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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON THE  
FEASIBILITY OF STOCKING SHORT-ACTING BRONCHODILATORS IN  
SCHOOLS FOR EMERGENCY USE.

1           WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, more than  
2 one hundred ten thousand residents are living with asthma and  
3 approximately one-third of those residents are children; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the chronic respiratory disease occurs most  
6 commonly among children eleven years of age and younger; and  
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8           WHEREAS, every year, some five thousand people in Hawaii  
9 visit emergency rooms due to asthma and another one thousand  
10 five hundred are hospitalized, with infants and very young  
11 children making up the majority of asthma-related medical  
12 emergencies and hospitalizations; and  
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14           WHEREAS, every year, asthma costs the State approximately  
15 \$4,200,000 in emergency room visits and approximately  
16 \$14,000,000 in hospitalizations; and  
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18           WHEREAS, asthma attacks can occur at any time and often  
19 without warning, and children with asthma should always have  
20 access to medication that can quickly reverse the blockages in  
21 their lungs; and  
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23           WHEREAS, short-acting bronchodilators, commonly referred to  
24 as albuterol inhalers, can be life-saving, are easy to  
25 administer, inexpensive, and very safe that can be easily  
26 administered by non-medical personnel who have adequate training  
27 on its use; and  
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29           WHEREAS, when children do not have asthma medication, which  
30 can occur for a variety of reasons such as forgetting or not  
31 being able to afford the medication, schools have few options,  
32 which include calling the parents or 911 to be transported to an



1 emergency room; however, these options require parents to incur  
2 the costs of emergency services, tie up emergency room  
3 resources, and take children out of the classroom for days at a  
4 time and further impedes their learning; and

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6 WHEREAS, ensuring access to rescue medication is part of  
7 guidelines-based response to asthma emergencies based on the  
8 Managing Asthma: A Guide for Schools from the National  
9 Institutes of Health; and

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11 WHEREAS, as of 2022, fifteen states have already passed  
12 legislation that allows stock albuterol in schools for emergency  
13 situations; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
17 Session of 2023, that the Department of Education is requested  
18 to report on the feasibility of stocking bronchodilators for  
19 emergency use during respiratory distress and authorizing  
20 Department of Education employees to volunteer to administer  
21 bronchodilators; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to  
24 include information on the fifteen states that have already  
25 passed legislation allowing schools to stock bronchodilators and  
26 how these programs have been implemented; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
29 work in partnership with community organizations, such as the  
30 American Lung Association, Hawaii State Center for Nursing, and  
31 Hawaii Medical Association to develop the report; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
34 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
35 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
36 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
37 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
40 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education,  
41 Executive Director of the American Lung Association in Hawaii,



- 1 Director of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing, and President
- 2 of the Hawaii Medical Association.

