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## HOUSE 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  
8

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  
14

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  
31

32           WHEREAS, early detection and treatment can mitigate  
33 diabetes-related complications, risks, and costs; and  
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## H.R. NO. 14

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
38 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
39 Session of 2016, that the Department of Health is urged to  
40 endorse the "Screen at 23" campaign's efforts to increase  
41 awareness of diabetes among Asian American communities and to  
42 eliminate disparities; and



# H.R. NO. 24

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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
 3 also urged to encourage all public and private health care  
 4 providers and facilities to participate in these efforts; and  
 5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of  
 8 Health.  
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 10  
 11

OFFERED BY: Della A. Pelletti

DM  
Brend Kolzani  
J. A. C.  
Bridget  
Kal Nho  
John  
J. P. M.  
J. A. V.

MAR 02 2016

