

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO PREVENT THE STATEWIDE SPREAD OF SEASONAL INFLUENZA WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO HIGH-RISK ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, influenza, or the flu, is the most frequent cause 1 2 of death from a vaccine-preventable disease in the United States; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, in 2018, the flu epidemic has been widespread and 6 has contributed to many deaths, particularly to those in high-7 risk populations; and 8 WHEREAS, influenza can be life-threatening for people aged 9 10 sixty-five years and older because they are more susceptible to 11 developing serious complications from the flu; and 12 13 WHEREAS, it has been estimated that up to 70 percent of seasonal flu-related hospitalizations and up to 85 percent of 14 seasonal flu-related deaths in the United States occur each year 15 in people aged sixty-five years and older; and 16 17 WHEREAS, the most effective strategy for preventing 18 19 influenza is an annual vaccination and health officials 20 recommend routine vaccinations for persons at a higher risk for 21 influenza complications; and 22 23 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State to 24 protect high-risk Hawaii residents against the potentiallydeadly influenza virus; now, therefore, 25 26 27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 28 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is 29



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1 requested to develop strategies to educate the public, 2 especially high-risk Hawaii residents, on the prevention and 3 treatment of influenza and the risks and benefits of the flu 4 vaccination; and 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is 6 7 requested to provide, by September 1 of each year, to each 8 assisted living facility in the State, information on: 9 10 (1)The risks associated with influenza; 11 12 (2) The latest influenza vaccination recommendations of 13 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of 14 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 15 (3) The availability, effectiveness, and known 16 contraindications of influenza immunization; and 17 18 19 (4)The causes and symptoms of influenza, the means by 20 which influenza is spread, and treatment recommendations so residents may identify, treat, and 21 22 prevent influenza; and 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health 25 26 and the Director of the Executive Office on Aging. 27 28 Lil. 7-29 ERED BY:

2018-2737

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