

MAR 09 2018

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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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.

1 WHEREAS, influenza, or the flu, is the most frequent cause  
2 of death from a vaccine-preventable disease in the United  
3 States; and

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  
9 WHEREAS, influenza can be life-threatening for people aged  
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  
14 seasonal flu-related hospitalizations and up to 85 percent of  
15 seasonal flu-related deaths in the United States occur each year  
16 in people aged sixty-five years and older; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the most effective strategy for preventing  
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 potentially-  
25 deadly influenza virus; now, therefore,

26  
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the  
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of



1 Health is 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  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
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  
16 (3) The availability, effectiveness, and known  
17 contraindications of influenza immunization; and  
18  
19 (4) The causes and symptoms of influenza, the means by  
20 which influenza is spread, and treatment  
21 recommendations so residents may identify, treat, and  
22 prevent influenza; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health  
26 and the Director of the Executive Office on Aging.  
27  
28  
29

OFFERED BY:











