



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
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by

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SB 1522 SD1 – RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, SB 1522 SD1. This bill appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program.

National evidence shows the presence of school-based licensed health care professionals, including APRNs and registered nurses (RNs), decreases absenteeism and time away from class of children with acute and chronic conditions, increases parents' and caregivers' time at work, and principals' and teachers' instructional time (Wong, 2014).

The 2015 Legislature, in its wisdom, recognized that students must come to school healthy and ready to learn. Through Act 139, you provided fiscal support for school-based health services through a Department of Education (DOE) partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (UHM SONDH) that enabled Hawai'i Keiki (UHM SONDH) to provide at least one school-based APRN to each of the 15 Complex Areas and 3 RNs to selected high need schools on four islands. These licensed professionals are highly skilled and can approve such medication administration.

We are pleased to report the program has nurses on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island. In the three month period from October through December 2018 the program documented, with the school health aides (SHAs), that 5,300 students made 14,090 visits to the health rooms. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of students were able to return to class with an average time in the health room of 15 minutes for care for illness, injury or health guidance. Hawai'i Keiki provided 85 consultations to DOE staff and parents

regarding keiki with new or existing health conditions. Nurses engaged with DOE administrators, staff, and district-level Parent-Community Networking Centers (PCNC) to support wellness goals and with Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) to develop emergency response protocols and facilitate requisition of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for schools. Other highlights include partnering with DOH for Stop Flu at School, Project Vision for vision screening, and leading a school-based UH health sciences team of child psychiatry, clinical pharmacy, and dental hygienists at one middle school. Finally, the project is supporting the successful statewide implementation of an electronic record that documents health status and services provided in the health room.

The Legislature funded the program line item in the DOE budget in the first year of the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium to develop school-based nurse practitioner (APRN) delivered services in Complex Areas statewide, increase access to nursing and health related career development to DOE students and schools, and facilitate maximizing partnerships with public and private organizations addressing health needs in schools.

In the second year of the 2017-19 Fiscal Biennium (FY19), the Legislature reaffirmed commitment to the health and well-being of school aged children with Hawai'i Keiki in the base budget at an allocation of \$2,147,282. That said, through this measure we request an appropriation increase of \$752,066 beyond the base budget of \$2,147,282 as requested by DOE in a memo to the Board of Education dated October 18, 2018. The base budget and requested increase will make the program budget whole, maintain the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in all 15 Complex Areas as well as the administrative/technical support structure, as currently operationalized.

In addition, Hawai'i Keiki recognizes that the electronic school health records implemented at all DOE schools, including those on campuses with Hawai'i Keiki school based health clinics, have enhanced the state's capacity to track, monitor, and address health issues experienced by students enrolled in DOE schools. Therefore, Hawai'i Keiki also recognizes the need to fund \$256,000 as requested by DOE to continue funding license fees for the electronic school health records for each school.

Therefore, the UHM SONDH respectfully requests that the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education pass this measure through its committee with the proposed amendments. We appreciate your continuing support for keiki, nursing, and school-based health care services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Recommend to add a new Section, as follows.

SECTION [] There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$256,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to license electronic school health records.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of education for the purposes of this Act.