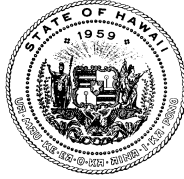


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR161/HR151  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A SWIMMER  
CLASSIFICATION FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, CHAIR**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 2:00 PM | Room Number: 415

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this resolution to  
3 request the development of a swimmer classification framework for public schools.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch  
5 provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department in support.

6 The Department of Health supports the intent of this resolution. Strengthening water safety  
7 awareness, improving skills, and increasing opportunities for swim training are key strategies in  
8 preventing drownings and protecting our children. Any step that helps build structure,  
9 consistency, and safety around water related activities is a positive step forward for public  
10 health.

11 **Offered Amendments: None**

12 Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment  
13 to water safety.