

MAR 07 2025

## SENATE 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

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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

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



# S.C.R. NO. 129

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.

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13  
14 OFFERED BY: Karl N. N. N.

