

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

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'STOP FLU AT SCHOOL' CONSENT FORMS DUE SEPT. 6

HONOLULU – This fall, the state's annual school-located vaccination program, Stop Flu at School, will again offer free flu vaccine to elementary and middle school children in 327 public, private and charter schools statewide. The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is collaborating with school administrators, health care providers, pediatric associations, health insurers, and federal partners to continue this important program, which vaccinates more than 65,000 students statewide each year.

Information packets and vaccination consent forms are being distributed to parents through participating schools. To sign-up for the free vaccinations available to their children, parents or guardians must return the completed and signed consent forms to schools by the deadline, Friday, Sept. 6, 2013. Vaccination clinics will be held in October and November. Translated consent forms will be available on the DOH Stop Flu at School website.

"Vaccinating our keiki helps protect our communities. DOH and its partners remain committed to offering free and convenient flu vaccinations to Hawaii's school-age children through the Stop Flu at School program," said Health Director Loretta Fuddy. "With continued cuts to federal funding, our public-private partnerships become increasingly vital to the continuation of this program. I look forward to working with the Governor, legislators, and partners to ensure that we continue this program to protect the health of our keiki."

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For more information about the Stop Flu at School program and to download the translated consent forms, visit <u>http://flu.hawaii.gov/SFAS.html</u>, or call Aloha United Way's information and referral service at 2-1-1 for assistance.

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For more information on this news release, contact: Gail Ogawa Disease Outbreak Control Division Phone: (808) 586-8358