



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Committee on Health

HB 1971, Relating to Vaccinations

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

January 23, 2008, 8:00 am

1 **Department's Position:** The Department respectfully and strongly opposes this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** If enacted, this measure could have severe fiscal implications by resulting in a

3 resurgence of vaccine preventable diseases, thus causing associated increases in medical costs related to

4 hospitalizations and potential fatalities. Department funds would also be expended to conduct the

5 epidemiological investigations necessary to determine the source and interrupt the spread of disease.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure seeks to make Hawaii the only state in the nation in which

7 vaccinations are non-compulsory for school attendance and exemptions from vaccinations are allowed

8 on any grounds. The continued observance and enforcement of scientifically proven, evidence-based

9 public health interventions such as school immunization entry requirements are essential to the

10 maintenance of high immunization rates necessary to prevent outbreaks of dangerous diseases. The

11 effect of our school immunization entry requirements can be seen when comparing the estimated up-to-

12 date vaccination coverage rate of Hawaii's 19-35 month old children of 78.8%, with the estimated up-to-

13 date vaccination coverage rates among children enrolled in kindergarten of 99%. Ultimately, enactment

14 of this measure could jeopardize the public's health by causing a significant decline in Hawaii's

15 childhood vaccination levels, resulting in an inevitable increase in illness, disability, and death from

16 vaccine preventable diseases not only among children, but persons of all ages, including the elderly and

17 infirm. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

May Mizuno

From: Galen Chock [gchock@aap.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2008 1:47 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1971 Relating to Vaccinations

Honorable Representatives Green and Mizuno, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH:
HAAP understands that you will be hearing **HB 1971** Relating to Vaccinations (Makes all vaccinations in the State non-compulsory but only recommended unless there is danger of an epidemic from any communicable disease. Allows exemptions from vaccinations on any grounds.) on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 @ 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 329.

We are unable to appear in person, however, the Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is absolutely opposed to this bill as it would endanger public health.

Respectfully

Galen Chock MD
President
Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (HAAP)
1380 Lusitana St. Suite 501
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 521-6030, fax (808) 521-6273
gchock@aap.net

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