

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1875

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 03 , 2025

RE: H.R. No. 139

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.R. No. 139
entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO
COLLABORATE AND DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN TO PREPARE FOR
HAWAII'S PURSUIT OF FUNDING FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN THE
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S PUBLIC HEALTH
SURVEILLANCE FOR ESTIMATING AUTISM PREVALENCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the Department of
Education, Department of Health, and other relevant stakeholders
to collaborate and develop a strategic plan to prepare for
Hawaii's pursuit of funding for and participation in the Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention's public health surveillance
for estimating autism prevalence.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Health
Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; BAYDA; Early
Childhood Action Strategy; Pakolea Support Services; Mau Loa
Learning LLC; Full Life; Balanced ABA; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention estimates that autism affects one in thirty-six
children in the United States, which is a significant increase

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from the 2000 autism prevalence estimate of one in one hundred forty-nine children. Your Committee further finds that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network is the primary source of autism prevalence data in the United States. However, despite research indicating that Asians, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders have a higher prevalence of autism, Hawaii has not been included in the national surveillance effort. This measure seeks to address this oversight by urging the Department of Education, Department of Health, and other relevant stakeholders to prepare a strategic plan to enable the State to participate in public health surveillance for estimating autism prevalence.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 139 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



GREGG TARAYAMA, Chair



