Strategy 2020-
23 2030; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate and the House of
26 Representatives acknowledge viral hepatitis to be a public
27 health priority of the State; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Standing Committee
30 on Health and Human Services and House Standing Committee on
31 Health and Homelessness are requested to convene a joint
32 informational briefing following the completion of the Regular
33 Session of 2023 and prior to the commencement of the Regular
34 Session of 2024 to assess the progress and status of
35 implementing Hep Free 2030 and determine any recommended future
36 legislative action; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate,
40 Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chair of the Senate
41 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, Chair of the



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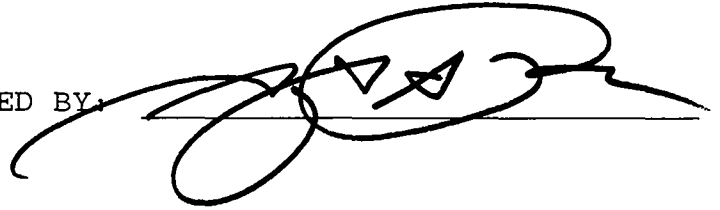
1 House Standing Committee on Health and Homelessness, and Co-
2 Directors of Hep Free Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a central triangular shape, written over a horizontal line.