

Hawaii State Legislature

March 23, 2023

LATE

**The Honorable Justin H Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Martin, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Education**

**HR 76 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONTRACT WITH
A QUALIFIED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO ESTABLISH AN AQUATIC
SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.
IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Martin, and Members of the committee:

I am Haunani Reed, a graduate student at Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am submitting testimony supporting HR 76 regarding establishing an aquatic safety education program for elementary school students thru a qualified nonprofit organization. All three of my children participated in an aquatic safety education program at their elementary school which taught them excellent skills in case they got in trouble swimming in the ocean and or pool.

- Proper education about swimming at a young age can potentially save lives in the present and the future.
- According to Pearn, Brown III, & Hsia (1980) of *Military Medicine*, nine children drowned, and 49 almost drowned in swimming pools in Hawaii. The age distribution curve was bimodal, with peaks at one to two years and eight years.

Having an aquatic safety education program for elementary school students will be very beneficial to our young children. This is why I strongly support HR76 Requesting the

Department of Education to contract with a qualified nonprofit organization to establish an Aquatic safety education program for elementary schools.

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Tishalynn Reed

MSW Candidate
School of Social Work and Public Health
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