
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ENDORSE THE "SCREEN AT 23"
CAMPAIGN THAT SCREENS ADULT ASIAN AMERICANS FOR TYPE 2
DIABETES AT A BODY MASS INDEX OF 23.

1 WHEREAS, approximately 130,000 people, or 9.1 percent of
2 the population, in Hawaii have diabetes, 442,000 or 30.9 percent
3 have pre-diabetes, and residents of Asian American heritage
4 comprise 56.2 percent of the population of Hawaii; and

5
6 WHEREAS, diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death among
7 Asian Americans; and

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9 WHEREAS, Asian Americans are 30 percent more likely to have
10 diabetes than White Americans and are also at greater risk of
11 developing pre-diabetes, diabetes, and associated risks at a
12 lower body mass index than White, Hispanic, Black, or Native
13 Americans; and

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15 WHEREAS, Asian Americans face a health care disparity in
16 type 2 diabetes detection and diagnosis, as the current
17 guidelines for screening Asian Americans at a body mass index of
18 25 not only miss 32 percent of diabetes diagnoses in Hawaii, but
19 also underestimate the prevalence of pre-diabetes among Asian
20 Americans; and

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22 WHEREAS, two out of three persons with type 2 diabetes die
23 from heart attack or stroke, and adults with diabetes are at
24 risk for developing end stage renal disease and kidney failure,
25 blindness, and lower limb loss; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the per capita health care cost of diabetes in the
28 State is \$14,377 per year, while the annual cost for diabetes in
29 the State is \$1,500,000,000 in medical costs and \$400,000,000 in
30 indirect costs and productivity loss; and

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H.C.R. NO. 57

1 WHEREAS, early detection and treatment can mitigate
2 diabetes-related complications, risks, and costs; and

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4 WHEREAS, interventions focusing on nutrition, physical
5 activity, and healthy weight loss have been shown to reverse
6 pre-diabetes, improve glucose function in people with diabetes,
7 and reduce the need for multiple medications; and

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9 WHEREAS, screening Asian American patients at a body mass
10 index of 23 instead of 25 would unmask thousands of new diabetes
11 cases and more than three times that amount of new pre-diabetes
12 cases in the State, thereby initiating treatment or early
13 interventions to reduce negative co-morbidities like heart
14 diseases, kidney diseases, and limb amputation; and

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16 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health recently found
17 that more than half of Asian Americans with diabetes are
18 undiagnosed, and community based participatory research and
19 studies on Asian American subpopulations have shown that Asian
20 Americans develop diabetes at a lower body mass index; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization recommends screening
23 Asian patients at a lower body mass index than non-Hispanic
24 Whites, and the 2015 official guidelines of the American
25 Diabetes Association recommend that Asian Americans should be
26 tested for type 2 diabetes at a body mass index of 23; and

27
28 WHEREAS, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific
29 Islander Diabetes Coalition has coordinated the "Asian BMI"
30 efforts of over 15 national and regional organizations,
31 culminating in the launch of the "Screen at 23" campaign; and

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33 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the opportunity to be one of the first
34 states to formally recognize and recommend screening adult Asian
35 Americans for type 2 diabetes at a body mass index of 23,
36 enabling thousands of individuals to get the early care and
37 treatment needed to live healthier and happier lives; now,
38 therefore,

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40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
41 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
42 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of



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1 Health is urged to endorse the "Screen at 23" campaign's efforts
 2 to increase awareness of diabetes among Asian American
 3 communities and to eliminate disparities; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 6 also urged to encourage all public and private health care
 7 providers and facilities to participate in these efforts; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
 11 Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: Allen A. Ruffi

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