



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0532 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

REPRESENTATIVE SCOT MATAYOSHI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: April 2, 2025 @ 2:00 pm

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

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

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

1 **Proposed revision:** DOH proposes the following addition to Section 1, page 1 line 17 – page 2
2 line 1, for clarity and patient safety and to align with standard practices for medication
3 administration.

4 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that school health assistants may administer required
5 medications to students. However, due to increasing vacancies for school health assistants,
6 many schools experience challenges in meeting the needs of students who are prescribed
7 medications or may benefit from receiving medications in emergency situations while on
8 campus. This lapse of continued care may risk the health and safety of students who rely on
9 timely administration of certain medications. To ensure the health and safety of students, other
10 school staff who volunteer to administer medication can be effective substitutes once these
11 individuals complete training and general instruction on medication administration. Because
12 skilled nursing services, such as those that require a license, are outside the scope even for
13 school health assistants, requiring volunteers to complete training that includes correctly
14 interpreting the health care provider's orders; identifying the correct student, identifying the
15 correct route of administration, either oral, nasal, or topical; confirming the correct dose;
16 administering medications at the right time of day; and documenting medication
17 administration, can ensure accountability and the necessary safeguards for student health.

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



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

Date: 04/02/2025

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Consumer Protection &
Commerce

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 0532, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Allows school staff and agents trained by a health care professional to volunteer to administer medication to students at Department of Education public schools under certain conditions. Clarifies who may prescribe medication to be administered to students in schools. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 532, SD2, HD1, which authorizes public school employees or agents who have completed appropriate training to administer medications for students consistent with the standards applicable to school health assistants (SHA).

SB 532, SD2, HD1, enhances student safety and aims to improve attendance by removing unnecessary barriers in medication administration. The current provisions of Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 302A-853 only list SHAs as being able to assist students with medication administration. This limitation poses challenges in care delivery, as the diverse and widespread nature of student needs across multiple locations makes it essential to have additional trained staff to support them effectively.

The expanded language of this measure would allow the Department to train staff as an additional resource to support students, ensuring continuity of health services while upholding established safety and training standards. By addressing the medication administration challenges, this bill would create a more supportive environment that promotes consistent attendance and engagement for all students, regardless of their health needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 2 p.m.

By

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

And

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 532 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

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

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
HEARING: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 2:00PM
PLACE: Room 329 State Capital and via videoconference



by **Hawai'i – American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA)**

SB 532, SD2, HD1 (HSCR1416) – Relating to the Department of Education

Chair Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair Rep. Cory M. Chun, and members of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, thank you for providing this opportunity for Hawai'i nurses' voices to be heard.

Hawai'i - American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA) is the state's premier professional nursing organization that fosters high standards of professional nursing practice, promotes safe and ethical work environments, and advocates on health care issues that affect nurses and the public.

Hawai'i-American Nurses Association (Hawai'i- ANA) is **in strong support of this bill** to allow school staff and agents trained by a healthcare professional to volunteer to administer medication to students at Department of Education public schools under certain conditions and clarifies who may prescribe medication to be administered to students in schools. This measure will increase access to appropriate health interventions for management of known health conditions for children while at school. This is a strong health policy intervention that improves access to appropriate and safe health care in the community.

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

Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:

President: Dr. Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, president@hawaii-ana.org

Vice-President: Dr. Linda Beechinor, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC vicepresident@hawaii-ana.org

Executive Director: Elizabeth M. Kahakua, BSN executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org

phone (808) 779-3001 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825