
HOUSE 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

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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

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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

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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

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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, that the Department of Health is requested to
14 convene a task force to examine the benefits and risks of
15 widespread availability and distribution of epinephrine auto-
16 injectors in the State for emergency treatment; and

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

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21 (1) The considerations involved in the widespread
22 availability and distribution of epinephrine auto-
23 injectors;
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25 (2) The legal issues, including immunity from liability,
26 involved with the administration of epinephrine by
27 trained personnel, first responders, or lay rescuers,
28 and the training of such persons;
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30 (3) Whether the benefits of widespread availability and
31 distribution of epinephrine auto-injectors outweigh
32 the potential legal and health risks; and
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34 (4) Training and certification requirements for persons
35 administering epinephrine using an epinephrine auto-
36 injector; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership is
39 requested to include:

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



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- (2) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, or the Director's designee;
- (3) The Superintendent of Education, or the Superintendent's designee;
- (4) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;
- (5) A representative from the Hawaii Association for Justice; and
- (6) Three individuals to be designated by the Director of Health, including one from the Department of Health Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention System Branch; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than 20 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, Director of Health, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Superintendent of Education, and President of the Hawaii Association for Justice.

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