

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
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

Hearing Date: February 7, 2025 @ 3:05 pm

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.



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

Date: 02/07/2025

Time: 03:05 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Senate Health and Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

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

Purpose of Bill: Allows school staff and agents trained by a licensed clinician 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.

Department's Position:

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

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 with HB 1499 and the intent to improve access to medication in schools.

First, to ensure clarity on the qualifications required for a professional to provide training, the following

amendment is recommended:

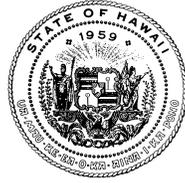
Page 2, Lines 12-14: “(a) School health assistants, and other employees and agents trained by a health care professional employed or contracted by the Department.”

Second, 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’s assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or [by a] other practitioner with prescriptive authority;”

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

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



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

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB532
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SEN. JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 7, 2025

Room Number: 229

- 1 **Department Testimony: Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports
- 2 SB532, which Expands the Department of Education's (DOE) authority to allow more trained
- 3 staff to volunteer to assist students with the administration of medication.

- 4 This bill was conceptualized by DOH's Public Health Nursing Branch to address an immediate
- 5 need on many school campuses. After several meetings with DOE, both agencies agreed to the
- 6 wording of HB1499.

- 7 DOH looks forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure our keiki are healthy and read to
- 8 learn.

- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DATE: 5 Feb 2025

TO: Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Vice-Chair Donna Mercado Kim
Senate Committee on Education

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Service

FROM: Leocadia Conlon, PhD MPH, PA-C
Legislative Liaison, Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants

RE: SB532 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Hearing Date/time: Friday 2-7-25 3:05PM

Place: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference.

Dear Chairs Kidani & San Buenaventura and Vice-Chairs Mercado Kim & Aquino,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB532, which allows school staff and agents trained by a licensed clinician 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.

The Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) **supports SB532 WITH CHANGES TO ADD PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (PAs) with prescriptive authority licensed pursuant to chapter 453.** HAPA is the Hawai'i state chapter of The American Academy of PAs.

HAPA recognizes the importance of SB532; however, as currently written, it would prevent schools from accepting prescriptions from PAs. Physicians Assistants (PAs) are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PAs play a critical role on healthcare delivery teams, and along with their physician and APRN counterparts, help ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare.

Amidst a statewide physician shortage, PAs are successfully filling critical gaps in healthcare and reducing health disparities by expanding access to care for communities in Hawai'i. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty and are authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care providers (PCP) for their patients. **The exclusion of PAs from this bill will produce additional barriers for patients as it restricts patient preference for their care providers.**



Additionally, including PAs as authorized clinicians who can prescribe medication to be administered to students in schools aligns with efforts of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to ensure provider inclusive language in healthcare-related legislation. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing has led a task group, the Healthcare Provider Barriers to Practice Law Review, to review all health-related statutes and recommend revisions that align with established scope of practice of healthcare providers in Hawai'i. **Ensuring inclusion of PAs in SB 532 aligns with the work of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to improve access to healthcare provided by highly educated, trained, qualified and licensed healthcare providers for Hawai'i residents.**

Finally, the inclusion of PAs **aligns with HB1499**, which expands the Department of Education's authority to allow more trained staff to assist with the administration of medication **and includes physician assistants as authorized prescribers of medication to be administered to students in schools.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill that impacts access to care for our keiki.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 532, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Friday, February 7, 2025

TIME: 3:05 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Anne T. Horiuchi or Randall M. Wat, Deputy Attorneys General

Chairs Kidani and San Buenaventura and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

This bill allows school staff and agents trained by a licensed clinician to volunteer to administer medication to students at Department of Education public schools under certain conditions. In addition, it clarifies who may prescribe medication to be administered to students in schools.

The term "licensed clinician" (page 2, line 13) is not defined in chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). However, the term "health care professional" is defined under section 302A-853(b), HRS, as a physician, surgeon, and other professional licensed pursuant to chapter 453, or nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 457. For clarity, the Department recommends replacing the term "licensed clinician" on page 2, line 13, of the bill, with "health care professional, as defined in section 302A-853(b)."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.