

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

572

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1118
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 1118
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit new non-medical
immunization exemptions for school-aged children, while preserving
existing non-medical exemptions granted for the 2024-2025 school
year.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health; Hawai'i State Council on
Developmental Disabilities; American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i
Chapter; Hawai'i Pacific Health; Hawai'i Public Health Institute;
American Atheists; and numerous individuals. Your Committee
received testimony in opposition to this measure from one member
of the Kauai County Council; Hawaiian Islands Republican Women;
Hawaii For Informed Consent; Yeshua Nation of Amnesty Coalition;
Hawaii Federation of Republican Women; Christian Science Committee
on Publication for Hawaii; National Vaccine Information Center;
Say His Name Foundation; Hawaii Christian Coalition; Ka Ohana O Na
Pua; Libertarian Party of Hawaii; and numerous individuals. Your
Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of
the Attorney General and Department of Education.

2025-1657 HB1118 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that school entry immunization requirements have been shown to be effective in improving immunization coverage rates, thereby reducing disease incidence. High immunization rates are important at schools to protect medically fragile children, especially children who are unable to be immunized and must rely on their vaccinated peers to prevent the introduction of vaccine preventable diseases in schools.

Your Committee further finds that decreasing immunization coverage due to non-medical exemptions increases the risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks that can be fatal to children. For the 2015-2016 school year in the State, the rate of non-medical immunization exemption was 2.5 percent. The rate of non-medical immunization exemption more than doubled to 5.3 percent for the 2023-2024 school year. The rate of non-medical exemptions varied by school with fifty-five of the three hundred eighty-two schools that reported for school year 2023-2024 having a non-medical immunization exemption rate greater than ten percent.

Your Committee believes that since the health and safety of the State's children are paramount, there is a compelling state interest in protecting the public against deadly diseases, especially considering an increasing trend in non-medical immunity exemptions, while honoring certain non-medical exemptions that previously have been approved. This measure will minimize exemptions from school immunization requirements to improve the health and safety of school-aged children in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that, for purposes of the state law relating to communicable diseases, a person may object in writing on the grounds that immunization conflicts with the person's bona fide religious tenets and practices;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.



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As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1118, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1118, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



GREEN TAKAYAMA, Chair



HS CR 572

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1118	Committee Referral: HLT, JHA	Date: Feb 7, 2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TAKAYAMA, Gregg (C)	X			
2. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L. (VC)	X			
3. AMATO, Terez	X			
4. CHUN, Cory M.	X			
5. MARTEN, Lisa	X			
6. OLDS, Ikaika		X		
7. TAKENOUCHI, Jenna	X			
8. ALCOS III, David			X	
9. GARCIA, Diamond			X	
TOTAL (9)	6	1	2	
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				