



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECEIVES \$598,000 THREE-YEAR  
GRANT FOR STATEWIDE IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY**

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health recently received a \$598,000 three-year grant from the HMSA Foundation for the development of a statewide immunization registry. The Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIREG) will be a secure, web-based computer system that will store patient immunization records. The Department expects to implement the registry by Fall 2007.

“Thanks to HMSA’s generous contribution, Hawaii will soon be able to take advantage of the tremendous benefits of having a statewide immunization registry,” Dr. Paul Effler, State Epidemiologist said. “The registry will help the DOH to better protect residents from diseases like measles, tetanus, and whooping cough, which can be prevented with up-to-date vaccinations.”

“The HMSA Foundation views this as a great investment in the health of our community,” said HMSA Senior Vice President Cliff K. Cisco. “The immunization registry program is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when public and private organizations work together. The result will be a higher level of quality care in Hawaii.”

With HIREG, healthcare providers statewide will be able to keep track of immunizations given to their patients and determine which immunizations are still needed. This will help patients by ensuring that they receive all the shots they need and avoid duplication.

The registry data will also aid in identifying areas with low immunization coverage so that public health efforts can be targeted to those most in need. The Department of Health will utilize information from HIREG when responding to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases and other public health emergencies.

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