HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO PREVENT THE STATEWIDE SPREAD OF SEASONAL INFLUENZA WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO HIGH-RISK ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, influenza, or the flu, is the most frequent cause of death from a vaccine-preventable disease in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the flu epidemic has been widespread and has contributed to many deaths, particularly to those in high-risk populations; and

WHEREAS, influenza can be life-threatening for people aged sixty-five years and older because they are more susceptible to developing serious complications from the flu; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that up to 70 percent of seasonal flu-related hospitalizations and up to 85 percent of seasonal flu-related deaths in the United States occur each year in people aged sixty-five years and older; and

WHEREAS, the most effective strategy for preventing influenza is an annual vaccination and health officials recommend routine vaccinations for persons at a higher risk for influenza complications; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State to protect high-risk Hawaii residents against the potentially-deadly influenza virus; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Health is requested to develop strategies to educate the public, especially high-risk Hawaii
residents, on the prevention and treatment of influenza and the risks and benefits of the flu vaccination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to provide, by September 1 of each year, to each assisted living facility in the State, information on:

1. The risks associated with influenza;

2. The latest influenza vaccination recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

3. The availability, effectiveness, and known contraindications of influenza immunization; and

4. The causes and symptoms of influenza, the means by which influenza is spread, and treatment recommendations so residents may identify, treat, and prevent influenza; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and the Director of the Executive Office on Aging.

O OFFERED BY: