

MAR 09 2018

S.R. NO. 88

SENATE 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.

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

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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

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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,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
29 that the Department of Health is requested to develop strategies
30 to educate the public, especially high-risk Hawaii residents, on



1 the prevention and treatment of influenza and the risks and
2 benefits of the flu vaccination; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
5 requested to provide, by September 1 of each year, to each
6 assisted living facility in the State, information on:

- 7
8 (1) The risks associated with influenza;
9
10 (2) The latest influenza vaccination recommendations of
11 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of
12 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
13
14 (3) The availability, effectiveness, and known
15 contraindications of influenza immunization; and
16
17 (4) The causes and symptoms of influenza, the means by
18 which influenza is spread, and treatment
19 recommendations so residents may identify, treat, and
20 prevent influenza; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and the
24 Director of the Executive Office on Aging.
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