



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 9:30 a.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 SD1 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, 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.

SB-532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 3:42:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Don't use shortcuts when dealing with the health and safety of children because you are short staffed.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love

SB-532-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:46:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **VOTE NO** on SB532 SD1, a bill that proposes to allow untrained school staff and agents to administer medications to students. Here are several critical reasons why this legislation should be rejected:

- 1. Compromise of Student Safety:**
 - This bill would significantly lower the standard of care for students by allowing individuals without formal medical training or licensure to administer medications. Errors in medication administration can have dire consequences, including allergic reactions, incorrect dosages, and missed treatments, potentially leading to severe health risks or even fatalities.
- 2. Lack of Professional Oversight:**
 - Even if training is provided, it does not equate to the level of expertise and ongoing professional oversight that a licensed health professional brings to the table. School health assistants are already under scrutiny for high vacancy rates; expanding this responsibility to untrained staff does not solve the root issue but rather exacerbates the risk of mishandling.
- 3. Legal and Liability Concerns:**
 - By broadening who can administer medication, this bill opens up schools and the state to increased legal risks. Any mishap could result in lawsuits against the school, the Department of Education, the state, or even the individual staff member. The potential for error is not mitigated by mere training sessions but requires continuous medical education and accountability.
- 4. Inadequate Training Protocol:**
 - The training described in the bill might not cover all scenarios or provide the depth needed for emergency responses. Health care is dynamic; conditions change, new medications are introduced, and understanding these nuances requires more than just initial training. There's a risk that training could become outdated quickly without ongoing medical education.
- 5. Potential for Inconsistent Care:**
 - With multiple untrained staff members potentially administering medication, there's a high likelihood of inconsistencies in how medications are given, from dosage to timing. This can disrupt the health management of students, particularly those with chronic conditions needing precise medication schedules.
- 6. Misallocation of Resources:**

- Instead of expanding the scope of non-medical staff, resources should be invested in hiring more school health assistants or in partnerships with health care providers to ensure professional medical presence in schools. This would be a more sustainable and safer approach to managing student health needs.

7. Ethical Considerations:

- Asking non-medical staff to take on such significant responsibilities without the requisite background can place an unfair burden on these individuals. It's ethically questionable to delegate such critical tasks to those unprepared for the potential outcomes of their actions.

In conclusion, this bill is a dangerous shortcut that compromises student safety, increases legal risks, and does not address the underlying problem of staffing shortages with a sustainable solution. I urge you to **VOTE NO** on SB532 SD1 to protect the health and welfare of our students, maintain professional standards in our schools, and avoid the myriad of potential issues this bill introduces.



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

Date: 02/20/2025

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 0532, SD1 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 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 532, SD1, 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 (SHAs).

SB 0532, SD1, enhances student safety and aims to improve attendance by removing unnecessary barriers in medication administration. The current provisions of Hawaii 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.

Should the measure move forward, the Department respectfully requests the following revisions to align the intent to improve access to medication in schools. To ensure all licensed prescribers who treat children in the state may prescribe medications in schools, the following amendment is

recommended:

Page 3, Lines 1-5: "(2) The medication has been prescribed by a licensed physician, ~~[as defined in section 334-1,~~ physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or ~~[by a]~~ other practitioner with prescriptive authority;"

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0532 SD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025 @ 9:30 am

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

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

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

1 **Offered Amendments:**

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



**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday February 20, 2025 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 229 and videoconference**

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on S.B. 532, S.D. 1

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the committee:

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

HSCN has a longstanding initiative to address barriers to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) care as a mechanism to improve access to high quality health care services. In 2022, HSCN started an interprofessional effort to review the Hawai'i Revised Statutes for laws that inform healthcare access that are outside of healthcare professionals' scope of practice laws (primarily in Title 25). The committee found that nearly half of the HRS had language that limited all qualified providers from engaging in certain healthcare activities as described in those statutes. This measure is a good example of including eligible healthcare providers that may contribute to the process, however not all professions are included. HSCN recommends:

Page 3, Lines 1-5

(2) The medication has been prescribed by a [~~licensed~~] physician or physician assistant [~~, as defined in section 334-1,~~] licensed pursuant to chapter 453, [~~or~~] by [~~a practitioner~~] an advanced practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority [~~;~~] licensed pursuant to chapter 457; or by another licensed healthcare practitioner with prescriptive authority.

The outcome of this amendment is that local healthcare providers, whether it be the primary care provider, associated Hawai'i Keiki school APRN, or other provider can engage in the prescribing of this medication to the school. This is a strong health policy intervention that improves access to appropriate and safe health care in the community.

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

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