



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/06/2025

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 1499 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Expands the Department of Education's authority to allow more trained staff to volunteer to assist students with the administration of medication.

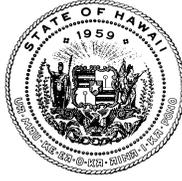
Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1499, which authorizes public school employees or agents who have completed appropriate training to administer medications for students consistent with the standards applicable to school health assistants (SHA).

The Department recognizes that access to certain medications during school may be necessary for the attendance of students with a health condition. The SHAs play a vital student support role by administering medications to students who need them. Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Section 302A-853, only SHAs are authorized to administer routine medications. The reliance on a single person naturally creates challenges to consistent and efficient service delivery. The SHAs cannot be in multiple locations at once, such as field trips, emergencies, or while assisting other students.

This bill would allow the Department to train designated staff as SHA substitutes, ensuring students receive necessary medical support without disruption to their learning. By expanding the pool of trained personnel, the bill would help maintain the continuity of health services while upholding established safety and training standards.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1499
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN WOODSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 6, 2025 @ 2 pm

Room Number: 309

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) SUPPORTS this measure
3 offering comments and a proposed amendment.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Communicable Disease & Public Health Nursing Division
5 (CDPHND) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department. The Department
6 supports this bill as it will potentially increase the number of trained volunteers on DOE public
7 school campuses who are able to administer daily and/or emergency medications during the
8 school day. This bill will allow for students to have increased access to prescription and
9 emergency medication in the event of a school health assistant vacancy. Public school staff
10 who volunteer as substitutes to administer medications to students shall be trained on
11 medication administration by a health care professional employed or contracted by the
12 Department of Education. The other updates in the measure will aid in the ability for students
13 to safely and timely receive prescribed and emergency medications, improving their overall
14 health and ability to remain in school.

15 **Offered Amendments:**

- 1 The Department offers one revision to this bill to add on Page 1 Line 12, identifying the correct
- 2 student to receive the medication, to be aligned with rights of medication administration.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 309 and videoconference**

**By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT on H.B. 1499

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee:

Thank you for hearing this measure which would expand the Department of Education's authority to permit additional trained staff to volunteer in assisting students with administering medication. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) is in strong support of this measure.

HSCN has a longstanding initiative to address barriers to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) care as a mechanism to improve access to high quality health care services. In 2022, HSCN started an interprofessional effort to review the Hawai'i Revised Statutes for laws that inform healthcare access that are outside of healthcare professionals' scope of practice laws (primarily in Title 25). The committee found that nearly half of the HRS had language that limited all qualified providers from engaging in certain healthcare activities as described in those statutes. This measure is a good example of including all eligible healthcare providers that may contribute to the process. The outcome is that local healthcare provider, whether it be the primary care provider, associated Hawai'i Keiki school APRN, or other provider can engage in the prescribing of this medication to the school. This is a strong health policy intervention that improves access to appropriate and safe health care in the community.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing commends the legislature for introducing this measure and for your commitment to the health and safety of children in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 6, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB1499: Relating to the Department of Education

To: Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Date: February 6, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Re: HB1499: Relating to the Department of Education

Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

We, Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-chairs of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, strongly support HB1499, which expands the Department of Education's authority to allow more trained staff to volunteer to assist students with the administration of medication.

Key Points

- 1. Enhanced Student Safety:**
 - By allowing more trained staff to assist with the administration of medication, HB1499 ensures that students receive timely and appropriate medical care, enhancing their safety and well-being.
- 2. Increased Availability of Support:**
 - The bill increases the number of available staff who can provide medical assistance, ensuring that students' health needs are met even in the absence of specific medical personnel.
- 3. Support for Students with Medical Needs:**
 - HB1499 acknowledges the diverse medical needs of students and provides a framework to ensure they receive the necessary support during school hours.

4. Promotes a Safe Learning Environment:

- Ensuring that students have access to medical assistance when needed promotes a safe and conducive learning environment, allowing them to focus on their education.

Arguments in Favor

1. Improved Health Outcomes:

- By expanding the pool of trained staff available to administer medication, HB1499 improves health outcomes for students with chronic or acute medical conditions.

2. Empowering School Staff:

- The bill empowers school staff by providing them with the training and authority to assist in medical situations, fostering a sense of responsibility and competence.

3. Community Trust and Confidence:

- Transparency and accountability in the administration of medication foster community trust and confidence in the school system's ability to care for students' health needs.

4. Adaptability to Emergencies:

- With more trained staff available, schools are better equipped to handle medical emergencies promptly and effectively.

Conclusion

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii urges the Committee to support HB1499. This bill represents a significant advancement in our state's approach to student health and safety, promoting transparency, accountability, and enhanced support for students with medical needs.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-chairs Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



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
Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, Dean
School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene

And

T. Samuel Shomaker, Dean
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1499 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing this measure, which aims to expand the Department of Education's (DOE) authority to allow more trained staff to volunteer to assist students with the administration of medication. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (UH Mānoa SONDH) and the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) are in strong support of this measure.

The UH Mānoa SONDH is a long-time contributor to school health initiatives with partnership of the DOE. Starting in 2014, The UH Mānoa SONDH launched with DOE the Hawai'i Keiki - Healthy and Ready to Learn (HK) program. This program placed advanced practice registered nurses into the schools and complexes with the greatest health disparities. Just over 10 years since its inception, HK now services all 258 DOE public schools and has 58 DOE public school-based clinics and 10 charter school-based clinics. In Academic Year 2023-2024, HK nurses and staff completed more than 75,000 visits in public schools and 6,700 visits in charter schools. HK nurses and staff see and care for the children enrolled in the public and charter education systems. This bill fulfills a crucial need that will significantly enhance the health and wellbeing of children across the islands. In addition to the existing authorization for School Health Assistants, it expands the ability to assist students by “making other employees and agents trained by a health care professional employed or contracted by the department, may assist students by administering oral, nasal, and topical medication, and in emergency situations, other premeasured medication.”

Provided the proper training and procedures are in place, this measure would allow for improved care and, ultimately, improved learning for children with known health conditions. Today, children with a known health condition and completed administrative processing are able to have medications at school to support chronic health conditions. This bill does not change the process of authorizing medications to be administered at school, but rather helps that process function to its enacted intent. HK supports the DOE schools in this function today - both providing medication administration support where HK staff is on-campus, as well as providing training to DOE employees. However, when a School Health Assistant is not available, and HK is not present on a campus, enrolled children may go without their needed and approved daily and or emergency medications.

Thank you for your long-standing support for school-aged children, both in their education and in their health and wellbeing. Your continued support, through the passage of this measure with amendments through your committee, is greatly appreciated.

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:25:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Carreras	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to have a system of supports for kids in school who have medical conditions. This includes having trained and competent school staff be available to administer, or provide assistance to kids in medical crisis in getting their rescue medications. The current law that only allows "school health aids," to be able to fulfill this critical service severely strains and limits the school system's ability to support kids and families in their health and safety needs. The safety of medication administration to students in the school setting should be attached to training and competency requirements- not attached to the "school health aid," position. Thank you!

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:58:13 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Morales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm providing written testimony in support of HB1499. HB 1499 would allow the DOE to train other staff to assist with medication administration and not be limited to only the SHA.

This bill would provide additional coverage for the many issues DOE has regarding medication administration in the schools.

First of all, the SHA (School Health Assistant) have minimal qualifications for this position including a high school diploma and current first aid and CPR certification. They have no additional medical training or education. For example, they do not need an MA or CNA certification. They receive on the job training by the PHN (Public Health Nurses or RN's), regarding medication administration.

I have a few concerns regarding the SHA's being the only individuals on campus allowed to assist with medication administration.

My first concern is if the SHA's are the only individuals on campus allowed to assist with medication administration, what happens when they are out sick. Who then can assist in providing medication to students or does a student go without their medication for the day?

Second concern, if there's an emergency for example a student has an asthma flare up, and the SHA is out for the day, but again they're the only individual in the school who can assist in medication administration, what does the school do? I assume they call 911, however the response for 911 to arrive could take 20 minutes or longer to respond. To be honest for our neighbor island rural areas, the response could be much longer.

Another concern is what is DOE doing regarding excursions/field trips? Are SHA's being asked to go on a field trip to assist with medication administration? What if there are multiple excursions and students who need medications at 2 different locations . How do you determine what excursion they attend? Which medication is more important than the other?

Also who's covering the schools Health Rooms when they are attending the excursion. SHA's are very vital for the school, health and wellness of their students. Not to mention that they try their best to keep students in school. But if no one is covering the health room, then the students are going to the office and being sent home. The SHA is not there to assess if the student should go home or if they can stay in school.

Per HawaiiSchoolJobs.org there's a total of 21 SHA positions posted on the website. What are these schools doing regarding medication administration?

Many schools in the state have one SHA, by allowing training for additional staff to assist in medication administration, would be beneficial to the school, they would have a backup person to provide assistance. By passing this bill it will provide a secondary plan and allow flexibility when situations arise.

Thank you for your time.

Mahalo,

Tina Morales MSN, RN NCSN

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:41:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yun-Wen Betty Fletcher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1499. I believe this bill is critical to ensuring student safety on Hawaii Department of Education campuses. Typically there is only one staff member (a School Health Assistant or SHA) on a DOE campus who can administer medications to a student. This poses a challenge in the event that this person is not on campus (which can occur for a myriad of reasons including sickness/vacation or the position being vacant). Currently, there are not enough personnel in the sub-SHA pool to meet the needs of students on DOE campuses and health rooms can frequently go unstaffed. This is not fair or safe for students who have been prescribed medications to take on campus either routinely or in the event of an emergency. Parents may be inconvenienced by having to take time off of work to come to school to administer medication so their child can remain in school. In the event of an emergency, students can suffer dangerous consequences as a result of not receiving rescue medications in a timely manner as school staff wait for EMS personnel. Providing comprehensive and appropriate training to school staff on medication administration and allowing them to administer these medications as needed would help ensure there is always someone on campus who can meet the needs of students who require medications to safely and equitably access education. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:44:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marnelli Joy Ulep	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1499. I am a parent and a resident of Waipahu.

I believe this bill is critical to ensuring student safety on Hawaii Department of Education campuses. Typically there is only one staff member (a School Health Assistant or SHA) on a DOE campus who can administer medications to a student. This poses a challenge in the event that this person is not on campus (which can occur for a myriad of reasons including sickness/vacation or the position being vacant). Currently, there are not enough personnel in the sub-SHA pool to meet the needs of students on DOE campuses and health rooms can frequently go unstaffed. This is not fair or safe for students who have been prescribed medications to take on campus either routinely or in the event of an emergency. Parents may be inconvenienced by having to take time off of work to come to school to administer medication so their child can remain in school. In the event of an emergency, students can suffer dangerous consequences as a result of not receiving rescue medications in a timely manner as school staff wait for EMS personnel. Providing comprehensive and appropriate training to school staff on medication administration and allowing them to administer these medications as needed would help ensure there is always someone on campus who can meet the needs of students who require medications to safely and equitably access education.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:30:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1499. I believe this bill is critical to ensuring student safety on Hawai'i Department of Education campuses. Typically there is only one staff member (a School Health Assistant or SHA) on a DOE campus who can administer medications to a student. This poses a challenge in the event that this person is not on campus (which can occur for a myriad of reasons including sickness/vacation or the position being vacant). Currently, there are not enough personnel in the sub-SHA pool to meet the needs of students on DOE campuses and health rooms can frequently go unstaffed. This is not fair or safe for students who have been prescribed medications to take on campus either routinely or in the event of an emergency. Parents may be inconvenienced by having to take time off of work to come to school to administer medication so their child can remain in school. In the event of an emergency, students can suffer dangerous consequences as a result of not receiving rescue medications in a timely manner as school staff wait for EMS personnel. Providing comprehensive and appropriate training to school staff on medication administration and allowing them to administer these medications as needed would help ensure there is always someone on campus who can meet the needs of students who require medications to safely and equitably access education.

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:41:29 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Roache	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1499. I believe this bill is critical to ensuring student safety on Hawaii Department of Education campuses. Typically there is only one staff member (a School Health Assistant or SHA) on a DOE campus who can administer medications to a student. This poses a challenge in the event that this person is not on campus (which can occur for a myriad of reasons including sickness/vacation or the position being vacant). Currently, there are not enough personnel in the sub-SHA pool to meet the needs of students on DOE campuses and health rooms can frequently go unstaffed. This is not fair or safe for students who have been prescribed medications to take on campus either routinely or in the event of an emergency. Parents may be inconvenienced by having to take time off of work to come to school to administer medication so their child can remain in school. In the event of an emergency, students can suffer dangerous consequences as a result of not receiving rescue medications in a timely manner as school staff wait for EMS personnel. Providing comprehensive and appropriate training to school staff on medication administration and allowing them to administer these medications as needed would help ensure there is always someone on campus who can meet the needs of students who require medications to safely and equitably access education.

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:50:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Buenconsejo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as there is often no other DOE personnel except the school health assistant (SHA) or the substitute school health assistant (SSHA) that can administer albuterol inhalers or daily medications on campus or off campus activities. If there is no SHA available, the parent will need to be called to administer the medication to their child. In cases of emergencies, this could be detrimental to the child's health.

I agree that alternate DOE personnel who have been properly trained by a health care professional should be able to administer medication as needed in case there is no SHA or Substitute SHA available.

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:25:33 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Maestro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for allowing trained school staff to administer prescribed medications to students. Allowing trained school staff to administer medications supports students with chronic health conditions, ensuring they receive necessary treatments safely and effectively. I strongly endorse this practice and encourage continued support for policies that enable comprehensive health services in schools.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Hannah Maestro

LATE

HB-1499

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:12:03 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/6/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damien Northway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1499. I believe this bill is critical to ensuring student safety on Hawaii Department of Education campuses. Typically there is only one staff member (a School Health Assistant or SHA) on a DOE campus who can administer medications to a student. This poses a challenge in the event that this person is not on campus (which can occur for a myriad of reasons including sickness/vacation or the position being vacant). Currently, there are not enough personnel in the sub-SHA pool to meet the needs of students on DOE campuses and health rooms can frequently go unstaffed. This is not fair or safe for students who have been prescribed medications to take on campus either routinely or in the event of an emergency. Parents may be inconvenienced by having to take time off of work to come to school to administer medication so their child can remain in school. In the event of an emergency, students can suffer dangerous consequences as a result of not receiving rescue medications in a timely manner as school staff wait for EMS personnel. Providing comprehensive and appropriate training to school staff on medication administration and allowing them to administer these medications as needed would help ensure there is always someone on campus who can meet the needs of students who require medications to safely and equitably access education. Mahalo