
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VACCINATION DRIVE EFFORTS AT SCHOOLS IN HAWAII WITH VACCINATION RATES UNDER THIRTY PERCENT, BEGINNING AT THE START OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND OTHER LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS.

1 WHEREAS, high vaccination rates are essential to
2 maintaining public health through herd immunity and preventing
3 the outbreak of eradicable diseases such as measles and
4 smallpox; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State recognizes the Department of Health's
7 essential work in keeping Hawaii's communities safe and healthy;
8 and

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

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

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20 WHEREAS, the State recognizes increasing community access
21 to vaccines as an essential part of any public health plan to
22 increase vaccination rates; and

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24 WHEREAS, the State further recognizes that a program of
25 increasing vaccination availability must be complemented by
26 community engagement and education about the safety and efficacy
27 of vaccines; and

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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's network of community health centers,
2 including federally qualified health centers, play a critical
3 role in providing accessible, affordable, and culturally
4 competent healthcare services, including vaccinations, to
5 underserved communities and school-aged children; and
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7 WHEREAS, multiple studies have shown that outreach and
8 education on the safety and efficacy of vaccines have led to
9 increased vaccination rates; and
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11 WHEREAS, a program of student education and vaccination
12 clinics carried out by the City of Seattle to increase
13 coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination was successful at
14 increasing levels of vaccination by an average of 8.8 percent
15 over a six-month period; and
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17 WHEREAS, when a public-private partnership in Washington
18 launched a vaccination campaign called "Immunity Community", the
19 campaign was successful in reducing rates of vaccine hesitancy
20 among parents by almost ten percent over a period of three
21 years; and
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23 WHEREAS, Michigan launched a public-private partnership
24 education program called "I Vaccinate" and achieved a twelve
25 percent increase in teen vaccination rates statewide, using
26 techniques such as parent-to-parent messaging, the maintenance
27 of a public website, and engagement through a social media
28 profile; and
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30 WHEREAS, a vaccination education program similar to that in
31 other states but adapted to Hawaii's unique cultural context
32 would be beneficial to the public health of all residents of
33 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2025, that the Department of Health is urged to undertake
38 preliminary education, outreach, and vaccination drive efforts
39 at schools in Hawaii with vaccination rates under thirty
40 percent, beginning at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, in
41 partnership with community health centers and other local
42 healthcare providers; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
3 urged to partner with the Department of Education to develop a
4 plan for a long-term program to counter vaccine hesitancy and
5 increase vaccination rates across Hawaii's schools; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
8 requested to submit a report on the development of the long-term
9 program to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
10 the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; provided that the
11 report is requested to include recommendations on the funding
12 and any administrative restructuring needed to effectively carry
13 out the program; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and
17 Director of Health.

