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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH BY  
UPDATING ITS RULES REGARDING TUBERCULOSIS.

1           WHEREAS, tuberculosis is a serious health concern globally,  
2 nationally, and locally; and

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4           WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization,  
5 tuberculosis is contagious, airborne, and ranks alongside the  
6 human immunodeficiency virus as a leading cause of death  
7 worldwide; and

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9           WHEREAS, in 2014, an estimated 9,600,000 people worldwide  
10 fell ill with tuberculosis, while 1,500,000 people died from the  
11 disease; and

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13           WHEREAS, since tuberculosis is so contagious, it is  
14 beneficial for the health, safety, and welfare of the people of  
15 the State for individuals who have spent an extended time away  
16 in high-risk foreign locations to submit to tuberculosis  
17 clearance testing upon entering or reentering the State; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, it is a matter of statewide concern to prevent  
20 tuberculosis prevalence at public schools, the University of  
21 Hawaii, and other schools, since large numbers of school  
22 students are often in close proximity with each other, and can  
23 easily spread the disease, even with minimal or no direct  
24 contact; and

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26           WHEREAS, Section 302A-1154, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and  
27 Sections 11-157-3.2 and 11-164-6, Hawaii Administrative Rules,  
28 currently require all children attending Hawaii schools for any  
29 period and all adult students attending Hawaii post-secondary  
30 for periods of six months or more to present documentation that



1 they are free from tuberculosis before they first attend school;  
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, current law does not require subsequent  
5 tuberculosis tests for students who return to the State after  
6 living outside of the State for extended periods of time; now,  
7 therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
11 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
12 Health is urged to protect public health by updating its rules  
13 regarding tuberculosis, pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised  
14 Statutes; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules are requested to  
17 require any individual who has spent more than one year in  
18 foreign high-risk locations to submit to tuberculosis clearance  
19 testing upon entering or reentering the State; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
22 requested to consider locations in Africa, Asia, Central  
23 America, South America as high-risk locations, as well as any  
24 other location outside of the United States that the department  
25 deems to have a high rate of tuberculosis; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules are requested to  
28 require any student, including a post-secondary student, and who  
29 is required under current statutes and laws to present  
30 tuberculosis clearance documentation before an initial entry  
31 into a Hawaii school to also present documentation that the  
32 student is free from tuberculosis, based upon a clearance  
33 obtained within the State after returning to the State after any  
34 absence of more than one year; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Department of Health is  
37 unable to adopt the requested rule amendments by the end of  
38 2016, the department is requested to submit a report on its  
39 progress toward amending its rules to the Legislature not less  
40 than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of  
41 2017; and

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# H.C.R. NO. 76

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
 3 the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Chairperson of  
 4 the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, the Superintendent of  
 5 Education, the President of the University of Hawaii, and the  
 6 President of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

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OFFERED BY:

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