
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING RESTAURANTS AND OTHER FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS TO TAKE STEPS TO MAKE THEIR BUSINESSES SAFE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH SEVERE FOOD ALLERGIES.

1 WHEREAS, according to studies conducted by the National
2 Center for Health Statistics using data from the 2021 National
3 Health Interview Survey, nearly one-third of adults aged
4 eighteen and over in the United States had a seasonal allergy,
5 eczema, or food allergy, and a little over one-quarter of
6 children in the United States had at least one allergic
7 condition; and

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9 WHEREAS, according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of
10 America, allergies are the sixth leading cause of illness, and
11 each year approximately ninety thousand emergency room visits
12 are the result of anaphylaxis; and

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14 WHEREAS, anaphylaxis is a rapid onset, potentially life-
15 threatening systemic allergic reaction that can affect people of
16 any age or gender; and

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18 WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and
19 Prevention, allergies are responsible for between one hundred
20 fifty and two hundred deaths each year, over half of which are
21 caused by food from a restaurant or other food service
22 establishment; and

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24 WHEREAS, under existing state law, the counties are
25 empowered to enact ordinances deemed necessary to protect
26 health, life, and property and to preserve the order and
27 security of the county and its inhabitants on any subject or
28 matter not inconsistent with, or tending to defeat, the intent
29 of any state statute; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the counties are
4 urged to adopt an ordinance requiring restaurants and other food
5 service establishments to take steps to make their businesses
6 safe for members of the public with severe food allergies; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county ordinance is
9 requested to include a requirement that restaurants and other
10 food service establishments:

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12 (1) Prominently display a food allergy awareness poster in
13 the staff area, which shall include information on the
14 risks of an allergic reaction;

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16 (2) Include posted signage requesting customers to inform
17 their server about any food allergies; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are requested to
20 work with the Department of Human Nutrition, Food, and Animal
21 Sciences at the University of Hawaii and Hawaii Restaurant
22 Association to develop the food allergy awareness poster; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors of the
26 Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii; Mayor of the City and
27 County of Honolulu; Chairs of the County Councils of the
28 Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii; and Council Chair of the
29 City and County of Honolulu.
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