



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Committee on Health
HB 2533, Relating to Vaccinations
Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health
Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department strongly supports the intent of this measure as long as its
2 implementation does not adversely impact or replace priorities indicated in the Fiscal Year 2009
3 Supplemental Executive Budget.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department has projected that the cost to administer a statewide influenza
5 vaccination program that offers free nasal spray mist or injectable influenza vaccinations to public and
6 private school students, grades K-8, would be approximately \$2.36 million. To support this effort, the
7 Department has made a request for funding to the Centers for Disease Control and prevention for
8 approximately \$850,000 to be used toward the purchase of influenza vaccine and supplies.

9 **Purpose and Justification:** Each year in the United States, seasonal influenza infection results in more
10 than 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths. The Department believes that students attending both
11 public and private schools should be targeted for influenza vaccination. While schoolchildren are not
12 considered at high risk of dying from influenza, annual illness attack rates in school-aged children are
13 very high, often exceeding 10%. Children aged 5 to 18 years are considered to be one of the most
14 important sources of community-wide influenza transmission, regardless of public or private school
15 attendance. Focused prevention of influenza infection among all children over 5 years of age should not
16 only prevent childhood morbidity, but also decrease influenza infection among working adults and the
17 elderly. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.