
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 on 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,



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

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OFFERED BY: Julia A. Schmitt

MAR 10 2023

