
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS IN HAWAII WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT THE START OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND OTHER LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS.

1 WHEREAS, high vaccination rates are essential to
2 maintaining public health through herd immunity and preventing
3 the outbreak of eradicable diseases such as measles and
4 smallpox; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State recognizes the Department of Health's
7 essential work in keeping Hawaii's communities safe and healthy;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, data from the Department of Health shows a
11 concerning drop in vaccination rates across the State's public,
12 charter, and private schools, with some private schools having
13 non-vaccination rates in excess of sixty percent; and

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15 WHEREAS, in the 2023-2024 school year, 17.09 percent of all
16 students either have no immunization record or are missing some
17 immunizations, which is more than triple the number of students
18 receiving religious exemptions; and

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20 WHEREAS, the State recognizes increasing community access
21 to vaccines as an essential part of any public health plan to
22 increase vaccination rates; and

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24 WHEREAS, the State further recognizes that a program of
25 increasing vaccination availability must be complemented by
26 community engagement and education about the safety and efficacy
27 of vaccines; and



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2 WHEREAS, Hawaii's network of community health centers,
3 including federally qualified health centers, play a critical
4 role in providing accessible, affordable, and culturally
5 competent healthcare services, including vaccinations, to
6 underserved communities and school-aged children; and
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8 WHEREAS, multiple studies have shown that outreach and
9 education on the safety and efficacy of vaccines have led to
10 increased vaccination rates; and
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12 WHEREAS, a program of student education and vaccination
13 clinics carried out by the City of Seattle to increase
14 coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination was successful at
15 increasing levels of vaccination by an average of 8.8 percent
16 over a six-month period; and
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18 WHEREAS, when a public-private partnership in Washington
19 launched a vaccination campaign called "Immunity Community", the
20 campaign was successful in reducing rates of vaccine hesitancy
21 among parents by almost ten percent over a period of three
22 years; and
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24 WHEREAS, Michigan launched a public-private partnership
25 education program called "I Vaccinate" and achieved a twelve
26 percent increase in teen vaccination rates statewide, using
27 techniques such as parent-to-parent messaging, the maintenance
28 of a public website, and engagement through a social media
29 profile; and
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31 WHEREAS, a vaccination education program similar to that in
32 other states but adapted to Hawaii's unique cultural context
33 would be beneficial to the public health of all residents of
34 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
39 urged to undertake preliminary education, outreach, and
40 vaccination drive efforts at schools in Hawaii with vaccination
41 rates under thirty percent, beginning at the start of the 2025-



1 2026 school year, in partnership with community health centers
2 and other local healthcare providers; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
5 urged to partner with the Department of Education to develop a
6 plan for a long-term program to counter vaccine hesitancy and
7 increase vaccination rates across Hawaii's schools; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
10 requested to submit a report on the development of the long-term
11 program to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
12 the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; provided that the
13 report is requested to include recommendations on the funding
14 and any administrative restructuring needed to effectively carry
15 out the program; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
19 Education and Director of Health.

