
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF REQUIRING WATER SUPPLIERS IN THE STATE TO ADJUST FLUORIDE LEVELS IN THEIR WATER SYSTEMS TO MEET THE OPTIMAL FLUORIDE LEVEL FOR COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, drinking fluoridated water is a safe and cost-
2 effective way to reduce cavities and to help protect against
3 tooth decay; and

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5 WHEREAS, drinking water with the optimal fluoride
6 concentration helps keep teeth strong and reduces tooth decay by
7 approximately twenty-five percent; and

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9 WHEREAS, most states and many countries, including
10 Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Singapore, require
11 fluoridation, or the addition of fluoride, in their public water
12 systems; and

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14 WHEREAS, in the State, only military bases currently add
15 fluoride to their water supplies, meaning that approximately
16 eighty-nine percent of the State's residents lack access to the
17 benefits of fluoridated drinking water; and

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19 WHEREAS, this lack of community water fluoridation
20 contributes to the State's high prevalence of tooth decay, which
21 affects many adults and approximately seventy percent of the
22 State's children; and

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24 WHEREAS, many of the State's residents receive minimal to
25 no routine dental care; and

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27 WHEREAS, many residents do not have dental insurance, and
28 Medicaid managed care plans cover dental services for children
29 but not for adults; and



H.C.R. NO. 30

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WHEREAS, the State's hospitals experience thousands of visits per year for dental emergencies that routine dental care would likely have prevented; and

WHEREAS, requiring fluoridation in the State's public water supplies will help support residents' oral health in the absence of, or in addition to, other dental care services; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of requiring water suppliers in the State to adjust fluoride levels in their water systems to meet the optimum fluoride level for community water fluoridation as established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health 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 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY: 

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