

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'ŌIHANA OLAKINO
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1434 S.D. 1
RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

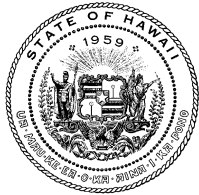
Friday, February 28, 2025, 10:05 AM, Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Estimated annual administrative cost of a Universal Immunization Funding
2 Program is anticipated to be \$2.8 – \$3.6 million, which is expected to be covered by the costs
3 saved on immunization purchases by leveraging large contracts that provide economies of
4 scale. One-time program start-up costs are estimated to be approximately \$934,000. Various
5 funding models can be explored for coverage of start-up and ongoing operational costs of this
6 program, including models which are entirely self-sustaining. In any of these models, the
7 measure will decrease reliance on uncertain federal funding for branch operations, and can be
8 scaled should the federal Vaccines for Children program be disrupted.

9 **Department Position:** The Department strongly **SUPPORTS** this measure and offers comments.
10 The purpose of this measure is to establish a collaborative, self-sustaining, “universal” funding
11 model for immunization purchases by the Department of Health Immunization Branch to
12 enable streamlined procurement, oversight, distribution, accountability, and reporting for all
13 persons under the age of 65, regardless of insurance status (public/private). Namely, providers
14 take on considerable risk because of the need to pay for their private sector immunization
15 supplies up front, as well as incurring other expenses such as secure and temperature-
16 controlled storage. A universal purchasing program will reduce the financial and administrative
17 burden to health care providers and create economies of scale that can reach more patients

1 than the current uncoordinated model. By centralizing public and private sector immunization
2 procurement and leveraging bulk purchasing power through Federal or State consortium
3 contracts, this initiative would lower private-sector costs and improve access to needed
4 immunizations for all keiki, families, communities, and healthcare providers statewide. This
5 initiative addresses increasing disparities between publicly and privately insured individual's
6 access to immunizations and reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to preventive health care, cost-
7 effective public-health infrastructure, and data-driven decision-making – key pillars of our
8 nationally-recognized healthcare system.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

February 27, 2025

LATE

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and
Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and
Sr. Advisor to Governor Josh Green MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: SB 1434, SD1 -- RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING
PROGRAM

Hearing: Friday, February 28, 2025 @ 10:05 am, Conference Room 211

Position: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports creating a Universal Immunization Funding Program managed by the Department of Health (DOH) to assure access to vaccines for individuals in the State who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other programs. Establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund into which fees will be deposited to finance the Universal Immunization Funding Program.

SHPDA defers to the DOH on the amount of appropriation estimated to be needed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai‘i Chapter, which represents more than 200 pediatricians across our islands, would like to express our strong support for SB1434, Relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program.

As you know, vaccines are one of the greatest public health advances of all time and have saved over 150 million lives around the world. They are also highly cost-effective. According to one study, the lifelong cost of measles or rubella disease is approximately 100x the cost of vaccination.¹ Our keiki rely on vaccines to protect them from devastating diseases such as measles, pertussis (whooping cough) and meningitis. Vaccine access is more important than ever today, in light of potential threats to Medicaid funding and the growing measles outbreak in rural West Texas, which has already claimed the life of one unvaccinated child and infected over 120 people, many of whom have required hospitalization.

Despite the known benefits of vaccines, many community pediatricians in Hawai‘i struggle to stock vaccines due to high upfront costs and take significant losses if vaccines are not used by their expiration date. Additionally, community pediatricians caring for privately insured patients are not able to access the lower prices at which the Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccines are able to be bulk purchased. SB1434 would alleviate both these problems. By creating a state vaccine purchase program, Hawai‘i would be able to access lower pricing for all our keiki, not just those who receive vaccines through VFC. Additionally, pediatricians and family physicians would be relieved of the burden of trying to estimate how many vaccines they will use in a given time period and the risk of wasting vaccines that are not used before their expiration date. This, in turn, would promote increased access to all recommended vaccines, reduce cost and disruptions to a families' schedules (for additional visits for vaccines if they are not in stock at the first visit), and help to keep our keiki healthy. It is imperative that we maximize efforts to ensure access to vaccines for all of Hawai‘i during this legislative session.

Mahalo,

Members of the Advocacy Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai‘i Chapter

¹ Thompson KM, Odahowski CL. The Costs and Valuation of Health Impacts of Measles and Rubella Risk Management Policies. *Risk Anal.* 2016 Jul;36(7):1357-82. doi: 10.1111/risa.12459. Epub 2015 Aug 5. PMID: 26249331.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS; Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund

BILL NUMBER: SB 1434 SD 1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes the Universal Immunization Funding Program for the purpose of administering immunizations to individuals in the State who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other programs. Establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund into which fees will be deposited to finance the Universal Immunization Funding Program.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new part to chapter 321, HRS, for a Universal Immunization Funding Program (Program) that would allow the Department of Health to manage the supply of immunizations. The Program is expected to lower health care providers' administrative costs and ensure immunizations can be quickly supplied during emergencies or immunization shortages.

Defines "Assessed entity" as any insurer in the State, that is not federally funded, issuing individual and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies, individual or group hospital or medical service plan contracts, and nonprofit mutual benefit society, fraternal benefit society, and health maintenance organization health plans.

Defines "Assessment" as the association member liability with respect to immunization costs determined in accordance with this part.

Defines "Immunization" as any preparation of killed microorganisms, living attenuated organisms, living fully virulent organisms, or part thereof, or any other treatment intended to trigger an immune response that is authorized by the United States Food and Drug Administration, recommended by the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or has been authorized for purchase by the director for the purposes of producing or increasing immunity to particular diseases. "Immunization" includes any other substance designated as immunization by order of the director of health.

Defines "Provider" as a person licensed by the State to administer immunizations or provide health care services or a partnership, corporation, or other entity made up of those persons.

Establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund (Fund) into which fees, fines and cost reimbursements paid by Assessed entities will be deposited. Expenditures from the Fund shall be used to purchase immunizations, at no cost to Providers, to administer to individuals who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other programs.

The Fund will be administered and expended by the Department of Health. The Director shall determine regular immunization assessment rates and may make changes to the assessment collection mechanism.

The measure provides an appropriation of \$_____ out of general revenues, or so much thereof as may be necessary, into the Fund for fiscal year 2025-2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2050.

STAFF COMMENTS: This is an Administration bill sponsored by the Department of Health and designated HTH-18 (25).

The 1989 Tax Review Commission noted that use of special fund financing is a “departure from Hawaii’s sound fiscal policies and should be avoided.” It also noted that special funds are appropriate where the revenues to the funds maintain some direct connection between a public service and the beneficiary of that service. The Commission found that special funds which merely set aside general funds cannot be justified as such actions restrict budget flexibility, create inefficiencies, and lessen accountability. It recommended that such programs can be given priority under the normal budget process without having to resort to this type of financing.

This bill creates a special fund to administer a newly created Program to manage the supply of immunizations to ensure immunizations can quickly be supplied to vulnerable patient groups during emergencies or shortages.

Special funds are pots of money that exist for a specific purpose and largely bypass the legislative appropriation process. The existence of hundreds of these special funds has often confounded those who seek answers to simple questions like “How much money does the State have?”

Our Legislature is supposed to be the steward of all state moneys, but special funds make it very easy to lose track of where the money is and how it is being spent. Departments are supposed to tell the Legislature if they have special funds and how much is in them, but let’s just say they don’t always. Recently, in Report No. 20-01, the State Auditor took DBEDT to task for failing to report \$6.5 million in non-general fund moneys. DBEDT’s response? Just that they’ll “take corrective action.” Not even a “Whoops! We screwed up and promise to do better next time!” This followed closely on the heels of Report No. 19-16, where the Auditor found that \$1.04 million in non-general fund moneys administered by the Attorney General wasn’t reported. That department responded that they “shall establish procedures to assure required reports are issued.” Is it any wonder that it’s getting harder and harder to follow the money and rein in government spending?

Perhaps as a result of the foregoing concerns, the Legislature has itself established criteria for when a special fund may be maintained (HRS section 37-52.3). Those criteria are that the special fund:

(1) Serves a need, as demonstrated by:

(A) The purpose of the program to be supported by the fund;

(B) The scope of the program, including financial information on fees to be charged, sources of projected revenue, and costs; and

(C) An explanation of why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;

(2) Reflects a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the program users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue, as opposed to serving primarily as a means to provide the program or users with an automatic means of support that is removed from the normal budget and appropriation process;

(3) Provides an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity that is used only when essential to the successful operation of the program or activity; and

(4) Demonstrates the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

In this bill, the apparent plan is to impose a new charge on “assessed entities,” namely health insurers and health plans, to fund a program to make bulk purchases of vaccines. The Health Department, in its justification sheet accompanying the measure, complains that private providers take on considerable risk because of the need to pay for immunization supplies up front, as well as incurring expenses such as secure and temperature-controlled storage. It believes that a universal purchasing program will reduce administrative burdens to the providers and create economies of scale that can reach more patients than the current uncoordinated model. “The Department's ability to leverage highly competitive federal immunization purchasing contracts may result in lower overall costs to Hawaii's health system,” the justification sheet continues, “as well as increased rates of immunizations that will lower incidences of immunization-preventable diseases.”

Even if all this is true, the new special fund, program, and fee basically constitute a new tax on health insurers and plans to fund bulk purchasing of vaccines along with reimbursing the Department of Health for its costs for things like secure and temperature-controlled storage. The normal and proper process would be for a new tax to be enacted, and for the proceeds to be legislatively appropriated out to the Department of Health for this program. There is no need to subvert the normal appropriation process to service this, as opposed to any other, health program or, for that matter, any other program administered by any other department. Establishing this special fund is inappropriate, and we question the need for a new tax to finance the program.

If the real problem is inability of the existing tax system to reach some of the entities targeted by this bill, perhaps because of well-entrenched exemptions such as those for mutual benefit

Re: SB 1434 SD 1

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societies (section 432:1-403, HRS) and fraternal benefit societies (section 432:2-503, HRS), then those exemptions need to be reexamined.

Digested: 2/26/2025



TESTIMONY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SB1434 RELATED TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM
Friday, February 28, 2025, at 10:05 AM
State Capitol Conference Room

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Committee Members:

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

SB1434 is a direct violation of our rights found in the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution.

Government Overreach

As a retired health care professional and a consumer of health care, we are entitled to Informed Consent and have the right to refuse any medical intervention including immunizations in any circumstances. Government shall not determine the need for immunizations.

Big Pharma Profit Scheme

Tax dollars should not be used to purchase immunizations. The only entities that will benefit from a Universal Purchase (UP) program are big pharmaceutical companies.

U.S. Constitution

SB1434 is a violation of our religious freedom. Our first amendment protection of religious liberty cannot be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, or procedure that violates their religious beliefs as well as anything that is immoral or unethical according to their well-informed conscience.

SB1434 assumes that adults and children will be participating in immunization programs. No one shall be mandated to participate. According to the fourteenth amendment, no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Hawaii State Constitution

Article I. FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION

Section 4. No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Please do the right thing and vote NO on SB1434_SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Detwiler, President
Hawaiian Islands Republican Women



LATE

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in **strong opposition** to the proposed Universal Immunization Funding Program. We believe that this bill raises several concerns that contradict the fundamental principles of individual rights.

This bill paves the way for universal forced vaccinations, making them responsible for covering the costs of state-mandated vaccinations. Remember just a few years ago, they forced Hawaii's population to take part in illegal and inhumane experimental mRNA gene therapy which was mislabeled as a vaccine for the laboratory-engineered virus which triggered the state's overreaction. They forced us to show proof of vaccination or face total deprivation of human rights. The same irresponsible and unaccountable authoritarians in office now, unsurprisingly, want to pave the way for future abuses. This measure is falsely labeled as public health policy, while they simultaneously push to remove religious exemptions - another grave violation of human rights.

Mussolini defined Fascism as the merger of corporate and state interests. What is it when our government merges with Big Pharma interests and other distant, foreign governments - at our expense?

There are so many problems with the underlying concepts of this bill and the diseased thinking which created it, that its mere introduction should be considered an insult and an offense against Hawaii. However, we will constrain our critique from the bigger picture to the specific details of this bill:

1. **Financial Strain on Assessors:** Imposing assessment fees on insurers and other entities could result in heightened operational costs, which can easily trickle down to the consumer.



2. **Privacy and Data Security:** The requirements for reporting “covered lives” and immunization data raise serious privacy concerns, jeopardizing the security and confidentiality of personal health information.
3. **Lack of Accountability and Oversight:** The centralized management of funds through the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund raises questions about accountability, transparency, and potential misuse of resources.
4. **Public Distrust:** Implementing a program that is mandatory risks further erosion of the already lacking public trust in healthcare institutions.
5. **Economic Distortions & Malinvestment:** government interventions into the free market always come with common unintended consequences, including persistent malinvestment, price distortions, consumer abuses, racketeering, interference with liability, and many other problems.

The only real solution for Hawaii to make medicine sustainably affordable is to get the government out of healthcare and insurance altogether, and in general to make the state government stop its constant usurpations of power from individual market participants.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii advocates for individual liberty, free markets, and limited government intervention. We believe that this bill is governmental overreach and threatens the core values of personal freedom. We urge the members of the Legislative Assembly to reject this bill to uphold the principles of liberty.

Thank you for considering our position,

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:33:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica dias	Testifying for Free Citizens of Maunalua	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. We should NOT be spending money on anything until the people of Maui are restored to their rightful properties in original or better condition.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 6:23:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am glad to see this bill continue to make its way through the legislative process. Reinforcing our public health is critical. Despite the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, significant health challenges remain. Amid a tidal wave of misinformation, disinformation, and astonishing complacency, we face unrelenting health challenges. We face new diseases emerging in Africa and Asia. Tragically, age old scourges are returning when we thought them banished.

I strongly urge this Committee to continue SUPPORTING this bill!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:55:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong opposition to SB1434, which seeks to establish a state-run Universal Immunization Funding Program. While I recognize the importance of public health, this bill represents an unnecessary expansion of government power, undermines individual medical freedom, distorts market competition, and imposes financial burdens on businesses and consumers.

This bill **grants the Hawai‘i Department of Health unchecked authority** to control vaccine procurement and distribution, setting a dangerous precedent for government intrusion into personal medical decisions. While proponents claim the bill merely facilitates vaccine availability, it **effectively mandates financial participation from private insurers and self-insured businesses, coercing them into funding a government-controlled program.** Medical decisions, including immunizations, should remain personal choices made between individuals and their healthcare providers—not dictated by bureaucratic mandates or financial penalties.

The proposed assessment on insurers and self-insured businesses will inevitably increase healthcare costs, leading to higher insurance premiums for Hawai‘i’s working families and small businesses. Proponents argue that centralized purchasing will reduce costs, but history shows that government-administered healthcare programs are often plagued by inefficiencies, cost overruns, and bureaucratic waste. A market-driven approach—allowing providers, insurers, and consumers to make independent choices—would foster competition, drive innovation, and ultimately keep costs lower.

Centralized vaccine procurement creates a single point of failure, making Hawai‘i’s healthcare system more vulnerable to shortages, logistical bottlenecks, and bureaucratic mismanagement. Private-sector supply chains are more agile and responsive in adapting to shortages or emergencies than a rigid, state-run system. By monopolizing vaccine distribution, this bill removes incentives for efficiency and flexibility in the private market.

This legislation opens the door for future government overreach. Today, it is about state-funded immunization procurement; tomorrow, it could lead to coercive mandates on individuals or businesses. The bill gives broad discretion to the Department of Health to expand the list of required vaccines without legislative oversight, eroding public trust and setting a dangerous precedent for unchecked government authority in medical decision-making.

Rather than expanding government control, the Legislature should consider market-based solutions to improve vaccine accessibility, such as:

- Encouraging private-sector cooperative purchasing programs to leverage competitive pricing.
- Providing tax incentives for healthcare providers that offer immunizations at reduced costs.
- Expanding education and outreach efforts to increase voluntary vaccination rates through informed choice rather than coercion.

Public health initiatives should not come at the cost of personal freedom, economic stability, and market competition. This bill is not a solution—it is an unnecessary government intervention that creates more problems than it solves. I urge the committee to reject SB1434 and instead support policies that uphold medical choice, promote economic freedom, and encourage market-driven solutions to public health challenges.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Zehr

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:10:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge you to **VOTE NO** on S.B. No. 1434, which establishes the Universal Immunization Funding Program in Hawaii. While it may be pitched as a public health win, this bill is a Trojan horse of government overreach, fiscal irresponsibility, and punitive control that threatens the core values we all cherish—freedom, accountability, and prosperity. As a citizen rooted in principles of limited government and personal responsibility, I present the following objections, which should resonate with Republicans and Democrats alike who care about Hawaii’s future.

Big Government Overreach Stomps on Individual Freedom

This bill empowers the Department of Health to seize control of immunization policies, strong-arming private insurers into funding a state-run scheme (§321- Assessments) and banning providers from billing for state-supplied shots (§321- Immunization cost reimbursement to providers). This isn’t just an attack on free-market healthcare—it’s a direct assault on personal choice. Democrats who value autonomy and Republicans who defend liberty should reject this top-down mandate. Why should bureaucrats dictate how Hawaii families and businesses manage their healthcare?

A Taxpayer-Funded Blank Check with No Guardrails

S.B. 1434 sets up a "Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund" (§321- Universal immunization purchase special fund) and demands an unspecified sum from general revenues (§SECTION 3)—a reckless burden on taxpayers. With vague cost estimates, a 10% reserve for "unanticipated costs" (§321- Assessments (a)(3)), and no cap on spending, it’s an open invitation to waste. Fiscal hawks on the Republican side and budget-minded Democrats should see the red flags: our hard-earned tax dollars deserve transparency and restraint, not a free-for-all fund for bureaucrats.

Crushing Fines and Audits Target Small Businesses

The bill slams insurers and providers with fines up to \$1,000 per day per offense (§321- Reports and audits (d)) and invasive audits for missing its convoluted reporting requirements (§321- Reports and audits (a)). In Hawaii's tough economy, this hits small businesses and healthcare practices hardest—folks who can't afford extra red tape or penalties. Democrats who fight for working families and Republicans who protect job creators can agree: we should be supporting our local providers, not punishing them with a heavy-handed stick.

Centralized Control Kills Competition and Innovation

By locking immunization purchases into state contracts (§321- Available choices) and sidelining private stock (§SECTION 1), this bill creates a government monopoly that chokes out competition. A single-track system stifles the innovation—think new vaccines or better delivery methods—that a free market could deliver. Democrats who want equitable, cutting-edge care and Republicans who trust private enterprise should unite here: centralized planning rarely works, and Hawaii deserves dynamic solutions, not a stale mandate.

Conclusion

S.B. No. 1434 is a bad deal for Hawaii—a sprawling bureaucracy that trades liberty for control, fiscal discipline for blank checks, and innovation for stagnation. It burdens taxpayers, punishes providers, and erodes the freedoms that define our state and nation. I implore you, as stewards of our shared values, to **VOTE NO** and safeguard Hawaii from this misguided overreach. Let's choose policies that empower people, not government.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:56:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terrie Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

100% OPPOSE SB1434

DO NOT WANT, DO NOT NEED Universal Vaccination Program!

DO NOT Waste taxpayer\$\$ on this Unconstitutional, Anti-Freedom of Choice program!!

This is NOT for our health, but Big Pharma's wealth, & bonuses to those giving the shots!

ALL of you will be accountable to Almighty God for mandating shots against our

God-given Free Will, especially if they cause harm or death to His children!!!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 6:42:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 6:47:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

As a pediatric hospitalist who has unfortunately cared for many children with vaccine-preventable illness, I strongly support HB 1115, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. The State Vaccine Purchasing Program would increase access to vaccines for all of Hawai‘i’s keiki, decrease costs associated with buying and storing vaccines, and decrease administrative burdens for our primary care colleagues. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for this bill.

Maya Maxym, MD PhD FAAP

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:11:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enough already with your big pharma push. I OPPOSE my tax dollars going towards an effort that is against my religious beliefs

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:12:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Javellana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:13:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannis Webb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:19:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie West	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSED. When there is risk, there must be choice. All providers and manufacturers of risky vaccines must be held liable for injuries and deaths. Stop making taxpayers pay for these dangerous products.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:24:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Our tax dollars should not be spent on the health choices others make. Not everyone supports immunization and therefore we should not feel our tax dollars being spent towards something we are against.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:24:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1434 as extreme government overreach. At a time when vaccines (both traditional and mRNA) are under worldwide scrutiny for poor safety outcomes and poor efficacy, why is Hawaii seeking to force them on the public? It is very telling that the Department of Health will not assume any liability for pushing these "unavoidably unsafe" vaccines. This current legislature is increasingly pushing for government control over all aspects of life. Government should NOT be making healthcare decisions for individuals. And taxpayers should NOT be forced to subsidize vaccines or fund a vaccine task force. Do not enrich the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of the people of Hawaii. Our children deserve better fiscal responsibility from their government.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:25:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is government overreach and needs to be stopped. Vote no.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:27:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Cunningham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I still remember the Covid years in Hawaii. This bill is a gross overreach of government power and authority over vaccines. Not to mention extremely expensive. Mistrust in government health programs will only grow if this bill is passed. I strongly oppose. We need money to fix our roads! I pass 20 plus potholes every day on Kam Hwy. Please use our tax dollars for that and not universal funding of vaccines!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:27:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:27:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean J deMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill because i don't want my tax dollars going to this government over reach.

Thank you,

Sean J DeMello

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:30:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Ramirez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB1434 and SB1118

Submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature

February 27, 2025

Aloha Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to strongly oppose SB1434 and its companion bill SB1118, two pieces of legislation that threaten the fundamental rights, freedoms, and financial well-being of Hawaii's people.

Governor Josh Green's agenda with these bills is clear: strip away personal choice and consolidate unchecked power over our healthcare system under the Department of Health. This is not about public health—it's about control, and it's time we stand up and say NO.

Let's start with SB1118. This bill seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations, a direct attack on individual liberty and the deeply held beliefs of many in our community. Forcing families to choose between their faith and their children's education is unconscionable. Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our society, and this bill tramples on it without a second thought.

What's next—stripping away all personal exemptions until we're nothing more than cogs in a state-run machine?

But it doesn't stop there. SB1434 takes this overreach to an entirely new level. This bill centralizes vaccine distribution under the Department of Health, forcing providers to rely solely on state-supplied vaccines. And who pays for this? We do—through a special fund siphoned directly from OUR tax dollars. This isn't just a power grab; it's a money grab, too. The Department of Health would be handed a blank check to hire contractors, set assessment rates, impose fines, conduct audits, and adopt rules—all at the whim of a director with disturbingly broad discretion. This is an Orwellian nightmare in the making, a bureaucracy of control masquerading as healthcare.

Imagine a system where unelected officials can dictate every aspect of vaccine distribution—where providers are beholden to the state, where fines punish noncompliance, and where audits loom over anyone who dares to question the regime. This isn't health policy; it's authoritarianism dressed up as concern. The director of the Department of Health would wield near-total power, accountable to no one but their own agenda. How can we trust such a system to prioritize our well-being over political or corporate interests?

We cannot let this happen. These bills erode our rights, burden our wallets, and hand over our lives to a faceless bureaucracy. I urge you to listen to the people of Hawaii—not just the loudest voices in the room, but the families, the workers, the believers who will bear the brunt of this legislation. SB1434 and SB1118 must be stopped NOW, before they drag us into a future where freedom is a distant memory and health is just another lever of state control.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please vote NO on both SB1434 and SB1118.

Thank you for your efforts,

Lawrence Ramirez

A Father, and Concerned Resident of Hawaii

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:31:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Definitely oppose this bill

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:33:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Marzo, MD MPH FAAFP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testifying IN SUPPORT of SB1434 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

As a family physician I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community physicians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.

Christina Marzo, MD MPH FAAFP

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:33:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zac Nosugref	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:35:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, I do NOT want my tax dollars to pay for others who CHOOSE to get immunized, they should pay for it themselves if they CHOOSE too. I should have my God given, constitutional right to CHOOSE to get any type of vaccine put in my body or any able bodied citizen, and not the decision of the Department of Health. I CHOOSE, not chosen for me. Ridiculous over reach again.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:36:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill in agreement with the multitude of testimonies in opposition.

For all of the reasons already written.

DOH and the government do not have authority over our human rights.

Big pharma is embedded in Democrat pockets and the people want want better health not more chemicals forced on us at our expense.

No

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:43:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Lamay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Oppose

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:43:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerri Yeakey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose tax dollars being spent to poison people.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:44:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle E. Sagun-Apilado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly oppose this bill!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:48:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not want my tax dollars used to support to distribute immunizations. The government should not be deciding for the general public what immunizations to mandate and the use of MRNA injections. This would just be the beginning of mandates for the public. Have you not learned from COVID - A BIG NO.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:50:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pualani Waialae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!! NO NO NO!!!!

Sincerely,

Pualani

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:50:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Char	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:51:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Josh Green is not fit to be Governor! Mandates of vaccines are unconstitutional and now he wants to use our tax dollars to fund vaccines ?!! This is ludicrous! I OPPOSE THIS BILL !

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:54:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanine Acopan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop abusing my tax payer dollars on your dictator nonsense bills! Can't wait til you're voted out!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:55:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1434

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:58:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB1434, I do not want my tax dollars to be used for this. Vote no! Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:58:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1434 (S.D. 1)****

To the Honorable Members of the Senate,

I am Tiare Smith, a Native Hawaiian and resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu, where I have lived for 45 years. As a proud member of this community, deeply rooted in the cultural and natural heritage of our islands, I write to express my resolute opposition to Senate Bill 1434, which proposes the establishment of a Universal Immunization Funding Program. While the intent to bolster public health infrastructure may appear laudable on its face, a closer examination reveals that this legislation is precipitously flawed—both in its conception and its potential consequences. It threatens to disenfranchise Hawaii’s residents, undermine individual autonomy, and impose an unwieldy bureaucratic apparatus antithetical to the values of our diverse and resilient communities.

First, SB1434’s funding mechanism, predicated on assessments levied against health insurers and translated into per-child and per-adult “covered lives” costs, represents a regressive burden that will inevitably cascade to families already grappling with Hawaii’s exorbitant cost of living. The bill’s assertion that these assessments will reduce administrative costs for providers is specious at best; it conveniently elides the reality that such costs will be shifted onto consumers through higher premiums or reduced coverage options. For Native Hawaiian families like mine, who have long navigated systemic economic disparities, this additional financial strain is not merely inconvenient—it is unconscionable. The department’s discretionary authority to impose interim assessments during vaguely defined “public health emergencies” further exacerbates this concern, granting unchecked power to extract funds without sufficient public oversight or accountability.

Second, the bill’s centralized approach to immunization procurement and distribution erodes the agency of individuals and healthcare providers to make informed, context-specific decisions. By mandating state-supplied immunizations and disallowing providers from utilizing private stocks, SB1434 supplants professional judgment and patient preference with a one-size-fits-all paradigm. This is particularly troubling for Native Hawaiian communities, where trust in government-led health initiatives has been historically strained by past overreaches and cultural insensitivity. My 45 years in Kahalu‘u have taught me that health solutions thrive when they respect the diversity of our people—not when they impose uniformity under the guise of

efficiency. The bill's vague promise to maintain "available choices" rings hollow when the state retains unilateral control over which immunizations are deemed acceptable.

Third, the establishment of the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund, while framed as a prudent fiscal safeguard, invites inefficiency and opacity. The inclusion of reserves up to ten percent and discretionary "working capital" allocations, coupled with the department's ability to accrue interest on unpaid assessments, suggests a structure more attuned to self-perpetuation than public benefit. Moreover, the provision for fines—up to \$1,000 per offense, with each day constituting a separate violation—imposes a draconian penalty on entities that may struggle to comply with the bill's labyrinthine reporting requirements. This punitive framework risks alienating the very stakeholders—insurers, providers, and patients—whose cooperation is essential to any successful health program.

Finally, I must underscore the broader philosophical implications of SB1434. Hawaii's strength lies in its people's ability to navigate challenges collectively, drawing on our cultural wisdom and communal bonds. This legislation, however, represents a disconcerting shift toward top-down control, subordinating individual rights to an expansive state apparatus. For a Native Hawaiian like myself, whose ancestors thrived through self-determination and mutual care, this approach is not merely impractical—it is antithetical to the spirit of aloha that defines us.

In conclusion, I urge the Senate to reject SB1434. Its fiscal imprudence, erosion of autonomy, and bureaucratic overreach threaten to undermine the very public health goals it purports to advance. Hawaii deserves policies that empower its people, not ones that encumber them with untested mandates and hidden costs. After 45 years of calling Kahalu'u home, I implore you to honor the voices of residents like me and preserve the integrity of our healthcare landscape.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Tiare Smith

Resident of Kahalu'u, O'ahu

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:59:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naoko DeCosta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill make not only waste our tax dollars for expanses for an unnecessary organization but also take away people's freedom for their health.

My biggest concern is that DOH contractors or employees are not liable for any action in operating the program. Now we know Covid-19 vaccines were harmful for the people and DOH suggested injections, We cannot trust DOH. Creating another organization allow high possibility of a government fraud. I opposed to HB1118 as well.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:02:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Wo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

As a family physician I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community physicians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:05:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Manding	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1434.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:08:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meg Ganser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill as an unconstitutional encroachment on my rights to choose what goes into my body and what does not, and the body of my children. This bill further aims to launder taxpayer money to big Pharma to pay for the forced vaccination of our citizens. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:17:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennae Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing Hawaii Senate Bill 1434

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1434, which proposes the establishment of a Universal Immunization Funding Program and the creation of the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund. While I acknowledge the importance of public health initiatives, I have several concerns regarding this bill.

1. Financial Implications

The bill seeks to appropriate funds from the state's general revenues to finance the Universal Immunization Funding Program. However, the exact amount required remains unspecified, raising questions about the potential financial burden on taxpayers. Implementing such a program without a clear budget could lead to unforeseen expenses, especially considering the startup operations and initial procurements estimated at \$934,000.

2. Redundancy with Existing Programs

Hawaii already benefits from federal and state immunization programs that provide vaccines to eligible individuals at no cost. The introduction of a new program may duplicate existing efforts, leading to inefficient use of resources. Instead of creating a new funding mechanism, it would be more prudent to assess and enhance the effectiveness of current programs to ensure broader coverage and accessibility.

3. Administrative Challenges

Establishing and managing a new special fund and program would necessitate additional administrative infrastructure. This could divert resources from other critical public health services and introduce complexities in program oversight and accountability. Streamlining existing services might achieve the desired outcomes more effectively without the need for new bureaucratic layers.

4. Public Opposition

It's noteworthy that during committee hearings, a significant number of individuals—173 in total—submitted testimony opposing this measure. This substantial public dissent suggests that many constituents have reservations about the bill, and their concerns should be carefully considered before proceeding further.

In conclusion, while the goal of increasing immunization coverage is commendable, I believe that Senate Bill 1434 may not be the most effective or efficient means to achieve this objective. I urge the legislature to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative strategies that build upon and optimize existing programs, ensuring fiscal responsibility and public trust.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Dennae Smith

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:19:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a neighbor island community pediatrician, I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. Vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy and safe. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community pediatricians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:20:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealohi Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose! Stop wasting tax payer money on this nonsense. Do right by the people.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:20:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Tariao Montano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

I am Gerald Montano. I am a pediatrician from Maui.

I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community pediatricians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

As a provider from a neighboring island, having an adequate supply of vaccines would protect the most vulnerable populations on island. If federal support for vaccines is in doubt, it is critical that we have enough to protect the keiki in our state.

Regards,

Gerald Montano, DO

Kahului

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:22:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nash Witten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Family Physician I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:25:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill! Taxpayers should not be funding this and more importantly there should be no exemption from liability for any actions related to such program.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:29:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Senate Bill No. 1434 (S.D. 1) because I believe it places an unfair burden on private health insurers and ultimately on the people of Hawaii. I see this Universal Immunization Funding Program as an overreach by the state, forcing non-federally funded insurers to foot the bill for a system that could easily spiral out of control in terms of costs. I worry that the assessments imposed on these entities will just get passed down to policyholders like me, raising premiums for families and individuals who are already struggling to afford healthcare. It doesn't sit right with me that the state can dictate how private companies manage their resources, especially when the program's funding relies on estimates that could be inaccurate or inflated.

I also find the timeline suspicious—why set an effective date of December 31, 2050? That's so far off it makes me question the urgency and necessity of this bill right now. I think it's a way to push through a controversial idea without immediate accountability, leaving future generations to deal with the fallout. What really bothers me is the lack of accountability baked into this plan—everyone seems to be held accountable except the state itself. If they force this program on the public and something goes wrong, like people start dying from unforeseen side effects or mismanaged immunizations, I don't see how the department takes the blame. The bill even shields them from liability, which feels like a free pass to mess up while providers, insurers, and taxpayers like me are left holding the bag. I'm concerned about the lack of choice this imposes on providers and patients too; the state deciding which immunizations are available feels like it takes away my freedom to make healthcare decisions that suit my needs. Plus, I don't trust that the department can manage this efficiently—government programs often end up bloated and wasteful, and I'd rather see resources go to more pressing issues than creating another layer of bureaucracy.

Finally, I'm uneasy about the penalties and fines for non-compliance. I think it's harsh to slap entities with daily fines up to \$1,000 and extra costs like attorney fees just for falling behind on reporting or payments. It feels punitive rather than practical, and I can't help but imagine small insurers or organizations getting crushed under this pressure. And if this program gets forced on us and people start dying or getting sick because of it, who's really accountable? The providers get stuck reporting every detail, the insurers pay through the nose, and the public suffers, but the department just keeps rolling along, immune to lawsuits. I'd prefer a system where participation is voluntary or where the state finds a way to fund this without leaning so heavily on private pockets and without dodging responsibility for the consequences.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:31:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kill this bill. Do not support tax payer money funding these immunizations that are not 100% effective. You will be potentially harming Hawaii kids with vaccinations where no company or entity is responsible for adverse effects. HPV immunization is useless to many children and should not be mandated at all. Please do your research and do not support this bill

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:32:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1434,

Paul Giles

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:35:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for SB1434, which creates a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children have access to all recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

Andrew Rivera

Kahului, Hawaii

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:37:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Cabudol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:41:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherilyn Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need a DOGE for Hawaii, not an internally self-confirming system that is a replica of our badly corrupted election system (and I and others have the proof of ongoing election fraud that has enabled the bad actors to continue their work to sicken and control the public in Hawai'i).

As described by insiders whistleblowing re the cost of drugs, this legislation is the "perfect" setup to raise prices for consumers (and then slide a little cash in a few different directions as "thanks"?).

And then we haven't even BEGUN to address the issue that none of the childhood immunizations, including mRNA Covid injections, have been properly safety tested... with the experimental genetic manipulation - Covid 19 mRNA - being the most lethal injection that has yet been created, with logarithmically more injuries and fatalities from this one product than all the other REAL vaccines - ones that didn't require a change in definition when they were released.

I suggest that we take away the full protection from liability that injection manufacturers now enjoy and replace it with a system of full accountability for their products. I guarantee that would either lead to withdrawing a large number of injection products before you could say "uncle" OR those double-blind, genuinely neutral placebo, sufficient-in-length safety tests would be launched immediately.

And finally, NO to anything Josh proposes. He certainly did not demonstrate a shred of integrity as a physician or an executive branch entity during the introduction of Covid responses. Here are questions I submitted to him on 9/11/22, to which he never replied:

When you are a doctor elected (?) to statewide public office and your state embarks on a medical agenda with a dubious genesis and an even more suspect trajectory (Covid, obviously)... AND...

(1) you never challenge the censorship and intimidation of your fellow doctors and nurses who have serious professional concerns and dissent with the official narrative's "foregone conclusions,"

(2) you never challenge the suppression of effective early treatment drugs with a long history of safe use, even after towns eliminate their "pandemic" almost overnight by widely dispensing these same drugs to their population,

(3) you endorse/participate in the public being manipulated (shamed and coerced and scared and lied to) into taking an experimental medical product that - as it turns out - DOES alter their DNA (and God only knows what long-term effects of THAT will look like).. perhaps the Nuremberg Code was rejected in Hawaii and none of us heard about it?,

(4) when the injection does NOT prevent infection or transmission, and you are not front and center admitting this - nay, shouting it from the rooftops(!),

(5) when data from around the globe has been revealing that, the more injections a person gets, the more likely that the damage to/changes to their immune system will put them in the hospital far more often than the unjabbed or minimally jabbed (consider Antibody Dependent Enhancement, Pathogenic Priming, Cytokine Cascades, etc. revealed in previous attempts to develop mRNA "vaccines"),

(6) when you don't acknowledge, as the data pours in from around the world, the errors this government made and continues to make (e.g., the fact that there are STILL signs to "Vax to Da Max" near government facilities!!), NO "Mea Culpa,"

(7) when you don't take issue with the fact that the PCR test was never to be used to detect infection (as its inventor vociferously asserted), but the state used it.. and ran it at cycles high enough to "guarantee" supportive statistics would be produced,

(8) when you did not question whether the payments made to hospitals to produce higher "Covid" diagnoses were a serious conflict of interest that could easily have produced erroneous statistics (e.g., from Covid vs. with Covid),

(9) when you never openly question why the jabs' manufacturers would seek to suppress their experimental data for 75 years (luckily, a position rejected by a court),

(10) when you never challenge the complete lack of federally-required **Informed** Choice (I use "choice" instead of the programming inherent in using the foregone-conclusion-word of "consent"),

(11) when you don't seem to find anything odd about the fact that they had to dramatically redefine words like "pandemic" and "vaccine" in order to keep using them,

(12) when they toy with statistics by calling someone "unvaccinated" during the first two weeks after injection and you don't publicly find that disingenuous,

(13) when embalmers (and hospital autopsies) are pulling massive clots out of the circulatory systems of the jabbed, and you don't publicly raise the alert,

(14) when the all-cause mortality is now off-the-charts, according to insurance companies paying out record amounts, including to a cohort (working age adults) whose deaths rose catastrophically, to previously unheard-of levels, and you fail to discuss such "real world feedback,"

(15) when jabbed students and professional athletes are dropping dead on the playing field or are sidelined with heart damage and other serious side-effects and you have no comment about this phenomenon,

(16) when the military's medical database (far superior to VAERS, as the military database mandates a report versus the voluntary nature of the VAERS system) revealed a great deal of harm being done to the jabbed, including very serious impacts to male/female reproduction and to pregnant women/fetuses, and you expressed no public concern (despite the fact we have a large military population here in Hawai'i),

(17) when it was revealed that 1,291 side-effects had been catalogued by the federal agencies AND that the deaths from this experimental gene-altering product, in roughly two years time, dramatically surpass the deaths from ALL the other vaccines for the last three DECADES... and you had no comment, raised no alarm...

YOU HAVE NOT DONE YOUR JOB TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE PUBLIC... IN FACT, IT WAS AN APPALLING FAILURE.

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY THIS INCREDIBLY POOR PERFORMANCE JUSTIFIES YOU NOW TAKING THE REINS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONTINUING TO "LEAD" THIS STATE (BUT as the servant of the people, according to our Constitution - just a reminder in light of the Medical Dictatorship we recently lived through and of which you were a part)?

I invite you to begin your response by reading the information below and sharing your thoughts...

https://www.theepochtimes.com/vaccinated-at-higher-risk-of-serious-adverse-events-reanalysis-of-original-trial-data_4707356.html

https://www.theepochtimes.com/exclusive-fda-refuses-to-provide-key-covid-19-vaccine-safety-analyses_4722586.html

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:41:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaylene L Barron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

The manner in which this proposed action is directed would create an Orwellian bureaucracy of health care for our state, alienating the patient/doctor relationship, and placing a blanket over medical procedures involving vaccination as a one size fits all mechanism, which is not patient centered or holistic in the approach to health. The Department of Health should not be involved in these kinds of medical decisions on a patient by patient basis, as their workers who are not under oath, nor their would be practices that our tax dollars are paying for are not in their rightful jurisdiction. Keep medical decisions such as vaccination private between qualified medical professionals and their patients.

Thank you!

Gaylene Barron

Haiku, HI 96708

SB1434 Testimony

I am writing to OPPOSE this bill because I believe my hard earned taxpayer dollars should be spent on things that benefit me, that I care about and that are good for the commonwealth.

I do not believe funding this bill is lawful or beneficial to me and your other constituents who take an active approach to parenting, politics and people in general. We know who funded Josh Greens campaign. We know who he is "loyal" to or "bounded by," and that is not our problem.

Our problem is to protect our babies and families the best we know how so here it is. We say no to this bill, no to more government control, and a definite no to using our money to fund YOUR agenda when there are other pertinent issues to be addressed like Lahaina fire victims, the countless other houseless communities and the severe housing crisis statewide.

Mahalo

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:44:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Hoo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

As an internal medicine physician I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community physicians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:49:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No, no, and no again. The State should not be a distributor or pay for distribution of any goods

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:49:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoe Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No, no, and no again. The State should not be a distributor or pay for distribution of any goods

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:51:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isidro Villaflor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee and Board Members,

I strongly oppose this bill. I believe individual freedom should take precedence over mandatory vaccination policies, allowing people to make their own healthcare choices based on personal beliefs and circumstances.

Universal immunization overlooks potential risks and side effects that may disproportionately affect certain individuals, ignoring the need for tailored medical decisions.

Forcing vaccinations on everyone dismisses valid concerns about government overreach and erodes trust in public health institutions.

The one-size-fits-all approach of this bill fails to account for religious and philosophical objections that deserve respect in a free society.

I urge you to please reject SB 1434 and protect the rights of Hawaii residents to opt out of universal immunization without penalty or coercion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Isidro Villaflor

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:52:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1434 and any/all related bills.

How many people will actually benefit from Universal Immunization? Has there been a 'study' to determine if this Universal Immunization is even necessary??

Why are tax payers on the hook to pay for someone who chooses to be immunized but does not have funding resources of their own??? I am a law abiding, tax contributing member of this state and I have had to work hard to provide for my family, and that includes making sure I have health insurance. Doesn't Quest offer immunizations?

This is another of our Governor's sneaky attempt to enrich the pharmaceutical companies and the health care business. His allegiance is to these donors and not to the people of Hawaii.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:52:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1434. Governor wants a universal immunization, he should pay for it and not with my tax dollars.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:55:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruben Ongos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:01:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:02:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, and all other bills that are being proposed by reps of the Democratic Party. I pray that D.O.G.E does an investigate on the corruption in Hawaii's government agencies and politicians. I doubt anyone would be surprised by where the money trail leads. Governor, time to step down so greatness can once again be restore to our state.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:06:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurence Limasa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 100% opposed of this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:07:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia M. Nagao, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1434, establishing a Universal Immunization Funding Program.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:11:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayla Camacho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not want my tax money that I pay going to this fund. I believe there are better ways to utilize tax payer monies more wisely than this.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:17:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tryslynn Kauionalani Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it is unconstitutional, waste of money, and resources.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:20:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Saron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1434

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:32:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives of the People of Hawai'i~

TYSVM for reading & reviewing these testimonies as a vital part of the process of vetting these bills, to give space for the voices of WE THE PEOPLE! Mahalo plenty!

I stand in strong OPPOSITION to SB 1434 regarding Gov. Green's proposal to fund immunizations freely at the expense of we the taxpayers of Hawai'i. We are already highly taxed, in fact one of the highest taxed states in the Union, driving most of our middle-class & lower-class residents out because we are unable to afford the Cost of Living AND taxes. Where would these funds come from for Universal Immunizations for all healthcare providers come from? Why are we paying for something we do not agree with & without a majority of the vote of the people of Hawai'i? Where is this horrific idea coming from? Governor Green's #1 campaigning donor is Pfizer, a medication provider... so this now makes sense.

Also, Department of Health independent contractors & employees will not be liable for any action in operating the program. Why? This automatically assumes something will go wrong, but clearly states that the very people distributing & managing the program are not liable nor responsible. So if there is injury through this horrible idea proposal, Gov. Green will not hold himself accountable nor the departments participating, but once again the costs & consequences will land on WE THE PEOPLE & TAXPAYING RESIDENTS OF HAWAII. AUWE! HORRIFYING!

Finally, the covered immunizations are declared by Gov. Green's Department of Health staff, not by independent medical experts or scientists which makes questionable why so few have so much power. This is tyranny. Further, it includes the mRNA injection which is a topic of much debate, controversy and no clear conscientious conclusions. If we tell people that we are innocent until proven guilty, then why would we allow a Universal Immunization that is questionable and not yet proven healthy, beneficial or universally-agree good medicine? This is not just a theoretical question, it is not a forced issue thanks to this faulty and fallacious proposal from Governor Green. Please vote no and protect our people, finances & future.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose SB 1434 and I ask you to do the same. Thank you!

Malama Pono,

Dawn O'Brien

Pres., HOPE HI, Inc.

Lifelong resident & taxpayer of State of Hawai'i

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:33:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong opposition to this bill. Mahalo

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:40:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose to this bill SB1434!

No more waste of our tax dollars!

Government should not have rights over parents!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:42:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jr Tupai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for you folks time. SB1433 which establishes the Universal Immunization Funding Program for the purpose of administering immunizations to individuals in the State who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other programs. I feel with the changes happening in regulatory agencies at the federal level we should wait until that trajectory is set before passing such legislation. With that said I would urge you folks to vote no on SB143. Mahalo for you folks service and your time. Aloha

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:42:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Expedita Pasion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1434

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:49:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Tom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1434 as it is extreme government overreach, violating our constitutional rights. There is science proving that vaccines (both traditional and mRNA) are neither safe or effective, so why force them on the people of Hawai'i? The DOH and Greene's Government should NOT be making healthcare decisions for individuals nor should taxpayers be forced to subsidize vaccines or a vaccine task force. Our tax dollars are better spent on schools.... healthy lunches, better facilities, etc. Why dont you check yourselves? You work for us and not the other way around!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:56:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stacy diaz (display name is SD)	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Stacy Diaz oppose this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:56:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Mahealani Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

As a family physician I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community physicians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 11:28:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Verhoef	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the chairs of the WAM Committee,

I am an ICU physician here in Hawai'i, caring for both pediatric and adult critically ill patients and I strongly support this bill, as both a physician and as a parent.

As the COVID pandemic taught us, access to immunizations is critical to assuring that vulnerable populations can be protected from communicable diseases. The COVID vaccines were initially complicated and expensive to store and administer, meaning that most private physician's offices were unable to offer them (thus creating challenges for the public to access them). As a result, even now, it can be very difficult to find a provider willing to provide up to date COVID immunizations. On top of that, reimbursement from private insurers does not adequately cover costs of vaccine administration to private physicians, creating a disincentive to vaccines being offered. Indeed, my own family members have struggled to find providers willing to administer immunizations. This is a failure of the public health system in this state.

This bill will assure access to immunizations in Hawai'i by eliminating the financial barriers that prevent access. On top of that, it will save the state and the health care system money. This bill is not a mandate for people to receive vaccines; it simply removes barriers that prevent them from accessing them. Most importantly, it's the right thing to do because we know how important immunizations have been in protecting our community. It's a win/win. How could you not support this?

Thank you for your time.

-Philip A. Verhoef, MD, PhD, FAAP, FACP, ATSF

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 11:33:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rocio Bueno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 1434.

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 11:29:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 27, 2025

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB1434, the Universal Immunization Funding Program bill. While the intention to improve vaccine accessibility is commendable, this bill raises serious concerns regarding medical freedom and individual choice.

Concerns

1. **Limited Choice:** The bill may restrict access to alternative medical approaches, which many Hawaii residents prefer over conventional Western medicine.
2. **Informed Consent:** The program could potentially undermine the principle of informed consent, a fundamental right protected by the Constitution.
3. **Financial Burden:** The special fund, financed by fees from health insurers, may lead to increased insurance premiums for all residents, even those who choose not to participate in the program.
4. **Lack of Transparency:** The bill grants significant authority to the Department of Health without clear mechanisms for public input or oversight.
5. **Constitutional Considerations**

The Supreme Court has recognized that the Due Process Clause protects an individual's right to refuse medical treatment. This bill may infringe upon this constitutional right by creating a system that could indirectly pressure individuals to accept vaccinations they may not want.

Alternative Approaches

Instead of implementing a universal program, I urge you to consider:

1. Enhancing education about both conventional and alternative medical approaches
2. Strengthening informed consent processes
3. Supporting a diverse range of health care options that respect individual choice

In conclusion, while public health is important, it should not come at the cost of personal medical freedom and informed choice. I respectfully request that you reconsider this bill and explore alternatives that better respect the diverse medical preferences of Hawaii's residents.

Sincerely,
Deborah Umiamaka

My name is Tashya Whitehead, MD, a physician with the Queens Health System, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1434, Relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program.

Hawai'i faces the risk of a significant crisis of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks due to unvaccinated children. During the 2023-24 school year, 21% of the students from public, charter, and private schools were not up-to-date on their school-required immunizations, which represents a 25% increase from the 2022-23 school year [source: DOH]. Maintaining 95% vaccination coverage is essential for preventing measles outbreaks. For instance, according to CDC data, if measles coverage rate dips to 93%, there is a 36% chance of an outbreak if an infectious child were to attend school. If measles coverage rates dip to 85%, that risk of an outbreak exponentially increases to 61%. These statistics represent the difference between containment and a potential epidemic. As an outpatient general pediatrician, these statistics are terrifying, and we need to find a way to make all vaccinations easily accessible to everyone.

SB1434 would unburden healthcare providers by centralizing and leveraging economies of scale in immunization purchasing, hence improving access to immunizations for everyone in the state. After initial state investment, there are several business models in a self-sustaining public/private partnership, which is sustainable even if federal funding for immunization programs were to be unavailable.

I respectfully and strongly urge the Committee see fit to pass SB1434. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Sincerely,



Tashya Jayasuriya Whitehead, MD

Board-certified Pediatrician

LATE

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 11:55:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicitas B. Livaudais MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a community pediatrician, I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community pediatricians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:04:38 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:06:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Fakaosita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am an inpatient pediatrician who cares for sick, hospitalized children from across our state and neighboring communities. I strongly support ensuring universal vaccine coverage for children, as proposed in SB 1434. I have seen how vaccines prevent severe illness and save lives. I have also seen how our medical system can be quickly overwhelmed when needing to care for a large number of sick patients. Universal coverage protects not only individual children but also those medically unable to receive vaccines and therefore decreasing the impacts of many preventable diseases for entire communities.

Many community pediatricians face challenges in stocking vaccines due to high upfront costs and financial losses when doses expire. Additionally, pediatricians serving privately insured patients cannot access the lower pricing available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund would address these issues by creating a state vaccine purchase program, allowing Hawai'i to secure lower prices for all children, not just those covered by VFC. This initiative would also relieve pediatricians and family physicians from the burden of estimating vaccine needs, ensuring consistent availability. As a result, families would experience fewer disruptions, children would receive timely vaccinations, and our communities would be healthier overall.

I urge you to support SB 1434 and thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,
Marissa Fakaosita, MD

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:11:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stongly oppose this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:16:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GEORGE ROSS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired Hawaii neurologist, I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. The State Vaccine Purchasing Program would increase access to vaccines for all of Hawai'i's keiki, decrease costs associated with buying and storing vaccines, and decrease administrative burdens for our primary care colleagues. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for this bill.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:30:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Hinkel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. Our tax money should never go to funding immunizations. Citizens of America have a constitutional right to choose if they want to have a "medical procedure " which includes vaccines. I do not want my money funding other's vaccine choices, it already funds healthcare for those who can't afford it.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 12:32:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 1:23:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christy Kalama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

blessings

May you open your minds and hearts to alternative pathways to true wellness. Firm 'Aole to Pharma sorcery disguised as health care.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 1:29:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vince Yamashiroya, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a community pediatrician, I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community pediatricians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 1:30:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There should always be a choice & Josh Green is taking away that choice.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 1:38:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not consent to waste my tax payer money on immunizations.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 1:43:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah-Lyn Lokelani Jacobson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i oppose this bill as it goes against y right as a citizen.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 2:02:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Kealakai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Anela, and I am strongly opposed to SB1434.

I understand that the goal of this bill is to make immunizations more accessible, but let's be real—this isn't free. Taxpayers and health insurers are the ones footing the bill, whether we agree with it or not. I don't think it's right to force people to pay into a program that distributes vaccines to all children and adults in Hawaii, especially when the Department of Health gets to decide which vaccines are covered—including mRNA injections.

Another big concern? There's zero accountability. The Department of Health, independent contractors, and employees involved in running this program can't be held liable for anything. So if there's a problem with how this program is run, or if something goes wrong, no one is responsible? That doesn't sit right with me. If the state is going to push a program like this, there should at least be some level of responsibility.

We also need to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. Western medicine, as we know it, has only been around since the early 1900s. Before that, for thousands of years, people survived using natural methods, plant-based medicines, and holistic healing. Modern medicine has its place, but it's not the only way to support health. The idea that everyone must participate in a state-run immunization program, paid for by taxpayers, ignores centuries of proven natural healing methods that many people still choose today.

People should have the right to choose what's best for their health and their families without being forced to pay into a system they might not even use or agree with. SB1434 is just another way to shift costs onto taxpayers while removing any kind of transparency or accountability.

I urge you to vote NO on SB1434. Let's focus on protecting medical freedom and financial responsibility instead of pushing a program that forces everyone to pay into something they may not support.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 2:20:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Heathcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an Oahu pediatrician, I support this bill to create a universal immunization funding program. It can be difficult for primary care providers to estimate the right amount of vaccine to order and to pay for the equipment necessary to store certain vaccines. The complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they can be given is a significant financial burden. This bill would alleviate that burden by enabling providers to pay for only the vaccines they use. It would save money by allowing the state to buy vaccines in bulk. This would improve access to vaccines which is important for protecting our communities.

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 4:10:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, stop using our tax dollars for things the majority of the people don't want. We see that written testimony for other bills that are opposed 2,000/100 is still passed by you, We The People do NOT want this!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 4:48:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill I am vaccine injured so is my son and grandchildren vaccines are more dangerous than herd immunity

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 4:49:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Testifying for Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appose SB1434!

Stock piling or financing vaccines is only a set up for the next planademic!

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 5:53:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB 1434. I don't want my tax payer dollars paying for vaccines that could possibly cause autism.

Please vote NO

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 6:42:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This is government overreach. We don't need the government telling us which vaccines our children should take. We don't need to use taxpayer monies to pay for these vaccines. Nor do we need to remove consequences for those pushing the vaccines. Stop the madness! We are a free Constitutional Republic, quit trying to turn us into a socialist disaster.

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:18:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Kuwaye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:25:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Universal funding program for immunization is UNNECESSARY. The system is fine the way it is. This is a way to have officials wallets lined, using immunization as a path, because they'll again push the same narrative that people will die. But, that's not true.

Opposing this bill.

Louella Vidinha

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 8:47:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbra Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this measure. This will drive up cost for all consumers and require your constituents to eat the cost for products they might not even want to purchase organically. Health care is not and cannot be “universal”. The only healthcare you should be required to pay for is the healthcare you volunteer to purchase.

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:31:46 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Wing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:38:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Joanou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz, Vice Chairwoman Moriwaki, And Committee Members,

RE. Testimony in Support of SB 1434

My name is Brendan Joanou and I am a graduate student at the UH Manoa Thompson School of Social Work. The views I express here are my own and do not necessarily reflect the stance of the larger School and University. I am testifying in support of SB 1434 which will establish the Universal Immunization Funding Program.

Many studies have shown that high rates of vaccination are a key component of maintaining public health in communities. Being able to receive vaccinations is also crucial to safeguarding medically vulnerable individuals, such as our keiki, kupuna, and those with other conditions. We saw the importance of such medicine during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Taking steps to ensure everyone is able to receive such treatment benefits everyone.

For these reasons I am testifying in support of SB 1434, as it is in the best interest of keeping the people of Hawaii healthy.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Brendan Joanou,

Social Work Student

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 9:54:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Garris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2025 5:32:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1534 SB1. We should not fund anything to do with vaccines. Look up and research Open Vaers Report and it shows how much vaccine injured and people that died. That's part of the New World Order and depopulation plan. Gov. Green is a part of that plan and is a sell out puppet!!!

LATE

SB-1434-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2025 5:58:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I MIKIAN ROSE PELEKAI Strongly oppose this bill. SB1434.