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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY AS LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, systemic lupus erythematosus, commonly known as  
2 lupus, is an immune system disorder of unknown cause and in its  
3 systemic form may affect the joints, skin, and one or more  
4 internal organs, such as the kidney, heart, and brain; and  
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6           WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic, complex, and life-threatening  
7 disease in which there is always the potential threat of serious  
8 illness and disability; and  
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10           WHEREAS, while lupus can occur in men, 90 percent of the  
11 sufferers are women in their childbearing years, particularly  
12 affecting native Hawaiian women, Pacific Island women, and women  
13 of Asian descent; and  
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15           WHEREAS, ordinarily, the immune system protects against  
16 infection by producing antibodies that successfully combat  
17 foreign infectious agents, but in people with lupus, the immune  
18 system produces antibodies that can harm the individual's own  
19 body; and  
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21           WHEREAS, people with lupus have many different symptoms,  
22 but the most common are fatigue, muscle and joint pain, skin  
23 disorders, inflammation of internal organs, and inflammation of  
24 the vascular and nervous systems; and  
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26           WHEREAS, early detection and proper treatment is critical  
27 to the quality of life and survival rate of lupus sufferers; and  
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29           WHEREAS, researchers estimate that over 1,500,000 people in  
30 the United States have been diagnosed with a form of lupus or  
31 related diseases and according to Lupus Hawaii, more than 10,000  
32 people in Hawaii are affected by lupus; and



1           WHEREAS, scientists in biology, biochemistry, immunology,  
2 genetics, and other fields are seeking to understand the causes  
3 of lupus and to develop better means of detection, treatment,  
4 and prevention; and  
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6           WHEREAS, to fight lupus, new research and new approaches to  
7 diagnosis and treatment are needed and the suffering of lupus  
8 victims can be alleviated through patient services and the  
9 promotion of early detection of undiagnosed cases through lupus  
10 awareness programs; now, therefore,  
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12           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
13 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
14 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature proclaims  
15 the month of May of each year as "Lupus Awareness Month" in  
16 Hawaii; and  
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18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
20 Director of Health.

