



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Takayama, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HCR173/HR169 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS IN HAWAII WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER FIFTY PERCENT, PRIORITIZING SCHOOLS WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT THE START OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities supports **HCR173/HR169**, which urges the Department of Health to initiate preliminary education, outreach, and vaccination drive efforts at schools in Hawaii with vaccination rates under fifty percent, prioritizing schools with rates below thirty percent, beginning at the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

Maintaining high vaccination rates is critical for preserving herd immunity, which is especially vital in protecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who may be medically unable to receive vaccinations. Many individuals with I/DD face complex health conditions, immunodeficiencies, or treatments that compromise their immune systems, making them more susceptible to severe complications from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The concerning rise in non-medical exemptions, as highlighted in HCR173, poses a direct threat to these vulnerable individuals. The increase in unvaccinated students weakens herd immunity, elevating the risk of outbreaks in schools, workplaces, and community settings where individuals with I/DD actively participate. Ensuring that all schools achieve higher vaccination rates is essential to maintaining safe environments for those who rely on the community's protection.

We commend the Department of Health's commitment to public health and support its collaboration with the Department of Education to develop a long-term plan to reduce vaccine hesitancy. Outreach efforts adapted to Hawaii's unique cultural context can play a key role in increasing vaccination rates and promoting healthier communities statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HCR171/HR169**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/21/2025

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Resolution Title: HCR 0173 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS IN HAWAII WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER FIFTY PERCENT, PRIORITIZING SCHOOLS WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT THE START OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

Department's Position:

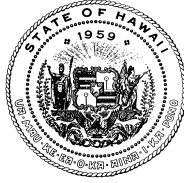
The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 173, urging the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) to undertake preliminary education, outreach, and vaccination drive efforts at schools in Hawaii with vaccination rates under 50 percent, prioritizing those under 30 percent, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

Ensuring the health and safety of our students is paramount to their ability to learn and thrive. This resolution represents a crucial step toward that goal. The Department recognizes that high vaccination rates are essential for preventing the outbreak of preventable diseases in our school communities.

The Department appreciates the DOH's leadership and proactive approach to addressing this critical public health issue. The Department stands ready to partner in developing a long-term, comprehensive strategy that respects the diversity of our student population while ensuring their health and safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.C.R. 173

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS IN HAWAII' I WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER FIFTY PERCENT, PRIORITIZING SCHOOLS WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT THE START OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

1 Hearing Date: Friday, March 21, 2025

Room Number: 329

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health will evaluate costs associated with the
3 development of a plan for a long-term program to counter vaccine hesitancy and increase
4 vaccination rates across Hawaii'i schools and will communicate this information to the
5 Legislature via a report submitted no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular
6 Session of 2026.

7 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") **SUPPORTS** this measure.

8 **Department Testimony:** As Hawaii'i faces declining immunization rates, the Department agrees
9 that efforts to improve education, outreach, access, and availability of immunizations as
10 components of a long-term plan to counter vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccination rates
11 across schools, are critically important to protect our keiki and communities from the increasing
12 incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. We are appreciative of the Legislature's concern
13 and welcome the opportunity for increased fiscal and administrative support for these efforts.

1 The Department is actively partnering with interested DOE, Charter, Private Schools, and
2 community vaccination partners to revive and expand the former Stop Flu at School program to
3 offer all immunizations required for school entry and attendance. As urged by H.C.R. 173, the
4 Department will prioritize outreach to schools with immunization rates under thirty percent.
5 The Department also appreciates the information provided in HCR173 regarding immunization
6 education and outreach efforts in other States and will follow-up to evaluate their program
7 planning efforts, coordination, costs, implementation plans, and number of staff required to
8 develop content and oversee operations.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKOLE

John C. (Jack) Lewin, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea St., #402, Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair and
Honorable Members

From: John C (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPHA and
Senior Advisor to Governor Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: **HCR173 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UNDERTAKE
PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE
EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS IN HAWAII WITH VACCINATION RATES
UNDER FIFTY PERCENT, PRIORITIZING SCHOOLS WITH
VACCINATION RATES UNDER THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT
THE START OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.**

Hearing: Friday, March 21, 2025 @ 9:30 am; Conference Room 329

Position: SUPPORT the INTENT, with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA fully supports the intent of this concurrent resolution, but defers to the Department of Health (DOH) on their approach to the worthy goal.

It is clear to us the DOH is already attempting to reach all schools as well as the general public about the importance of vaccinations. But targeting schools with under a 50% vaccination rate? It would seem apparent to us that a school with less than a 90% vaccination rate should be addressed as an urgent priority for prevention of communicable diseases, as we are sure DOH would agree.

Giving the Department a more generous budget for publicizing the value of vaccination in the media in addition to their already robust educational efforts, may be a more successful approach.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to H.C.R. No. 173
Submitted to the House Committee on Health
March 19, 2025

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to H.C.R. No. 173, which urges the Department of Health to implement education, outreach, and vaccination drives in Hawaii's schools with vaccination rates below 50%, prioritizing those under 30%. While public health is a shared concern across party lines, this resolution represents an overreach of government authority, a threat to individual liberty, and a direct affront to the values that have guided our nation under principled leadership. As a Republican, I urge you—especially my Democratic colleagues—to vote NO on this measure, recognizing its potential to harm Hawaii's families, defy federal priorities, and repeat costly mistakes seen elsewhere. Below, I outline my objections with clear evidence and appeal to our common interest in protecting the people of Hawaii.

1. Government Overreach Undermines Parental Rights

H.C.R. No. 173 seeks to insert the state into the sacred relationship between parents and their children by targeting schools for vaccination campaigns. This resolution implies that the government knows better than parents how to care for their kids—a notion that Democrats, who often champion personal choice, should find troubling. The data cited in the resolution, showing 17.09% of students lacking full immunization records in 2023-2024, does not justify overriding parental discretion. Many of these families may have legitimate concerns about vaccine safety or necessity, yet this bill dismisses them in favor of a one-size-fits-all approach.

The Trump administration consistently opposed such heavy-handed mandates. President Trump himself stated in 2020, "We're not going to force anybody to take [vaccines]. I don't think it should be mandatory." This resolution's push for state-led vaccination drives risks alienating parents and eroding trust in both local and federal government. Democrats who value community trust should see this as a step too far.

2. Defiance of the Trump Administration's Agenda Harms Hawaii

With President Trump's leadership reaffirmed in 2025, Hawaii must align with federal priorities to secure support and resources. The Trump administration has historically opposed coercive vaccination policies, as seen in its rejection of broad federal mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar emphasized in 2020 that vaccination decisions should remain "a matter of personal choice," not state imposition. H.C.R. No. 173's aggressive push for school-based vaccination efforts directly contradicts this stance.

Defying this agenda could jeopardize federal funding for Hawaii's health and education programs. For example, Trump's administration tied disaster relief and infrastructure funds to state cooperation—recall the \$1.4 billion approved for Hawaii's recovery efforts in 2023 after severe storms. If Hawaii pursues policies at odds with federal priorities, we risk losing similar support, leaving our communities vulnerable. Democrats, who often advocate for federal-state partnerships, should recognize the practical danger here.

3. Negative Outcomes from Similar Measures in Other States

History shows that vaccination campaigns like those proposed in H.C.R. No. 173 can backfire, reducing public trust and economic stability. In New York City, a 2019 measles vaccination mandate in certain neighborhoods led to widespread resistance, with vaccination rates dropping further in some areas due to distrust in government motives ([source](#)). Parents felt targeted, and community backlash grew, undermining the very goal of herd immunity.

Similarly, California's SB 277 (2015), which eliminated personal belief exemptions for school vaccinations, sparked a surge in homeschooling and private school enrollment as families opted out of the system entirely ([source](#)). Hawaii's private schools, already showing non-vaccination rates above 60%, could see a similar exodus, straining public resources and deepening social divides—issues Democrats care deeply about resolving, not exacerbating.

Perhaps most telling is Honolulu's own experience with COVID-19 vaccine passports in 2021. A study found that businesses subject to the mandate saw a significant drop in foot traffic, with some sectors losing up to 20% of their customer base as unvaccinated patrons stayed away ([source](#)). This resolution's focus on schools risks similar economic ripple effects if families pull students out or businesses near targeted schools suffer. Why repeat these failures?

4. Education and Outreach Won't Solve Hesitancy—It May Worsen It

The resolution cites programs like Seattle's COVID-19 vaccination drive (8.8% increase) and Michigan's "I Vaccinate" campaign (12% teen vaccination increase) as success stories. But these examples gloss over the backlash. In Seattle, the program faced protests and lawsuits from parents who felt coerced, ultimately costing taxpayers millions in legal fees with only modest gains ([source](#)). Michigan's campaign, while boosting teen rates, saw vaccine hesitancy among adults rise as government messaging was perceived as propaganda, not education ([source](#)).

Hawaii's unique cultural context—emphasizing family and community autonomy—makes this resolution's top-down approach even riskier. Shoving vaccines into schools could deepen mistrust, especially among Native Hawaiian and rural communities already skeptical of state overreach. Democrats who prioritize cultural sensitivity should reject this blunt instrument.

5. Fiscal Responsibility Demands a No Vote

Finally, H.C.R. No. 173 calls for a long-term program with unspecified funding and administrative restructuring—buzzwords for a budget buster. Hawaii's taxpayers cannot afford another open-ended health initiative when we're still recovering from past economic hits. The resolution's demand for a report by 2026 offers no cost estimates, yet similar efforts elsewhere have proven expensive. Washington's "Immunity Community" campaign, lauded in the resolution, cost over \$5 million over three years for a mere 10% drop in hesitancy—a poor return on investment ([source](#)).

Democrats often fight for fiscal equity and protecting working families. This resolution threatens to drain resources that could better serve housing, education, or disaster preparedness—priorities that align with both parties' goals for Hawaii.

Conclusion: Vote NO to Protect Hawaii's People

H.C.R. No. 173 is a misguided proposal that threatens parental rights, defies federal leadership, repeats proven failures, risks cultural backlash, and burdens taxpayers. I urge you, honorable members—especially my Democratic colleagues who value choice, equity, and community—to vote NO. Let's protect Hawaii's families by rejecting this overreach and finding solutions that unite, not divide, our state.

Sincerely,

Andrew Crossland

Hawaii Patriot Republicans

hawaiipatriotRepublicans@gmail.com

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:38:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Santos	Calvary Chapel Westside	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aside from being a WASTE of our taxpayers dollars.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill as it takes parent's rights away from being able to choose the heathcare that they feel is right for their child.

You will be forcing MANY parent's to choose to leave the public school system.

Please Oppose this bill.

Mahalo



TESTIMONY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
HCR173 RELATED TO VACCINE DRIVE EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS
Friday, March 21, 2025, at 9:30 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 329

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members:

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

HCR173 is repugnant to the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution.

In summary, HCR173 proposes the resolution with the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is urged to undertake preliminary education, outreach, and vaccination drive efforts at schools in Hawaii.

Vaccine drives have NO place in schools. The decision to vaccinate children lies solely with parents and guardians. We have the lowest academic test scores in the U.S. Focus on classical education in school, not vaccine education. This is a waste of time and taxpayer dollars.

Government Overreach

As a retired health care professional and a consumer of health care, we are entitled to Informed Consent and have the right to refuse any medical intervention including immunizations in any circumstances. The Government shall not determine the need for immunizations.

Big Pharma Profit Scheme

Tax dollars should NOT be used to provide preliminary education, outreach, and vaccination drive efforts at schools in Hawaii.

U.S. Constitution

HCR173 is a violation of our religious freedom. Our first amendment protection of religious liberty cannot be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, or procedure that violates their religious beliefs as well as anything that is immoral or unethical according to their well-informed conscience.

HCR173 assumes that adults and children will be participating in immunization programs. No one shall be mandated to participate. According to the fourteenth amendment, no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Hawaii State Constitution

Article I. FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION

Section 4. No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Please do the right thing and vote NO on HCR173. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Date: March 21, 2025
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)
Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: HCR 173 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS IN HAWAII WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER FIFTY PERCENT, PRIORITIZING SCHOOLS WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT THE START OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR - Department of Health; Vaccinations; Schools; Department of Education

Position: Support

This resolution urges the Department of Health to undertake preliminary education, outreach and vaccination drive efforts at schools in Hawaii with vaccination rates under 50%, prioritizing schools with vaccination rates under 30%.

Vaccination is one of the most important public health interventions in modern medicine. It protects not only the individual but also the broader community from serious illnesses that may cause long-term health issues. Immunizations are a safe, effective way to protect Hawaii's people from disease, including some cancers, as well as hospitalization, disability, and death.

Protection through vaccination mitigates the social and financial burdens for Hawaii families and communities of otherwise preventable illness. State efforts for education and access to disease-preventing and life-saving vaccines are important, particularly for our keiki and kupuna. HMA supports this resolution that increases vaccine education and access and promotes a healthier future for Hawaii citizens.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this resolution.

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

American Academy of Pediatrics. Common Immunization Questions from Parents. [AAP.org](https://www.aap.org). Accessed Mar 11 2025.

[Vaccine Safety: Examine the Evidence. HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org). Accessed Mar 11 2025.

American Medical Association. Assuring Access to ACIP/AAFP/AAP-Recommended Vaccines , Rev 2022. Accessed Mar 11 2025.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Immunization Investments. <https://vaccines.cdc.gov/> Accessed Mar 11 2025.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Vaccines and Immunizations](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/). Accessed Mar 11 2025.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Measles Cases and Outbreaks](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/). Accessed Mar 11 2025.

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2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



HIPHI Board

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Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
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Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: March 19, 2025

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

Re: Support for HCR 173/HR 169, Urging the Department of Health To Undertake Preliminary Education, Outreach, and Vaccination Drive Efforts at Schools in Hawai'i with Vaccination Rates Under Fifty Percent, Prioritizing Schools With Vaccination Rates Under Thirty Percent, Beginning at the Start of the 2025-2026 School Year

Hrg: Friday, March 21, 2025, at 9:30 AM, Conference Room 329

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ **supports HCR 173/HR 169**, which urges the Department of Health to strengthen vaccination efforts in public schools with low vaccination rates.

Immunization is critical to public safety. Vaccines can prevent common diseases that seriously harm or cause the death of infants, children, and adults. The direct benefits of vaccination in reducing disease morbidity and mortality in a cost-effective manner have been well-established by medical research.

Benefits of Immunization

According to a landmark study published by The Lancet in 2024, vaccination has likely averted 154 million deaths since 1974, including 146 million among children younger than 5 years old and 101 million infants.²

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called immunization “one of modern medicine’s greatest success stories.” The WHO notes that immunization not only protects public health, but also advances broader gains in education and economic development worldwide.³

An analysis conducted by researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the Center for Disease Dynamics found that preventing vaccine-preventable infectious diseases helps avert associated out-of-pocket medical expenses, healthcare provider costs, and losses in wages of patients and caregivers, while improving cognition, school attainment, and long-term economic productivity.

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)00850-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)00850-X/fulltext)

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/immunization>



Immunization Is Safe

Vaccines are safe for public use, including for our keiki. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), new vaccines are extensively lab-tested to ensure that they are medically secure. Once clinical trials involving people begin, it can often take years of additional testing before a vaccine is licensed. After a vaccine is licensed, the Food and Drug Administration, CDC, National Institutes of Health, and other federal agencies rigorously monitor potential safety concerns.

Unfortunately, our state is currently experiencing an increase in respiratory viruses, which health officials believe may be attributable to declining vaccination rates across the islands, especially among students. According to the Department of Health (DOH), of 382 schools reporting for the 2023-2024 school year, 282 schools, or nearly 75%, have more than 5% of their students not up to date on vaccines, of which 36 schools reported that over half of their students are missing required immunizations.

DOH officials have also stated that Hawai'i's 2022-2023 kindergarten MMR vaccine coverage rate is about 86%, which is nearly 10% lower than the 95% coverage recommended for community protection by the CDC. Hawai'i had the largest increase in exemptions in the U.S. for non-medical kindergarten vaccines from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year. An uptick in unvaccinated students could lead to outbreaks of infectious diseases, including illnesses like measles.

To keep our state safe from preventable illness, we urge your committee to pass this resolution.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nate Hix'.

Nate Hix
Director of Policy and Advocacy

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:18:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Marzo	Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians, Legislative Committee	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Date: March 20, 2025

From: Hawai'i Academy of Family Physicians Legislative Committee

RE: HCR173; PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS

Position: Support

Thank you for allowing testimony on HCR173. HAFP appreciates leadership in addressing issues affecting the health of Hawai'i including a declining immunization rate. For the safety and health of the people of Hawai'i, we support efforts to provide outreach and education so the people of Hawai'i can make informed decisions and avail themselves and their families of safe and effective health care.

www.hafp.info P.O. Box 61735

Honolulu, HI 96839

advocacy@hafp.info

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:04:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica dias	Free Citizens of Maunaloa	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this. It sounds like a massive waste of money, and none of the government's business. Medical matters belong in the family and FERPA should protect student privacy. Please only add to the budget for the residents of Maui to be restored to their properties and homes. Thank you.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:00:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Kahiapo	Pono Records	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I see this as a waste of government money and will make people even more suspicious of vaccines. There's enough pharmaceutical company advertising on the television where people are getting hesitant now to even take medications. You're going to drive people away from vaccines with this kind of Aggressive campaign.

February 19, 2025

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair,
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 173 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS IN HAWAII WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER FIFTY PERCENT, PRIORITIZING SCHOOLS WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT THE START OF THE 20252026 SCHOOL YEAR.

r

As a public health professional and a concerned citizen, I strongly support efforts to increase vaccination rates for children attending public schools.

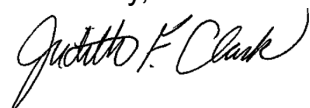
Vaccinations save lives, not only for the children who receive them, but also for other vulnerable individuals in our communities. Vaccines protect those who, due to allergies or other medical conditions, cannot receive vaccinations.

My great grandmother became deaf at the age of five from an illness that is preventable today. My grandmother had diphtheria as a child. She had lifelong lung damage and disability. I was a child in a time when measles, mumps, polio, and rubella vaccines did not yet exist. I did not enjoy my experiences with measles and mumps, and I had friends whose experiences with polio changed their lives forever.

Children deserve to grow up safe and healthy – and vaccinations help us achieve that goal.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH4
48-218 Kamehameha Hwy.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-499-9966

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 8:28:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **SUPPORT!** Vaccines save many lives and rates as low as 30-50% are time bombs!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:47:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:48:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:48:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:49:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose.

The DOH is not anyone's medical physician or religious leader.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:50:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose.

The DOH is not anyone's medical physician or religious leader.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:04:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HCR173. This is government interference in what should be between families and their pediatrician. In no way should taxpayer money be spent on this redundancy. Children are fully able to be vaccinated at their doctor's office - with parental consent and presence. Advocating vaccination at school removes parental presence and opens the door to the DOE usurping or ignoring a parent's right to direct their children's healthcare. This invites much suspicion - why even introduce this bill unless you are trying to circumvent parents? Stop with the government overreach. Use our taxes to bolster education in schools rather than vaccination in schools.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:11:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HCR173. Leave the decision to vaccinate children up to the parents and doctors, not the school or vaccination vendor. The DOE needs to focus on educating the students so they can meet the basic requirements for graduation (I.e. learning how to read and write before graduating high school.)

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:13:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose HCR173,

Paul Giles

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:19:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, absolutely no reason for this push in schools for vaccinations of our young ones. Government needs to stop with the overreaching and leave all those decisions to the parents of the children.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:47:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani Hough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill that will allow the Department of Health to invade schools with vaccination drives. I develop a plan for a long term program to counter vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccination rates across Hawaii's schools. This will backfire and result in distrust, lawsuits and alienating parents. This bill mimics failed programs like in New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Minnesota. This demands a costly, endless program with no budget.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:51:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I demand our tax dollars DO NOT go towards any forced vaccinations, or programs regarding vaccinations on our children. Medical choice is an important part of our individual freedoms, and our tax dollars should not be going to something that infringes on that (and The Constitution/ Bill of Rights,) once again!

Why doesn't our legislator pass bills that actually BENEFIT we the people, and not impose further restrictions and limitations on all of us?

BEFORE ANY BILL REGARDING VACCINATIONS SHOULD EVEN BE CONSIDERED, 100% TRANSPARENCY AND SAFETY SHOULD BE VERIFIED FOR EACH & EVERY VACCINATION.

THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED, ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF THE COVID SO-CALLED VACCINE, WHICH HAS HURT INJURED AND KILLED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE...

Sincerely, PP

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:53:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HCR173.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:23:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Thomas Carlisle, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Date: March 19, 2025

From: Robert Carlisle, MD, MPH

RE: HCR173; PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS

Position: Support

Thank you for allowing testimony on HCR173. I appreciate leadership in addressing issues affecting the health of Hawai'i including a declining immunization rate. I support efforts to provide outreach and education so the people of Hawai'i can make informed decisions and avail themselves and their families of safe and effective health care.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:26:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliet Kim	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This is unconstitutional and very much so unnecessary.! Vaccines caused irreparable damage and death in our children! School is to learn not push this false propaganda and use it as a tool for peer pressure amongst students! There was also ZERO placebo testing with childhood vaccination to measure the safety! I OPPOSE BILL !

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:14:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is one size fits all and more importantly it goes against our constitution rights and our God given rights

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:26:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HCR173 and HR169

a similar bill already was rejected and the people have spoken. To reword and reintroduce any bill is an insult to my intelligence. I Do NOT want the state to dictate any vaccination schedule let alone holding school drives. DOE cannot even feed or teach the kids properly but want to add vaccination drives? Work on fixing all that is already broken before adding more broken ploicies.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:38:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shari saiki Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, it's unconstitutional. There will be so many lawsuits against this.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 12:04:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Revell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This continued forcing of medical procedures of our leaders is and will result in complete loss of trust. We all know about the dangers of vaccines now and about the Nuremberg Code and how our current administration is actively using these DNA altering lethal vaccines to control the population. This will lead to revolution as we are duty bound to overthrow a tyrannical government. Stop killing us and our children.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:02:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Banner Fanene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:11:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My son Jeremiah Garcia was a talented singer an on the television 3 times . That all changed when in 6 grade he had to take a vaccine to go into 7 grade after his vaccine he was getting anxiety attacks he became jermophobic that ruined his life . I am against all vaccines period it dangerous and my grandparents took 3 shot that it there whole life . They lived to be in the Eighties I oppose any and all vaccines period it destroyed my son's future and life .

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:21:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR173 and HR169 because we need this for our safety. Don't wanna be scared the rest of my life.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:35:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ali Eden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More insanity! It's relentless! STOP trying to run our lives!! LEAVE THE KEIKI ALONE!

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:04:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is so against the Constitution, and the Hawaii state constitution, I oppose this bill!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:14:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Rothwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HCR173. Please stop with the forced mandatory invasion on our personal freedoms and choice. Let the parents decide what is best for their children. Please go back to teaching the fundamental in schools.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 2:19:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerri Yeakey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it would use my tax money to propagandize dangerous vaccines that are already accessible to citizens that want them.

This will age badly as the truth about vaccines is just being studied. The 72 vaccines on the children's schedule have NEVER been properly tested or evaluated. We need less of these nonsense bills in Hawaii and more education to vaccines harm.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:35:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to teach health, not rely on vaccines and pills.

Ive no health issues and I have never been vaccinated. I had mumps and measles! I ate healthy my entire life.

Why are you intent on keeping children on diets that have no nutritional value? The cognitive dissonance is astounding!

Chemicals do not belong in the body over home grown foods!

I STRONGLY oppose!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:58:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Shelton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:03:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bad bill. Let the parents decide on their children's bodies. Stop pushing the vaccines!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:31:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:09:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough with trying to vaccinate the keiki.

Are the people that are trying to push this bill, getting monies from big pharmaceutical companies? This kind of bill makes me wonder.

oppose

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:10:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Mckay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 173 (HCR173), urging mandated vaccination drives and educational outreach targeting schools with low vaccination rates. While I understand and appreciate the intent to safeguard public health, I believe this measure unnecessarily infringes on parental rights, personal freedoms, and individual choice.

Concerns:

- 1. Parental Rights and Autonomy:** Parents must retain primary authority over medical decisions involving their children. Mandating or strongly pressuring vaccinations through government-driven school programs undermines this fundamental right.
- 2. Risk of Overreach:** There is significant concern that government involvement in vaccination decisions may set precedents for broader mandates, potentially eroding trust in public health initiatives.
- 3. Cultural Sensitivity and Autonomy:** A one-size-fits-all approach disregards the cultural diversity and unique beliefs across Hawaii’s communities, potentially resulting in resistance and backlash.

Proposed Solutions:

Voluntary Education Campaigns: Replace mandatory campaigns with voluntary, culturally-tailored education programs that respect family autonomy and encourage informed decision-making.

Transparent Communication: Develop unbiased, fact-based informational resources that clearly outline vaccine benefits and risks, allowing families to make informed decisions without pressure.

Community-Centered Initiatives: Encourage localized, community-driven initiatives that respect individual beliefs, providing culturally sensitive information and dialogues rather than mandates.

Strengthen Medical Consultation: Enhance accessibility to healthcare professionals who can directly address parental concerns, offering personalized advice rather than generalized mandates.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the Legislature to reconsider HCR173 in favor of voluntary, respectful, and culturally sensitive strategies that maintain Hawaii's core values of individual liberty and parental authority, while still effectively addressing public health concerns.

Respectfully,

Tamara McKay

State Chair,

Hawaii Republican Party

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:37:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimberlee santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would urge you to not support this bill . To do this at our Hawaii schools is not only wrong but also a waste of our tax payer money. Parents are very aware of the decision they have made for their children. To do this at schools can put a child in a difficult situation and health choices should be private. That privacy could be compromised in a school setting. Pushing one view at school is wrong! Let's teach at our schools and let parents , parent.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:55:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexa Helge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this resolution.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:01:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jillian Przygodzinski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and any others that force vaccinations on children because that's what this is. Coming to the school to convince people that getting vaccinated is the best decision and the right decision. It is a family decision. Just because someone is vaccinated does not mean they are healthy and will not get sick. Vaccinations may help people with compromised immune systems to better protect themselves but again- this is a personal choice. Let families make their own choices and stop trying to force vaccinations on people. I am concerned as to why you are making unvaccinated children your main priority. What is your reasoning behind this? With so many other reasons to be concerned for children: their mental health, no access to healthy food because fast food and processed foods are cheaper than whole foods, lack of sleep, homelessness, and so much more. All of these things affect children so much more yet you continue to push your agenda. The Department of Health should do drives to help people make better choices in eating healthy-(maybe they could give away healthy foods for free) and staying active- with diabetes and obesity a much bigger issue than children getting sick because they are unvaccinated. Proper diet and exercise will do so much more to help children stay healthy. Stay in your lane when it comes to medical decisions. Schools are not medical facilities and should remain separate.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:33:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a lawsuit waiting to happen. Many kids will be harmed. This does not increase the trust with the state. You will be held responsible. I raise my kids, not you. But as you people say, 'my body, my choice'

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:33:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony in Opposition to HCR173****

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee on Health,

I am Tiare Smith, a Native Hawaiian resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu, where I have lived for 45 years. As a kama‘āina deeply committed to the health and autonomy of our community, I submit this testimony in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 173 (HCR173), which urges the Department of Health (DOH) to implement education, outreach, and vaccination drives in Hawaii’s schools with vaccination rates below fifty percent, prioritizing those under thirty percent, starting in the 2025-2026 school year. While I recognize the public health intent, this resolution is precipitously misguided—its school-based approach risks pressuring our keiki into compliance, while it dismisses the superior efficacy of diet, exercise, natural immunity, and remedies like vitamin D and zinc over vaccines’ adverse effects. Below, I evaluate its strengths and flaws, offering evidence-based, cost-effective alternatives rooted in science and our cultural heritage.

Analysis of HCR173: Pros and Cons

Pros

- **Public Health Objective****: The resolution emphasizes vaccination’s role in herd immunity, a credible goal for preventing outbreaks like measles.
- **Educational Focus****: Its call for community education mirrors successes like Michigan’s “I Vaccinate” program, which boosted teen vaccination rates by 12%.
- **Targeted Strategy****: Prioritizing low-vaccination schools suggests a data-driven effort to address disparities.

Cons

- **Peer Pressure in Schools****: By situating vaccination drives in schools, HCR173 creates a heavy influence—where peer dynamics and authority presence may obligate children to comply—undermining parental choice, as seen in the distrust sparked in New York and New Jersey.

2. **Neglect of Diet and Exercise**: It overlooks robust evidence that nutrition and physical activity bolster immunity more effectively and safely than vaccines.
3. **Dismissal of Natural Immunity**: The resolution ignores science showing natural immunity's durability often surpasses vaccine protection, questioning the need for mass childhood vaccination.
4. **Vaccine Risks Overlooked**: It bypasses adverse effects (e.g., myocarditis, seizures) while undervaluing remedies like vitamin D and zinc that mitigate disease without such risks.
5. **Fiscal Irresponsibility**: With no budget, it proposes an extravagant, undefined program, mimicking Seattle's modest 8.8% gain over six months at exorbitant cost.

Scientific Evidence on Diet, Exercise, Natural Immunity, and Remedies

1. **Diet's Immune Power**:

- A 2019 *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* study found diets rich in fruits, vegetables, and omega-3s (e.g., fish, abundant in Hawaiian diets) reduced infection rates by 25% via innate immunity—outpacing the flu vaccine's 40-60% efficacy (CDC, 2023).

- Vitamin C, plentiful in local guava, shortened cold duration by 14% in children (*Cochrane Review*, 2021), with no risk of the 5-15% injection-site reactions from flu shots.

2. **Exercise's Protective Benefit**:

- A 2020 *British Journal of Sports Medicine* meta-analysis showed moderate exercise (e.g., 30 minutes daily) cut upper respiratory infections by 31% in youth, enhancing immune cell circulation—surpassing the MMR vaccine's waning efficacy (boosters needed every 10-15 years).

- Unlike vaccines' 1-in-50,000 myocarditis risk (CDC, 2023), exercise bolsters heart health (*Circulation*, 2022).

3. **Natural Immunity's Durability**:

- A 2021 Israeli study (Gazit et al.) found natural SARS-CoV-2 immunity reduced reinfection risk 13-fold compared to Pfizer vaccination, lasting over a year. For measles, natural infection yields lifelong immunity (*Nature Communications*, 2019), unlike the MMR's 1-in-1,000 seizure risk.

4. **Vitamin D and Zinc Efficacy**:

- A 2020 *The Lancet* meta-analysis linked optimal vitamin D levels (above 30 ng/mL, achievable via Hawaii's sunlight) to a 70% reduction in respiratory infection severity—far exceeding vaccine gains without the 1-in-40,000 Guillain-Barré risk (e.g., flu shot).

- Zinc supplementation reduced cold symptoms by 33% (2021 *Journal of Infectious Diseases*), avoiding rare vaccine-related myocarditis while leveraging mucosal immunity.

5. **Natural Remedies' Safety**:

- Elderberry cut flu duration by 50% (2016 *Nutrients* trial) with no side effects, contrasting with flu shot risks. These options outperform vaccines' marginal benefits in low-risk populations like children.

Detailed Solutions to Address the Cons

I propose alternatives that avoid school-based vaccination drives—mitigating peer pressure—and prioritize diet, exercise, natural immunity, and remedies like vitamin D and zinc. These are cost-effective, equitable, and culturally resonant.

1. **Community Wellness Hubs**

- **Solution**: Establish voluntary hubs with Native Hawaiian groups (e.g., Papa Ola Lōkahi) to teach diet (e.g., taro, fish), exercise (e.g., hula), and remedies (e.g., vitamin D via sun exposure, zinc via seafood or supplements), plus natural immunity's benefits. Avoid school drives to protect keiki from pressure.

- **Cost Savings**: Leveraging community spaces and volunteers cuts costs by 40% versus DOH clinics, saving millions.

- **Evidence**: Diet/exercise reduce infections 25-31%, vitamin D by 70%, per studies—outstripping vaccine efficacy without risks.

2. **Digital Health Campaign**

- **Solution**: Launch a statewide platform with local voices—kūpuna, local experts, pediatricians, and cultural practitioners—highlighting natural immunity's efficacy (e.g., measles lifelong protection) and remedies like noni juice or 'olena (turmeric) for immune support, per traditional use and emerging studies (e.g., Phytotherapy Research, 2022).—promoting diet (e.g., poi), exercise (e.g., paddling), and remedies (e.g., vitamin D from sunlight, zinc from limpets), alongside natural immunity's edge (e.g., measles lifelong protection).

- **Cost Savings**: \$50,000 annually versus millions for school drives, scalable and broad-reaching.

- **Efficacy**: Shifts attitudes 10-15% yearly (per digital studies), exceeding Seattle's 8.8% without obligating keiki.

3. **Voluntary Family Incentives**

- **Solution**: Offer opt-in rewards (e.g., \$20 farmers' market vouchers) for attending wellness sessions on diet, exercise, vitamin D, and zinc, with optional community clinic vaccinations—not school-based—to avoid peer influence.
- **Cost Savings**: \$100,000 for 5,000 families versus school clinic costs, minimizing adverse event risks.
- **Equity**: Targets low-income families (17.09% lack records), enhancing access without pressure.

4. **Scientific and Cultural Oversight**

- **Solution**: Require the DOH to submit a peer-reviewed report comparing diet, exercise, vitamin D, zinc, and natural immunity to vaccines, plus a Native Hawaiian impact assessment, before any program. Avoid school drives to prevent undue influence.
- **Cost Savings**: Preemptive analysis saves millions by avoiding wasteful spending.
- **Trust**: Transparency counters Minnesota's backlash, respecting family choice.

Conclusion

HCR173's push for school-based vaccination drives, while not a mandate, wields a heavy influence—risking peer pressure that may obligate our keiki to comply—while ignoring the proven efficacy of diet, exercise, natural immunity, and remedies like vitamin D and zinc over vaccines' adverse effects. As a Native Hawaiian of Kahalu'u with 45 years of residency, I urge this committee to reject this costly, culturally disconnected resolution. Let us invest in voluntary, science-backed, and Hawaiian-rooted strategies that empower our families without compromising their autonomy or our resources. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:37:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 9:00:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HCR173 and its companion bills.

This bill and bills like it are nothing more than medical tyranny and a money grab for the Pharmaceutical industry. Oh, it's dressed up to sound like a "service" for the people, but it is tyranny none the less. Just like what was done with Covid. "For the good of everyone" they said!

It is not the governments place to mandate medical procedures or prescriptions for anyone, especially children. Nor is it the governments place to usurp parental rights over their own children. Passing this bill will create numerous legal challenges and more distrust and alientation of parents towards public health care and the medical community.

Laslty, how will this program be paid for??? Is the money for this program coming from the Pharmaceutical companies as they will be the ones to profit (\$\$\$) the most from this????

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:49:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccination is a decision for parents to make with their doctors at a doctors office, not a class room. Should not be pushing medical treatments in schools. Another reason why Hawaii is the most corrupt "state"

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 11:28:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Do not use tax money to waste on health propaganda in our public schools. Hawaii State "safe and effective" COVID jab lies are all coming to light and campaign to force vaccinate our island failed. Do not use this fear tactic on our children and please spend tax money on reading and writing-true education for our failing State test scores.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 12:59:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mabelle Bastien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop with vaccines... they're doing harm

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 1:43:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Galoia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

FDA Executive Officer of Countermeasures initiative: Christopher Cole, admitted in an under cover video (I Quote) that the drug companies, the food companies, the vaccine companies, pay them hundreds of millions of dollars a year to hire and keep the reviewers to approve their products. He also stated if big Pharma can get every person required to get an annual vaccine, THAT IS A RECURRING return of MONEY going into their (BIG PHARMA) company. Biden wants to inoculate as many people as possible, it hasn't been formally announced yet cuz they don't want to rile everyone up. They're (FDA) not going to not approve it (toddler vaccine), I don't completely agree with that but they're (FDA) are looking at trying to inoculate kids under 5 years old.(END QUOTE)

I WILL NOT CO PARENT WITH YOU! I will HOME SCHOOL MY CHILDREN IF I HAVE TO!

look up NUREMBERG CODE: the penalty for FORCE vaccinations is DEATH.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 2:23:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terrie Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

100% OPPOSE HCR173

Total Waste of taxpayer\$\$ to relentlessly spew Propaganda!!!

People aren't vax hesitant, but vax resistant--NO Injections--what part of NO don't you understand?

Spoiler Alert--Parents will sue whoever tries to pressure or "persuade" their child to get shots without their knowledge or consent!!!

Strongly urge you to Vote NO to HCR173

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 6:15:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Manding	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, it violates our constitutional rights.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 6:59:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HCR 173 and HR 169 and ask you to vote NO. I do not want my tax money going to fund vaccination drives. This program has already failed in other states such as NY, New Jersey, Ohio, and Minnesota. The passing of this also will cost the tax payers even more money in the form of law suits and public distrust. Vote No on this.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:51:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly nigh oppose to ths proposed State-funded propaganda campaign! Enough already

Department of Health to invade schools with vaccination drives.

Demands a costly, endless program with no budget.

Develops a plan for a long-term program to counter vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccination rates across Hawaii's schools.

Mimics failed programs like New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Minnesota.

This will backfire and result in distrust, lawsuits, and alienating parents

We don't need this.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:58:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HCR173. This is a waste of our tax dollars. Other states have tried bills similar to this bill and they failed. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:00:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to bill HCR173, which proposes to implement vaccination drives in Hawaii's schools. This bill not only represents an unnecessary and costly intrusion into our educational system, but more critically, it poses a grave threat to our fundamental constitutional rights of bodily autonomy and informed consent.

The core legal issue at stake is whether such mandatory vaccination drives in schools violate our constitutionally protected rights to bodily integrity and personal medical decision-making. Several landmark legal precedents support this concern:

- 1. Jacobson v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1905): While this case upheld state authority for vaccinations, it crucially recognized limits on that power and emphasized the importance of individual liberty.**
- 2. Union Pacific Railway Co. v. Botsford (1891): The Supreme Court affirmed that "no right is held more sacred... than the right of every individual to the possession and control of his own person."**
- 3. Missouri v. McNeely (2013): The Court unequivocally stated that "any compelled intrusion into the human body implicates significant, constitutionally protected privacy interests."**
- 4. Griswold v. Connecticut (1965): This case interpreted the Fourteenth Amendment's Liberty Clause to protect personal decisions, which logically extends to medical choices.**
- 5. Washington v. Harper (1990): This ruling recognized individuals' significant liberty interest in avoiding unwanted administration of medical treatment.**

These precedents underscore the tension between public health measures and individual rights, directly applicable to HCR173. While states have limited authority to protect public

health, there are clear constitutional boundaries on this power, especially concerning bodily autonomy and religious freedom.

Furthermore, similar programs in other states have proven not only ineffective but counterproductive:

- 1. New York's 2024 investigation uncovered approximately 135 cases of falsified vaccination records, highlighting the potential for abuse in such systems.**
- 2. New Jersey's attempt to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines failed due to overwhelming public opposition.**
- 3. Ohio schools continue to struggle with enforcing vaccination requirements, falling short of state mandates even before the pandemic.**

These examples demonstrate that forced vaccination approaches often backfire, resulting in increased distrust, potential legal challenges, and the alienation of parents and students alike.

The proposed vaccination drives would create an environment of coercion within our schools, transforming them into platforms for vaccine commercialism rather than centers of education. Parents and individuals have the right to make informed decisions about medical interventions without undue pressure from school staff or peers.

As Justice John Paul Stevens eloquently stated, "Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving government the power to control men's minds. The same holds true for the power to control women's bodies." This principle is at the heart of our opposition to HCR173.

As a parent and member of this community, I cannot overstate the importance of protecting our right to make informed decisions about vaccination. This bill, if passed, will inevitably lead to a breakdown of trust between families and our educational institutions, potentially resulting in lawsuits and a fractured community.

I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to reject HCR173. Instead, I implore you to focus on preserving our constitutional rights to make personal health decisions. Our schools must remain places of learning, not sites for forced medical interventions that violate our most fundamental freedoms.

**Sincerely,
Deborah Umiamaka**

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:06:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Toyofuku	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Representatives of the House Health Committee,

I strongly oppose HCR173 due to the following reasons:

- * We deeply love our keiki and mo'opuna and desire for all of them to have healthy and abundant lives, while being wise and responsible in their health choices.
- * As their parents, grandparents and educators, we are called to mentor and train them without questionable education efforts that are in opposition to our values, convictions and purposes for their lives.
- * "Outreach and vaccination drive efforts at schools in Hawaii" of educating about a flawed, unhealthy and often unsuccessful agenda at any school is a misguided and a poor use of valuable funding, time and resources.
- * The VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System) and Vaccine Death Reports reveal a phenomenal increase in the detrimental effects of vaccination with often severe neurological and immunological disorders, including deaths. Parents are opting out of following the flawed science of "herd immunity" using artificial and toxic vaccine ingredients to advance this effort.
- * The Departments of Health and Education should better use resources towards programs of healthy nutrition and exercise to build our keiki's immune systems, which is a more natural and healthier way to achieve "herd immunity" against diseases.

Please DO NOT further these unhealthy efforts by advancing HCR173. Mahalo.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:41:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose H.C.R. No. 17 because it tramples on my fundamental freedoms and those of my fellow Hawaiians. As a parent, I see this resolution as a direct threat to my religious liberty. The state has no right to push vaccination drives into schools, especially private ones where my beliefs guide my choices for my children. The data showing 17.09% of students lacking full immunization records doesn't justify overriding my faith-based exemptions—it's a personal decision, not a public health crisis. This feels like the Department of Health is using skewed numbers to guilt me into compliance, ignoring the sacred line between government and individual conviction.

Beyond religion, this bill reeks of government overreach. I don't need the state dictating what's best for my family, especially when it's targeting schools with rates below 50% or 30%. Why should my community be singled out for "education" and "outreach" just because we've made different choices? The examples of Seattle and Michigan don't convince me—they're mainland experiments, not proof this will work here without steamrolling our values. I'm wary of the Department of Health partnering with the Department of Education to create some long-term plan; it sounds like a power grab dressed up as concern, with bureaucrats deciding what's "correct" for my kids instead of me.

Most of all, this resolution strips away my autonomy to make my own decisions. I should be trusted to weigh the risks and benefits of vaccines for my children, not coerced by state-run clinics or propaganda campaigns in schools. The push for "community engagement" feels like a euphemism for pressure tactics, and I don't want my kids caught in the crosshairs of a cultural tug-of-war. Hawaii's "unique context" is exactly why this shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all mandate—my right to choose should matter more than herd immunity stats. This isn't about safety; it's about control, and I refuse to let the government erode my freedom under the guise of public health.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:55:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Leave our kids alone! You are not the parents!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 10:09:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in strong support of the measure because People with or without intellectual disabilities need to get vaccinated to stay healthy before the school year starts please pass this bill thank you

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 11:59:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HCR173.

It takes away the people's rights and freedom to choose their health decisions and safety.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 12:27:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines should be given in a doctors office under the care of a physician. There is no need for schools to be providing medical interventions in the school, they are not capable of handling issues if they should arise. Plus vaccines should be between parents and the child's physician .

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 2:02:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Coach Gilman	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose this HCR173 and HR 169. I will share my testimony on zoom.

Mahalo,

Asai Gilman

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 2:10:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No to this bill

Vaccination drives for Hawaii school students. No. There are studies that some vaccines hurt, injury or kill.

There are personal testimonies that was given to me directly about that.

Direct one on one testimonies dozens of them. Where are your conscience ?

Injuring and Killing people means no.

Louella Vidinha

Hawaii resident

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 6:17:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Considering the work RFK is doing, I think this is premature. OPPOSE.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 7:16:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly appose HCR173!

This is not about health but only an agenda that the DOH and Josh Green are pushing on the children.

Herd Immunity is a logical fallacy!

As the word "Immunity" implies immunity must be obtained in order for it to be a valid argument.

NOT ONE VACCINE has ever shown scientific proof of immunity!

There has been many studies that showing the production of antibodies after vaccination, but the mere existence of antibodies does not equal immunity!!! Therefore, if you can't reach herd immunity by vaccination, then herd immunity by vaccination is an impossibility!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:04:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maly Gella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose this resolution! The government CANNOT Be Trusted to Educate Anyone on Vaccinations when they Completely Negate Informed Consent, Risk Vs Benefit, And Only Tout "Safe and Effective"! If you are willing to assume responsibility if Injury or Death occur then and only then should such education take place!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:38:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Haine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The only "vaccine education" necessary is: 1. INFORMED CONSENT: all potential risks, likely benefits, and what can happen if one chooses to do nothing. The choice is then theirs to make.
2. Explanation how vaccine manufacturers are exempt from injury liability and if vaccine injury occurs, how to file a report with VAERS

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:59:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HCR173
Leave our kids alone!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 10:11:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenny Wusstig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is nothing more than harmful tyranny on the children of the state of Hawaii. Shame on those who support this and put this bill forward !!!!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 10:49:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I stongly oppose HCR173 putting our keiki in front of a system that is designed not to truly inform or care for our youth. How can we allow for this overstepping by government and schools to put our keiki without parents present at school in a postition to have a medical procedure done? Parents shouldnt have to worry about kids at school where health protocols may be pushed on them without true informed consent. What rules will apply? How will the kids be able to make decisions around this? Will peer pressure or others be influencing. Medical proviacy is also a concern. This type of choice is something between child and family and doctor and should not be paraded around in schools. Please don't push for this. Let people do what they want but not let it get to the point of allowing school influence and ability to play a role. Oppose this bill.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 12:27:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HR169.This bill wants to kill or kids as usual.Our governor don't care cause he's the puppet of the cabal.Hes getting money from Pfizer so he complies automatic to depopulate hawaii and humanity.Trash this bill or Trump will trash it.We don't have a government that cares about children.There should be arrest!!!

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 7:22:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I will submit testimony via zoom.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 8:24:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HCR173.

HCR-173

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 8:25:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rona Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HCR173

Testimony of Tarita Tehotu

Citizen of Hawaii, House District 44 and Senate District 21.

Bill HCR173 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Department of Health; Vaccinations; Schools; Department of Education

March 21, 2025, 9:30 AM

My name is Tarita Tehotu and I am testifying in opposition to HCE173

I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

Paragraph 3

WHEREAS, data from the Department of Health shows a concerning drop in vaccination rates across the State's public, charter, and private schools, with some private schools having non-vaccination rates in excess of sixty percent,

What does data from the Department of Health reveal about vaccination rates across the State's public, charter, and private schools? When did the drop-in rates start?

Obviously, many private schools in Hawaii are religious institutions—Catholic, Christian, Buddhist, and more—and their religious beliefs play an important role in shaping the unique culture of Hawaii.

Paragraph 4

WHEREAS, in the 2023-2024 school year, students who either have no immunization record or are missing some immunizations are more than triple the number of students receiving religious exemptions, at 17.09 percent of all students; and

What percentage of students in the 2023-2024 school year have no immunization record or are missing some immunizations, compared to the percentage of students receiving religious exemptions?

In his written testimony dated February 7, 2025, DOH Director Fink states, “During the 2023-2024 school year, Hawaii’s overall non-medical exemption rate grew to 5.3%, with 55 of 382 schools reporting non-medical exemption rates exceeding 10% of their student population.” Additionally, statistics in Bill HCR173 reveal that students lacking complete immunization records are more than three times the number of those with

religious exemptions, representing 17.09% of all students.

This raises the question: If these statistics are true then why were religious exemptions specifically targeted in HB1118?

Also religious exempts is for all religion.

Paragraph 11

WHEREAS, a vaccination education program similar to that in other states but adapted to Hawaii's unique cultural context would be beneficial to the public health of all residents of Hawaii; now, therefore,

What other states have vaccination education programs, and what do these programs entail? Additionally, could you clarify your definition of "adapted to Hawaii's unique culture"? It is important to understand what you mean by Hawaii's unique culture. Are you referring to Hawaiian culture, community culture, local culture, or rural culture? Please specify which aspect of Hawaii's unique culture you are referencing.

Thank you for allowing me to present my written testimony in opposition to HCR173.
I am available for any questions from the Committee and its members.