
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH BY
UPDATING ITS RULES REGARDING TUBERCULOSIS.

1 WHEREAS, tuberculosis is a serious health concern globally,
2 nationally, and locally; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization,
5 tuberculosis is contagious, airborne, and ranks alongside the
6 human immunodeficiency virus as a leading cause of death
7 worldwide; and
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9 WHEREAS, in 2014, an estimated 9,600,000 people worldwide
10 fell ill with tuberculosis, while 1,500,000 people died from the
11 disease; and
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13 WHEREAS, since tuberculosis is so contagious, it is
14 beneficial for the health, safety, and welfare of the people of
15 the State for individuals who have spent an extended time away
16 in high-risk foreign locations to submit to tuberculosis
17 clearance testing upon entering or reentering the State; and
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19 WHEREAS, it is a matter of statewide concern to prevent
20 tuberculosis prevalence at public schools, the University of
21 Hawaii, and other schools, since large numbers of school
22 students are often in close proximity with each other, and can
23 easily spread the disease, even with minimal or no direct
24 contact; and
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26 WHEREAS, Section 302A-1154, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and
27 Sections 11-157-3.2 and 11-164-6, Hawaii Administrative Rules,
28 currently require all children attending Hawaii schools for any
29 period and all adult students attending Hawaii post-secondary
30 for periods of six months or more to present documentation that
31 they are free from tuberculosis before they first attend school;
32 and
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1 WHEREAS, current law does not require subsequent
2 tuberculosis tests for students who return to the State after
3 living outside of the State for extended periods of time; now,
4 therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
8 Session of 2016, that the Department of Health is urged to
9 protect public health by updating its rules regarding
10 tuberculosis, pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
11 and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules are requested to
14 require any individual who has spent more than one year in
15 foreign high-risk locations to submit to tuberculosis clearance
16 testing upon entering or reentering the State; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
19 requested to consider locations in Africa, Asia, Central
20 America, South America as high-risk locations, as well as any
21 other location outside of the United States that the department
22 deems to have a high rate of tuberculosis; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules are requested to
25 require any student, including a post-secondary student, and who
26 is required under current statutes and laws to present
27 tuberculosis clearance documentation before an initial entry
28 into a Hawaii school to also present documentation that the
29 student is free from tuberculosis, based upon a clearance
30 obtained within the State after returning to the State after any
31 absence of more than one year; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Department of Health is
34 unable to adopt the requested rule amendments by the end of
35 2016, the department is requested to submit a report on its
36 progress toward amending its rules to the Legislature not less
37 than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of
38 2017; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the
42 Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Chairperson of the



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1 University of Hawaii Board of Regents, the Superintendent of
 2 Education, the President of the University of Hawaii, and the
 3 President of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

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OFFERED BY:

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Ok