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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE BENEFITS  
AND RISKS OF WIDESPREAD AVAILABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS IN THE STATE FOR EMERGENCY  
TREATMENT.

1           WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease  
2 Control and Prevention, food allergies result in more than  
3 300,000 ambulatory-care visits a year among children under the  
4 age of 18 and are the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the  
5 hospital setting; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, exposure to common allergens, such as certain  
8 foods or insect stings, can result in anaphylaxis, a severe and  
9 potentially fatal allergic reaction that can be triggered within  
10 minutes; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, epinephrine auto-injectors, the most well-known of  
13 which are EpiPens, contain the medication epinephrine, which is  
14 the first line of emergency treatment for anaphylaxis; and

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16           WHEREAS, in the United States, Food Allergy Research &  
17 Education, a nonprofit advocacy group, reports that food  
18 allergies affect one in 13 children, or roughly two children in  
19 every classroom; and

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21           WHEREAS, the pervasiveness of potential occurrences of a  
22 serious allergic reaction, including anaphylaxis, necessitates  
23 that prompt emergency treatment be available in settings where  
24 allergen exposure is likely; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, in November 2013, President Barack Obama signed  
27 into law the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act, which  
28 provides states with incentives to require elementary schools  
29 and secondary schools to maintain and permit school personnel to  
30 administer epinephrine at schools; and



1 WHEREAS, states, such as Virginia, Maryland, Nebraska, and  
2 Nevada, have laws that allow schools to keep and dispense  
3 epinephrine and shield persons who administer it in emergency  
4 situations from liability; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the availability and administration of epinephrine  
7 through epinephrine auto-injectors can mean the difference  
8 between life and death for individuals with severe allergic  
9 reactions, including anaphylaxis; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
13 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
14 Health is requested to convene a task force to examine the  
15 benefits and risks of widespread availability and distribution  
16 of epinephrine auto-injectors in the State for emergency  
17 treatment; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
20 examine:

- 21  
22 (1) The considerations involved in the widespread  
23 availability and distribution of epinephrine auto-  
24 injectors;
- 25  
26 (2) The legal issues, including immunity from liability,  
27 involved with the administration of epinephrine by  
28 trained personnel, first responders, or lay rescuers,  
29 and the training of such persons;
- 30  
31 (3) Whether the benefits of widespread availability and  
32 distribution of epinephrine auto-injectors outweigh  
33 the potential legal and health risks; and
- 34  
35 (4) Training and certification requirements for persons  
36 administering epinephrine using an epinephrine auto-  
37 injector; and

38  
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership is  
40 requested to include:

- 41  
42 (1) The Director of Health, or the director's designee;



