

**LATE**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/06/2020  
**Time:** 08:45 AM  
**Location:** 329  
**Committee:** House Health

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0141, HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes a Telehealth Advisory Council within the DOH to advise the governor in the development and implementation of a comprehensive telehealth plan. Creates a permanent full-time Telehealth Coordinator to facilitate the establishment of infrastructure and policies across State and private entities and appropriates funds. Establishes a task force to reduce barriers in health care system credentialing, privileging, and other administrative processes. Act is repealed January 1, 2022. (HB141 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 141, Proposed HD2.

The Department complies with the provisions of Section 302A-853, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) by requiring submission of a "Request to Store and Administer Emergency Rescue Medications and Daily, Routine, Scheduled Medications at School" by a parent or guardian in order to administer medication in a public school. This process must be renewed every school year.

When the school receives notification of a student with seizures, a team composed of a student's family members, DOH, the PHN, and all appropriate school staff is formed to develop an annually-reviewed Emergency Action Plan for use during the school day.

To ensure the safety and well-being of students, every school health room is staffed by a School Health Assistant (SHA) who has been trained on best practices for recognizing the signs and symptoms of seizures and the appropriate steps for seizure first aid. The SHA also receives training on commonly reported triggers and treatments for seizures.

Section §302A-1164, HRS, allows for self-administration of medication by a student for asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, or other potentially life-threatening illness. Adding wording related to

seizure disorders to this statute could facilitate the self-carry option for students and help them better self-manage their condition. The self-administration of medication form must be completed by a student's parent or legal guardian and physician.

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

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Thursday, February 6, 2020; 8:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0141, PROPOSED HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0141, Proposed House Draft 2, RELATING TO HEALTH.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would require:

- (1) Each public, private, and charter school to have at least one trained school employee on duty during the entire school day to administer or assist with seizure rescue medication;
- (2) The training of all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers employed at each public, private, and charter school to complete at least one hour of self-study review of seizure disorder materials developed by medical professionals;
- (3) All public, private, and charter schools to provide an age appropriate seizure education program to all students on seizures and seizure disorders; and
- (4) All public, private, and charter schools to establish a seizure action plan for any student having a seizure disorder that includes the identification of the employee or employees trained to assist the student in the event of a seizure, and the method by which the trained employee is contacted in the event of a seizure.

Furthermore, this bill would appropriate \$100,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 to train employees, and clarify that the Act only applies to a school that has at least one student with a seizure disorder.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The bill before this Committee is based on model legislation proposed by the national Epilepsy Foundation to increase the public's awareness of seizure disorders and to make our Nation safer for those afflicted. Under the leadership of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, the HPCA has been a partner in this effort.

The HPCA is committed to this initiative and pledges to work with the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, the Department of Education and Charter Schools, the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and all other stakeholders for this cause. As a network of fifteen (15) health centers situated throughout the State, the HPCA welcomes the opportunity to assist with the training that would be necessary under this bill.

Accordingly, we urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



February 5, 2020

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Committee on Health  
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 329  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Health:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and the Epilepsy Foundation of America, we urge your support of House Bill 141, Proposed HD2. This bill supports a critical priority for the epilepsy community – safety and continuity of care in the event of a seizure. This legislation makes certain that school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are not only prepared but can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to a student experiencing a seizure. Even more importantly, the legislation safeguards physician-directed care in the school setting, allowing students to access necessary and potentially life-saving medication. The legislation would also mandate the use of a Seizure Action Plan, to be distributed to all personnel charged with the care of a student, to ensure that they have access to information that may be specific or unique to that student. Taken together, provisions in this bill represent important protections necessary to ensure the safety of students living with epilepsy while they are attending school or a school-related function.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, advocates and provides services for the almost 14,000 individuals living with epilepsy throughout Hawaii. Collectively, we foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition characterized by seizures, which are sudden surges of electrical activity in the brain, that affects a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy, and approximately 1 in 10 people will experience a seizure, at some point in their lifetime. A seizure can happen to any person, in any place, at any time, and it is vital that school personnel are prepared to appropriately and effectively respond in this event. Compared to students with other health concerns, one Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study showed that students aged 6-17 years living with epilepsy were more likely to miss 11 or more days of school in the past year.<sup>1</sup> For these students, proper seizure first aid and continuity of care while they are at school is crucial to ensuring they can reach their full potential with as minimal disruption to their learning environment as possible.

House Bill 141, Proposed HD2 would require school personnel, including school nurses, to undergo a short training to learn how to recognize a seizure and how to properly administer seizure first aid. The seizure recognition and first aid training, developed by Epilepsy Foundation of America, and available online or through in-person training provided by Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, would come at no additional cost to schools, school

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017, May 09). Healthy Schools. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/epilepsy.htm>

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. **Please learn more about our advocacy work at [epilepsy.com/advocacy](http://epilepsy.com/advocacy).**



personnel, or the state, and would educate personnel on different seizure types, general seizure first aid, how to recognize a seizure emergency, and how to best socially and academically support students living with epilepsy. Knowing what to do in the event of a seizure is just as important as knowing what not to do. For instance, it is a fairly common misconception that you must put something in the person's mouth who is experiencing a seizure to prevent them from biting, or even swallowing, their tongue. This is false, dangerous and could cause more harm to the person experiencing a seizure – and the person administering first aid.

House Bill 141, Proposed HD2, if passed, would also facilitate continuity of care while a student is at school by providing school personnel with a Seizure Action Plan, containing information specific to the student's unique disorder and by preserving access to physician-prescribed medication while on school grounds. While seizure first aid is largely consistent no matter who the student is, there are times when a particular student may have specific triggers or treatment protocols that are individual to them. The Seizure Action Plan, which would be filled out in consultation with the child's physician, provides school personnel with important considerations, precautions, and contact information to help ensure aid is timely, tailored to the student's needs, and properly administered. Further, HB 141, Proposed HD2 would mandate that children have access to their anti-seizure medications or seizure rescue medications on school grounds which is critical to ensuring continuity of care, and in the case of seizure rescue medication, necessary to stop a seizure emergency.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and Epilepsy Foundation of America urge your support for HB 141, Proposed HD2 which will ensure school personnel are equipped with the information and skills necessary to keep children safe at school. Please feel free to contact Abbey Roudebush, Esq., Senior Manager, Government Relations & Advocacy at our National Headquarters, at [aroudebush@efa.org](mailto:aroudebush@efa.org) or 301-918-3784 with any questions or follow-up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi Manuel".

Naomi Manuel  
Executive Director  
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Laura Weidner".

Laura Weidner, Esq.  
Vice President, Government Relations & Advocacy  
Epilepsy Foundation

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. Please donate today to help END EPILEPSY. [Epilepsy.com/EndEpilepsy](https://epilepsy.com/EndEpilepsy)

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:12:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela McCarthy	Individual	Support	Yes

## Comments:

Without having a proper school nurse on staff at my daughters school we would not have known my daughter had epilepsy when she was first diagnosed. The school nurse and the principal both saw her having absent seizures and helped us through the process at first. It is extremely important to have a DOE staff member PROPERLY educated in seizure awareness and how to help when needed. I was always nervous as a parent when my daughter was at school, but knowing that she had Miss Ty and her well trained staff members and the principal always looking after her if something were to happen.... I had less stress!

This bill would be such a relief to so many parents. The current situation with the non DOE nursing agency that does not fulfill hours and sometimes is not on campus when needed, it's just NOT working. I would have to accompany my daughter to all of her field trips with her emergency seizure medication, or she couldn't attend. The nursing agency was never available to attend, and what child wants to be walking around with a nurse!? Talk about weird!!

With staff being certified to help and administer emergency medication, this would help the child to not feel they are being singled out and not feel there is something wrong with them all the time. Less anxiety, less stress! We decided to take my daughter out of public school, she didn't feel comfortable with the nursing agency that is currently being used, and neither do we as parents. Confidence in the staff would have to be strong though. They would have to be properly trained by professionals.

Mahalo for your time

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:27:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alanna isobe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 141 specifically because children in the state of Hawaii need trained personnel to administer life saving medications while at school in the event of an emergency.

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:19:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jenel okamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. This could be life and death for students and having knowledgeable staff able to help in a timely manner is crucial!

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:04:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gavin Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:13:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherry Alu Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:55:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa L Espiritu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:56:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Kaakua	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Health. I ask you to please support House Bill 141, which would require that beginning in 2022, each school shall have at least one school employee on duty during the entire school day to administer or assist with life saving seizure medication and prescribed electrical stimulation. A good friend of mine's son has epilepsy and his prolonged seizures necessitate the administration of Diazepam which requires training. Passage of this bill would create seizure smart schools that provide students access to time sensitive seizure medication in schools, ensure that school personnel could recognize & respond appropriately to a seizure, and mandate a seizure action plan. Mahalo nui for your consideration for Hawai'i's keiki with epilepsy.

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:55:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
YongChae Song	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass bill HB141. I have a nephew could has seizures and he would benefit so much from this. He is a young child who deserves to have a normal childhood and be able to learn at school like others without worrying about his seizures.

Thank you very much.

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:14:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB141 HD1. Our school personnel need to be better educated so that they can recognize and know how to respond to seizures. This is a critical priority for the Epilepsy Foundation and they have successfully implemented similar programs in other States.

Mahalo for your attention to this important bill,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani PTA/RN

Palolo

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:22:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristin Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:20:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kris Marcello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:38:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lacey Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129  
email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

February 6, 2020

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*  
Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair*  
Dr. Patricia Sheehey, *Vice  
Chair*  
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Andrea Alexander  
Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta  
Ms. Virginia Beringer  
Ms. Mary Brogan  
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman  
Ms. Annette Cooper  
Mr. Mark Disher  
Dr. Kurt Humphrey  
Ms. Cathy Kahoochanohano  
Ms. Tina King  
Ms. Bernadette Lane  
Ms. Kaili Murbach  
Ms. Stacey Oshio  
Ms. Carrie Pisciotto  
Ms. Kau'i Rezendes  
Ms. Rosie Rowe  
Dr. David Royer  
Mr. James Street  
Mr. Francis Taele  
Mr. Steven Vannatta  
Ms. Jasmine Williams  
Ms. Susan Wood

Ms. Cara Tanimura, *liaison  
to the Superintendent*  
Dr. Bob Campbell, *liaison to  
the military community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 141, HD 2 Proposed - Relating to Health

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) **supports** HB 141, HD 2 Proposed which aims to ensure Seizure Safe Schools in both the public and private education sectors for students with seizure disorders.

In previous years SEAC testified to the importance of having school personnel volunteer to administer epinephrine via epi-pen, as well as insulin and glucagon in emergency situations. SEAC also supported blood glucose monitoring to help prevent health emergencies for students with diabetes. With 2000 school age children in Hawaii who have a diagnosed seizure disorder, as estimated by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, it is critical that seizure medications and vagus nerve stimulation magnets be added to the list of emergency interventions school personnel may administer.

This bill acknowledges the need to create a seizure action plan for each student with a seizure disorder and distribute it to all school personnel charged with supervising the student, with clear instructions who to contact in the event of a seizure on campus. By January 2022 the bill requires annual training for all principals, counselors and teachers in public, private and public charter schools where there is one or more students with a seizure disorder. It also requires the designation of at least one school employee to administer prescribed seizure medications or stimulation with a vagus nerve stimulation magnet as needed.

SEAC believes these measures will go a long way in ensuring the safety of Hawaii's students with seizure disorders. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair

*Mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

**LATE**

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:18:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Imaguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:22:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Yamaguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative John M. Mizuno (Chair)

Committee on Health

Melissa Yamaguchi (parent)

Date: February 6, 2020

Support for HB 141 HD1 with proposed statute HD 2 relating to Public Health

As a parent and citizen in the State of Hawaii, I want to make sure my fellow members of the community especially those in school or on school campuses have adequate access to seizure care. I strongly support HB 141 which would provide for training in the event of seizures occurring on a school campus.

Many citizens in the State of Hawaii may not think seizure care applies to them, it does. One in 26 people may be affected by Epilepsy or a similar seizure condition in their lifetime. As of 2019, over 15,000 people in the State of Hawaii and over 3 million in the United States are living in with Epilepsy. Even if they do not have Epilepsy, ten percent of the population may also experience a seizure in their lifetime that could be a result of head trauma like a fall or car accident, another medical condition, or even a high fever.

As a parent of a child whom does not had Epilepsy but has participated in Epilepsy and Seizure awareness activism for 4-5 years now, I have seen firsthand the need for our schools to have these life saving measures. My child and I have done the research ourselves and pretty much anyone is prone to being in need of this type of first aid but

especially children. I urge the committee to please pass HB 141 with proposed statute HD2. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:45:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffany Tawata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. As I teacher I am concerned about the safety of my students. If I am able to help a child in any way I am more than willing. Passing this bill will enable children with epilepsy to receive help faster! Children with epilepsy and parents should feel safe while at school, not constantly worried about what may happen if they have an episode with someone who is unable to assist them. Please pass the bill and help ALL children feel safe at school.

**LATE**

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:25:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin McCarthy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha ka kou,

I am the parent of Ava McCarthy and she has had epilepsy since 2015, she is now 12. We have been dealing with the school system for some time and seen some things in regards to the safety and well being of children with this debilitating illness. Some of the things that I'd like to see done is overall training of selected staff that would be fully capable of handling severe to minor issues. The RCM staff was highly inadequate for the health and well-being of these fragile children. Often times our daughter would feel hesitant about being left in the care of them. Parents that have to deal with this on a regular basis need to have the full support from the schools and staff. It's hard enough living with this daily with the unknown variances of daily life, and to have to literally sit there and argue proper care for your child with these RCM staff at 504 meetings that dictate your child's care when your not there.

There has to be more support and open communication with the staff. More training for the teachers as well as awareness for the students. If there is more then one person on staff trained to recognize when a seizure would occur and know how to handle it. This would alleviate stress and burden to care givers and create a healthy environment for all. All with not making the child feel differently or like they don't belong. Or worse, a burden or not accepted.

These are our Keiki, and they need our constant support from our wonderful community, our Ohana. Hawai'i is a place where families thrive and grow with respect and aloha towards one another. We are a community that are known for e mā•lama pono 'ia kekahi ( take care each other ) especially our keiki. Please take a look at this and think about our dear keiki and loved ones who deal with epilepsy and show them the support we in Hawaii are known to give.

Mahalo

Justin McCarthy

**LATE**

**HB-141-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:41:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2020 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen S. Yano MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Correct , trained administration of anti-seizure medications in the schools is a life saving measure to add to the schools. Safer to have trained personnel on site than the adverse outcome of delaying administration till EMS arrives