

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WATER
FLUORIDATION WORKING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, many residents in the State do not have dental
2 care insurance; and

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4 WHEREAS, the State also received a failing grade in three
5 recent oral health report cards published by the Pew Center on
6 the States, a division of the Pew Charitable Trusts; and

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8 WHEREAS, increasing the concentration of fluoride, a
9 naturally occurring mineral, in the public water supply to an
10 optimal level benefits all people who drink therefrom, promoting
11 good oral health to prevent or even reverse tooth decay; and

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13 WHEREAS, according to the federal Centers for Disease
14 Control and Prevention, water fluoridation is both safe and the
15 most cost-effective way of preventing tooth decay; and

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17 WHEREAS, presently, the State's public water systems have
18 no added fluoride, with the exception of military bases; and

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20 WHEREAS, water fluoridation may address ongoing oral health
21 issues across the State by providing communities with enough
22 fluoride in local water systems to prevent tooth decay; now,
23 therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Director of Health
28 is requested to convene a Water Fluoridation Working Group to
29 collaborate on determining the best practices for, and
30 addressing obstacles to fluoridating the State's drinking water;
31 and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Water Fluoridation Working Group is requested to consist of the following members:

- (1) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee, who shall serve as Chairperson of the Working Group;
- (2) A representative from the Board of Water Supply of the City and County of Honolulu;
- (3) A representative from the Department of Water of the county of Kauai;
- (4) A representative from the Department of Water Supply of the county of Maui; and
- (5) A representative from the Department of Water Supply of the county of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Water Fluoridation Working Group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Water Fluoridation Working Group is requested to dissolve on June 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply of the City and County of Honolulu, Director of the Department of Water Supply of the County of Maui, Manager-Chief Engineer of the Department of Water Supply of the County of Hawaii, and Manager and Chief Engineer of the Department of Water of the County of Kauai.

OFFERED BY: 

