
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII STATE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO ISSUE A STATEWIDE ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE SALE AND PURCHASE OF NEBULIZED BUDESONIDE WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION OR CONSULTATION WITH A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.

1 WHEREAS, budesonide in nasal spray form was previously
2 prescription-only but has since been converted to over-the-
3 counter status due to its excellent safety profile; and
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5 WHEREAS, budesonide was proven to be life-saving by the
6 STOIC Trial conducted by Oxford University in the treatment of
7 COVID-19, a highly contagious respiratory virus; and
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9 WHEREAS, the study found that early administration of
10 inhaled budesonide reduced the need for urgent medical care,
11 shortened recovery time, and lowered the risk of hospitalization
12 for COVID-19 patients; and
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14 WHEREAS, additional findings suggest that "inhaled
15 budesonide reduced the relative risk of requiring urgent care or
16 hospitalization by 90% in the 28-day study period"; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Saudi Journal of Anesthesia published a study
19 in 2017 demonstrating that patients with acute lung injury or
20 acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) experienced improved
21 oxygenation, decreased edema in lung tissue, and reduced lung
22 scarring following treatment with nebulized budesonide; and
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24 WHEREAS, millions of American lives were saved through home
25 treatments of nebulized budesonide during the COVID-19 crisis;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Bartlett's published protocol
29 demonstrated that nebulized budesonide, when used in an



1 outpatient setting, provided significant benefits for treating
2 COVID-19, reducing the risk of pneumonia and improving patient
3 outcomes; and
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5 WHEREAS, the U.K. PRINCIPLE Trial, the largest randomized
6 trial for community treatment of COVID-19, confirmed that
7 inhaled budesonide improved recovery time and reduced hospital
8 admissions or deaths among high-risk patients; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Brazil TOGETHER Trial demonstrated that
11 combining inhaled budesonide with oral fluvoxamine reduced the
12 progression of COVID-19 and the need for hospitalization
13 among high-risk outpatients; and
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15 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes
16 budesonide as an essential medicine, confirming its global
17 importance in treating respiratory conditions; and
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19 WHEREAS, the U.K. Department of Health recommended inhaled
20 budesonide for adults over fifty with COVID-19, citing its
21 benefits in reducing symptoms and preventing complications; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Australian Department of Health included
24 budesonide in its clinical guidelines as a treatment for at-risk
25 COVID-19 patients who do not require oxygen support; and
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27 WHEREAS, the India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
28 officially recommended budesonide for COVID-19 treatment,
29 reinforcing its global acceptance in respiratory therapy; and
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31 WHEREAS, research has identified antiviral properties of
32 budesonide against SARS-CoV-2, demonstrating its potential to
33 reduce viral replication and inflammation in infected
34 individuals; and
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36 WHEREAS, FDA regulations prohibit Emergency Use
37 Authorization (EUA) for experimental COVID-19 vaccines if there
38 is an adequate, approved, and available alternative treatment,
39 and budesonide, as an effective and FDA-approved therapy, meets
40 this criterion; and
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1 WHEREAS, other medicine with more dangerous safety profiles
 2 are classified as over-the-counter, justifying the need for
 3 nebulized budesonide and nebulizer machines to be accessible
 4 without a prescription; and

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 6 WHEREAS, allowing nebulized budesonide and nebulizer
 7 machines to be sold over the counter will provide the public
 8 with greater access to effective respiratory treatments without
 9 unnecessary delays or restrictions; now, therefore,

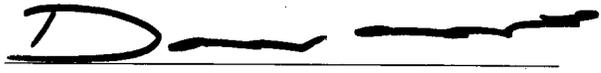
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 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 12 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 13 of 2026, the Senate concurring, the Hawaii State Director of
 14 Health is urged to issue a statewide order to allow for the sale
 15 and purchase of nebulized budesonide without a prescription or
 16 consultation with a healthcare provider; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health may
 19 recommend to the public that nebulizer machines may be sold or
 20 purchased over the counter without a prescription; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Pharmacy is urged
 23 to adopt any necessary rules to implement this request including
 24 but not limited to:

- 25
 26 (1) Ensuring product labeling includes appropriate dosages
 27 and usage instructions; and
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 29 (2) Requiring pharmacies and retailers to provide
 30 customers with written instructions on the proper use
 31 of nebulized budesonide and nebulizer machines; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii State
 35 Director of Health and Chair of the Board of Pharmacy.
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 38

OFFERED BY: 
 MAR 16 2026

