



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/22/2013

**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1131, HD1 RELATING TO SCHOOL ENTRANCE.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires, with specified exceptions, that a student have a dental examination and provide proof of such prior to initial entrance in any school in the State. (HB1131 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) opposes HB 1131 HD 1. Dental examinations should not be added as a school entry requirement. Many children and families do not have access to dental clinics or providers that offer free or reduced-cost dental services in many geographic regions across the state. As such, school entry for countless children will be delayed.

While the Department supports the intent of this bill to ensure a healthy school population, this mandatory requirement would serve as a barrier to public education and negatively impact student achievement and learning outcomes.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 22, 2013

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health  
Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Belatti and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 1131 HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 1131 HD1**. The bill requires with specified exceptions that a student have a dental examination and provide proof of such prior to initial entrance in any school in the State.

By requiring dental examinations prior to the entrance of school, parents or guardians would make it a priority to have their child complete a dental examination. This requirement would be a proactive step in preventing tooth decay, providing early diagnosis and treatment of dental caries, and improving the overall oral health of children.

Regarding the language on Page 1, Section 1, Lines 10-13, the Council notes that it offered the following proposed amendment, "adding a provision that allows the individual's primary care physician to determine if a dental examination is necessary at the time of entrance to school." The intent of the proposed amendment was not to diminish the role of the dental profession or increase the responsibility of the medical profession. The intent was to provide another alternative for individuals, who because of their special needs (intellectual disability, developmental disability, physical disability, medical condition, etc.), would not be able to complete a dental examination within the 30 days as specified in HB 1131 (Page 2, Section 2, line 21).

There are individuals with special needs who cannot and will not be able to sit in a dental chair and tolerate any dental procedures to be performed on them. They may require desensitization to going to a dental office and may require sedation in order to perform any type of dental procedure. For these situations, it may take more than the 30 days from the date of notice for noncompliance to complete a dental examination. As a result, these individuals would not be admitted to school. For students with special needs, the consequence of not attending school may result in loss of acquired skills.

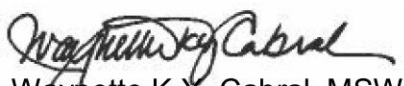
The Honorable Della Au Belatti  
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HB 1131 HD1 incorporated the proposed amendment by adding "ninety days" of the date of notice in addition to permitting the licensed primary care provider of a child with DD to annually determine whether a dental examination is necessary. With the extended time period, we feel it would not be necessary to include the provisions that address a child with a developmental disability. Therefore, the Council respectfully asks for your consideration of the following proposed amendments:

1. Page 1, Section 1, lines 10-13: Delete the language, "provided that for a child with a developmental disability, the child's licensed primary care provider shall annually make the determination as to whether a dental examination is necessary."
2. Page 3, Section 3, line 2: Delete "thirty" days and replace with "ninety" days.
3. Page 3, Section 3, (b), lines 4-12: Delete the language, "(b) If a child with a developmental disability does not complete a dental examination deemed necessary by the child's licensed primary care provider pursuant to section 302A-1159 within the period provided by section 302A-1159 after provisional entry into school, the administrator of the school shall cause a notice to be sent to the parent or guardian of the child stating that if the required dental examination is not completed within ninety days of the date of notice, the child shall not be admitted to school."

The Council appreciates the Legislature's concern about the oral health of Hawaii's children. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting the intent of HB 1131 HD1** and your consideration of the proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

  
Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator

  
J. Curtis Tyler III  
Chair

## **morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 5:17 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** laulii50@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1131 on Feb 22, 2013 09:30AM

### **HB1131**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 22, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amber Tai Hook	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: So now, not only will jr kindergarten be taken away at a time when fewer families can afford preschool and early childhood education, but we will be making it mandatory for all children to have a dental/dr visit in ORDER to be educated??? For those without medical/dental means they will be FORCED to sign up for govt sanctioned med/dental thru Quest which sounds like fulfilling a forced agenda. It just justifies more population control which is so not right. What about families who use holistic/alternative measures for health/dental care...

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 9:15 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** coreen.williams@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1131 on Feb 22, 2013 09:30AM

**HB1131**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 22, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
COREEN WILLIAMS	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill. Citizens seem to deal with an ever encroaching government. The government's job is not to regulate our activities in terms of our own personal health and well-being. Government officials should be concerned with public policy and not individual citizens. Let my dental and physical health be my business, not yours!

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