
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY INTO THE
FEASIBILITY OF PERMITTING MINORS SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR
OLDER TO CONSENT TO RECEIVE VACCINATIONS WITHOUT CONSENT
FROM THE MINOR'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

1 WHEREAS, vaccinating minors against diseases is vital to
2 protecting their health and promoting their ability to safely
3 receive an in-person education; and

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5 WHEREAS, according to data released by the Department of
6 Health, the percentage of Hawaii children not vaccinated for
7 illnesses such as mumps and measles, or not receiving the full
8 roster of shots required for school, has increased since the
9 onset of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; and

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11 WHEREAS, the number of schoolchildren that missed routine
12 vaccinations or had incomplete immunization records jumped
13 fivefold to 18.6 percent following the pandemic; and

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15 WHEREAS, to enable teenagers to get vaccinated against
16 COVID-19, many states and localities permitted minors of varying
17 ages to consent to COVID-19 vaccination; and

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19 WHEREAS, several other jurisdictions follow the mature
20 minor doctrine, which permits minors to consent to receive
21 health services, including vaccinations, if they are deemed
22 mature enough to do so; and

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24 WHEREAS, for example, minors in Washington may receive
25 vaccinations, including the COVID-19 vaccination, without
26 parental consent if the health care provider determines that the
27 minor is a mature minor capable of understanding the
28 consequences of a medical procedure; and

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30 WHEREAS, permitting minors sixteen years of age or older to
31 consent to receive vaccinations would increase statewide



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1 vaccination rates to a critical subgroup of the population and
2 offer broader community-wide protection; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2024, that the Department of Health is requested to
7 conduct a study into the feasibility of permitting minors
8 sixteen years of age or older to receive vaccinations without
9 consent from the minor's parent or guardian; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
12 requested to submit a report of its findings and
13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
14 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 the Regular Session of 2025; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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21 OFFERED BY:



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