
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 FIFTY
PERCENT, PRIORITIZING SCHOOLS WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER
THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT THE START OF THE 2025-2026
SCHOOL YEAR.

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

5
6 WHEREAS, the State recognizes the Department of Health's
7 essential work in keeping Hawaii's communities safe and healthy;
8 and

9
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

14
15 WHEREAS, in the 2023-2024 school year, students who either
16 have no immunization record or are missing some immunizations
17 are more than triple the number of students receiving religious
18 exemptions, at 17.09 percent of all students; and

19
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

23
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



1
2 WHEREAS, multiple studies have shown that outreach and
3 education on the safety and efficacy of vaccines have led to
4 increased vaccination rates; and
5

6 WHEREAS, a program of student education and vaccination
7 clinics carried out by the City of Seattle to increase
8 coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination was successful at
9 increasing levels of vaccination by an average of 8.8 percent
10 over a six-month period; and
11

12 WHEREAS, when a public-private partnership in Washington
13 launched a vaccination campaign called "Immunity Community", it
14 was successful in reducing rates of vaccine hesitancy among
15 parents by almost ten percent over a period of three years; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Michigan launched a public-private partnership
18 education program called "I Vaccinate" and achieved a twelve
19 percent increase in teen vaccination rates statewide, using
20 techniques such as parent-to-parent messaging, the maintenance
21 of a public website, and engagement through a social media
22 profile; and
23

24 WHEREAS, a vaccination education program similar to that in
25 other states but adapted to Hawaii's unique cultural context
26 would be beneficial to the public health of all residents of
27 Hawaii; now, therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
32 urged to undertake preliminary education, outreach, and
33 vaccination drive efforts at schools in Hawaii with vaccination
34 rates under fifty percent, prioritizing schools with vaccination
35 rates under thirty percent, beginning at the start of the 2025-
36 2026 school year; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
39 urged to partner with the Department of Education to develop a
40 plan for a long-term program to counter vaccine hesitancy and
41 increase vaccination rates across Hawaii's schools; and
42



H.C.R. NO. 173

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
2 requested to submit a report on the development of the long-term
3 program to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
4 the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; provided that the
5 report include recommendations on the funding and any
6 administrative restructuring needed to effectively carry out the
7 program; and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
11 Education and Director of Health.
12
13
14

OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 07 2025

