
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON THE
FEASIBILITY OF STOCKING SHORT-ACTING BRONCHODILATORS IN
SCHOOLS FOR EMERGENCY USE.

1 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, more than
2 one hundred ten thousand residents are living with asthma and
3 approximately one-third of those residents are children; and
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5 WHEREAS, the chronic respiratory disease occurs most
6 commonly among children eleven years of age and younger; and
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8 WHEREAS, every year, some five thousand people in Hawaii
9 visit emergency rooms due to asthma and another one thousand
10 five hundred are hospitalized, with infants and very young
11 children making up the majority of asthma-related medical
12 emergencies and hospitalizations; and
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14 WHEREAS, every year, asthma costs the State approximately
15 \$4,200,000 in emergency room visits and approximately
16 \$14,000,000 in hospitalizations; and
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18 WHEREAS, asthma attacks can occur at any time and often
19 without warning, and children with asthma should always have
20 access to medication that can quickly reverse the blockages in
21 their lungs; and
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23 WHEREAS, short-acting bronchodilators, commonly referred to
24 as albuterol inhalers, can be life-saving, are easy to
25 administer, inexpensive, and very safe that can be easily
26 administered by non-medical personnel who have adequate training
27 on its use; and
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29 WHEREAS, when children do not have asthma medication, which
30 can occur for a variety of reasons such as forgetting or not



1 being able to afford the medication, schools have few options,
2 which include calling the parents or 911 to be transported to an
3 emergency room; however, these options require parents to incur
4 the costs of emergency services, tie up emergency room
5 resources, and take children out of the classroom for days at a
6 time and further impedes their learning; and

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8 WHEREAS, ensuring access to rescue medication is part of
9 guidelines-based response to asthma emergencies based on the
10 Managing Asthma: A Guide for Schools from the National
11 Institutes of Health; and

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13 WHEREAS, as of 2022, fifteen states have already passed
14 legislation that allows stock albuterol in schools for emergency
15 situations; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
19 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
20 Education is requested to report on the feasibility of stocking
21 bronchodilators for emergency use during respiratory distress
22 and authorizing Department of Education employees to volunteer
23 to administer bronchodilators; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
26 include information on the fifteen states that have already
27 passed legislation allowing schools to stock bronchodilators and
28 how these programs have been implemented; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
31 work in partnership with community organizations, such as the
32 American Lung Association, Hawaii State Center for Nursing, and
33 Hawaii Medical Association to develop the report; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
36 requested to submit a report of its findings and
37 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
38 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
39 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of



1 Education, Executive Director of the American Lung Association
2 in Hawaii, Director of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing, and
3 President of the Hawaii Medical Association.

