
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO COLLABORATE WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO PROMOTE AWARENESS
OF MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND THE AVAILABILITY OF VACCINES
TO PREVENT IT.

1 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is any infection caused by
2 the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*; and
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4 WHEREAS, although 1 in 10 people are carriers for this
5 bacteria with no signs or symptoms of disease, from 800 to 1,500
6 individuals fall ill from the *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria
7 each year; and
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9 WHEREAS, 10 to 15 infected individuals out of 100 will die
10 even when treated and 10 to 20 out of every 100 people who
11 survive will suffer from serious morbidity, including loss of
12 limbs and impacts to the nervous system; and
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14 WHEREAS, infants under one year of age and young adults
15 between the ages of 16 and 23, are among those most commonly
16 impacted by this disease; and
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18 WHEREAS, meningococcal disease is spread from person to
19 person via the exchange of the bacteria through respiratory and
20 throat secretion during close or lengthy contact and community
21 settings in which large groups of people gather, like college
22 campuses, can increase the risk of the spread of meningococcal
23 disease; and
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25 WHEREAS, there are different strains or serogroups of
26 *Neisseria meningitidis*, with serogroups B, C, and Y accounting
27 for most meningococcal diseases in the United States, including



1 several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal disease on
2 college campuses in which some cases resulted in death; and
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4 WHEREAS, vaccines that provide protection against multiple
5 serogroups, including B, C, and Y which are the types most
6 commonly seen in the United States, are available and
7 vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is routinely
8 recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
12 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that the
13 decision to vaccinate against serogroup B be made on an
14 individual level in consultation with health care providers; and
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16 WHEREAS, the recent incidence of meningococcal disease has
17 served as a reminder of the critical role that awareness of
18 vaccines to prevent illness from multiple serogroups of
19 *Neisseria meningitidis* plays in prevention of this devastating
20 illness; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
25 requested to collaborate with the Department of Education,
26 Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and the University of
27 Hawaii to provide information to students and parents statewide
28 about meningococcal disease, including the various serogroups,
29 symptoms, risks, prevention, and treatment; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
32 requested to include information on the availability, benefits,
33 risks, and limitations of all meningococcal vaccines recommended
34 by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including
35 recommendations for serogroups A and B, and specific information
36 for individuals at high risk of contracting meningococcal
37 disease; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
40 requested to make recommendations to the Department of
41 Education, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and the



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1 University of Hawaii regarding the immunization of current and
2 entering adolescent and young adult students; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
6 Superintendent of Education, Chancellors of the University of
7 Hawaii's University and Community College campuses, and
8 Executive Director of Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

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OFFERED BY: Allen A. Schmitt

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