



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
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By

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SB 2187 SD1 – RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) to provide testimony in strong support with suggested amendments for SB 2187 SD1, Relating to School-Based Health Services.

This bill aims to amend the education statute relating to school-based medication administration to improve access to prescribed medications for children enrolled in and attending Department of Education (DOE) public schools. The amending of the statute allows not only Department of Health (DOH), but also school-based health services, to approve medication administration in school by:

- increasing the number of qualified, licensed healthcare professions who may prescribe medication that may then be administered at school; and
- expanding the medication administration approval authority to include DOE recognized school-based health providers.

NAWSON respectfully requests the following revision in order to enable complex area school nurses to engage in these activities:

- Page 1, Line 15 through Page 2, Line 2: “The administration of the medication is with the approval of the department of health [~~and~~] “or other **complex area or on-campus, school-based, health care provider pursuant to a written agreement with the department of education; and**””

NAWSON, in partnership with the DOE, launched the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program in 2014 as a Race to the Top initiative and the legislature established state funding for the program in 2015. Since that time, the program has grown to include

15 APRNs and 40 registered nurses (RNs) who provide complex-area and on-campus school-based care. These licensed professionals are highly skilled and can approve such medication administration, should state law enable them.

In addition, our graduate program has contributed to the significant growth of APRNs who are highly trained and provide quality health care including prescribing of medication in Hawai'i. In fact, since 2011, the number of APRNs in our state has increased by 75%, with 30% of the total APRNs being located on our neighbor islands where provider shortages are at our state's worst. Specifically including prescriptions written by APRNs will help align the DOE's medication administration laws with the qualified provider landscape of today.

This proposed legislation will allow school-based health care entities with formal agreements with the DOE to approve timely and efficient administration of prescribed medications so children can attend school. NAWSON recognizes and commends the work of the DOH Public Health Nursing Branch in ensuring quality and consistency in approvals for medication administration. Hawai'i Keiki's APRNs, who may prescribe medications for children, as indicated by health needs and with parent/caregiver consent, as well as the program's registered nurses will be able to further support schools and families by also facilitating the medication administration approvals. NAWSON and Hawai'i Keiki are committed to working with the DOE and DOH to maintain standards of medication administration approvals so that the consistency, quality and safety are sustained, should this measure be enacted.

Therefore, the UHM NAWSON respectfully requests that SB 2187 SD1 pass with amendments. We appreciate your continuing support for keiki, nursing, and school-based health care services. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.