



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 2:10 p.m.

by

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and

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1344 SD2 – RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support** of this measure, SB 1344 SD2, which aims to allow the administration of medication to public school students by health assistants with the approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education, Department of Health, or a health care service per a written agreement with the Department of Education.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) partnered with the Department of Education in 2014 to instill the school nursing program by placing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in each complex area. The Legislature, recognizing the great importance of ensuring children are healthy and ready to learn, supported this program by allocating state funds to ensure that children enrolled in Hawai'i's public school system may access school nursing care. Today, the program, Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn, has 51 nurses, including APRNs and registered nurses, serving each complex, and school health technicians who support the Hawai'i Keiki program in 171 schools. In quarters 1 and 2 of this school year (fall semester 2022), Hawai'i Keiki RNs and APRNs conducted 9,112 in person visits and 272 virtual visits for illness or injury. The Hawai'i Keiki nurses are well positioned throughout the state to support review of medications requests to assess the appropriateness to be administered school grounds.

The Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program is nearing a decade of established school nursing care within the Department of Education's public education system and is confident that this law change, as well as resulting modifications to existing departmental processes and protocols will lead to an improvement in access to healthcare and quality of care for Hawai'i's children. Secondly, NAWSON is confident in Hawai'i Keiki's ability to support these new processes and protocols related to approvals of medication administration on school grounds.

It is with great pleasure that NAWSON partners with the Department of Education in the delivery of school nursing care so that teachers, staff, and principals can focus on their exemplary education.

NAWSON respectfully requests favorable consideration of this measure, SB 1344 SD2.