



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

Date: 03/19/2025

Time: 09:05 AM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 0532, SD2, HD1 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 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 0532, SD2, HD1, 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 measure enhances student safety and aims to improve attendance by removing unnecessary barriers in medication administration. The current provisions of Hawai'i 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.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 9:05 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 SD2 HD1 - RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

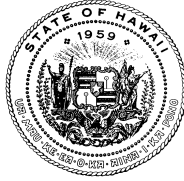
Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0532 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 19, 2025 @ 9:05 am

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") SUPPORTS this measure
3 offering comments.

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 by a health
11 care professional employed or contracted by the Department of Education on medication
12 administration standards consistent with the standards applicable to School Health
13 Assistants. The measure will aid in the ability for students to safely and timely receive
14 prescribed and emergency medications, improving their overall health and ability to remain in
15 school.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to S.B. No. 532

Submitted to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

March 16, 2025

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to vote NO on S.B. No. 532, a bill that authorizes public school employees or agents, after minimal training, to administer medications to students in Department of Education schools. While the goal of addressing school health assistant shortages may appear well-intentioned, this legislation is a dangerous overreach that jeopardizes student safety, undermines professional standards, and burdens Hawaii's taxpayers and educators. As a concerned citizen rooted in the principles of limited government and personal responsibility—values that resonate across party lines—I present the following objections to demonstrate why this bill must be rejected.

1. Compromising Student Safety with Inadequate Training

S.B. 532 allows volunteers with basic training to administer medications—oral, nasal, topical, and even premeasured emergency doses—despite lacking the expertise of licensed health professionals. The bill claims this ensures student health, but it gambles with children's lives by entrusting complex medical tasks to minimally trained staff. Democrats have long championed child welfare; how can we reconcile this with a policy that lowers the bar for care?

Look at [Florida's experience with untrained staff administering medications](#). A 2020 investigation revealed errors like incorrect dosing and missed administrations, leading to hospitalizations in some cases. Hawaii's students deserve better than a rushed fix that risks similar outcomes. This bill's vague training requirements—lacking specifics on hours or certification—invite mistakes, not solutions.

2. Shifting Liability and Costs onto Taxpayers and Schools

By allowing untrained volunteers to step into medical roles, S.B. 532 exposes schools and taxpayers to significant legal and financial risks. Errors in medication administration could spark lawsuits, with costs falling on the state rather than trained professionals covered by malpractice insurance. Democrats value fiscal prudence—why support a bill that sets up Hawaii for costly litigation?

In [California, a 2015 law](#) permitted school staff to administer emergency epilepsy medication after training. A subsequent [lawsuit in Sacramento](#) saw a district pay out \$250,000 after a staff member botched a dose, proving these policies backfire. Hawaii's budget, already stretched thin, cannot absorb such hits. This bill trades short-term savings for long-term losses.

3. Undermining Professional Standards and Union Jobs

S.B. 532 bypasses the need for qualified school health assistants, eroding professional standards and threatening unionized jobs. School health assistants undergo rigorous training to handle medications safely—volunteers with a crash course cannot match that expertise. Democrats have fought for workers' rights; why endorse a bill that devalues skilled labor and risks replacing union positions with untrained substitutes?

[Minnesota's experiment with delegating medication tasks](#) to non-nurses led to a 2018 report noting staff burnout and a drop in hiring for trained roles, as schools leaned on cheaper, less-qualified volunteers.

Hawaii's educators and health assistants deserve respect, not a policy that sidelines their expertise for a quick fix.

4. Overburdening Teachers and Staff

This bill dumps additional responsibilities on already overstretched school employees, expecting them to volunteer for medical duties on top of teaching and administrative tasks. The shortage of school health assistants is real, but piling more onto teachers' plates—without guaranteed compensation or consent—breeds resentment and burnout. Democrats care about educator well-being; why push a bill that stretches them thinner?

In [Texas, a similar policy](#) allowing staff to administer medications led to a [2021 teacher survey](#) reporting increased stress and turnover, with 68% of respondents feeling unprepared for the role. Hawaii's educators shouldn't face the same chaos—this bill solves one problem by creating a bigger one.

5. Lack of Accountability and Oversight

S.B. 532 mandates training by a health care professional but offers no clear enforcement mechanism or accountability for errors. Who ensures the training is adequate? Who monitors compliance? Without robust oversight, this bill is a recipe for negligence. Democrats demand transparency in government—why back a proposal with such glaring gaps?

[New Jersey's medication delegation program](#) faced scrutiny after a [2019 audit](#) found inconsistent training and poor documentation, with some schools failing to track administrations properly. Hawaii risks the same sloppy execution, endangering students and leaving parents in the dark.

Conclusion: A Principled NO Vote Protects Hawaii's Students and Schools

Members of the Committee, S.B. 532 may aim to fill a gap, but it sacrifices safety, professionalism, and fiscal sense—values Democrats share with Republicans. It endangers students with untrained volunteers, shifts costs onto taxpayers, undermines skilled workers, overburdens staff, and lacks accountability. From Florida to New Jersey, similar measures have brought errors, lawsuits, and chaos—not progress.

Vote NO on S.B. 532 to safeguard our keiki, respect our educators, and demand real solutions over risky shortcuts. Hawaii's schools need investment in trained professionals, not a Band-Aid that bleeds us dry.

Sincerely,

Andrew Crossland

Hawaii Patriot Republicans

hawaiipatriotrepublicans@gmail.com



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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March 19, 2025

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Ms. Susan Wood, *Vice Chair*

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Ms. Virginia Beringer
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Ms. Wendy Nakasone-Kalani,
*liaison to the military
community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 532 SD 2 HD1- Relating to the Department of Education

Dear Chair Takayama and members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, supports SB 532 SD 2 HD 1 that 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. It also clarifies who may prescribe medication to be administered to students in schools.

Many students with Individualized Education Programs require medication during the school day to address a chronic medical, behavioral, or developmental condition such as asthma, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and diabetes. Other students may have life threatening allergies or seizures which require rescue medications. Having more trained adults on campus helps to ensure that these students get the correct dose of medication at the right time to enhance their ability to benefit from education and opportunities to participate in meaningful activities with their peers. These medication supports also reduce the risk of missing school due to illness.

As schools struggle with staffing vacancies, this legislation has the potential to extend a safety net under students needing the administration of medication by increasing the number of trained staff and volunteers who are available to assist when needed. SEAC appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan, Chair

SB-532-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 11:37:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2025 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian H Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for considering this bill relating to providing medication to our keiki in a school setting. As the bill states, shortages in qualified personnel in the schools leaves services to students at risk. As with many other positions that service our students directly and indirectly, can inconvenience, fail to serve or even endanger our keiki due to unavailability. With current pilikia due to federal firings and their consequences that affect us on a state and local level, there is even more need for us to make accommodations to be able to do our due diligence. Student Health Assistants are in short supply as are Substitutes qualified to perform the same duties. Trained and qualified personnel in their absence are necessary to ensure appropriate care is given to our keiki. Whether they are on lunch break, performing other duties, absent,, disposed of with trainings, we still have the duty/Kulena to care for our students. Students separated due to off campus Huaka'i/outings, off island travels, sports activities and other extracurriculars create additional needs during school as well as outside of school hours still require care. This is one of the most common sense policy fixes. It is not the end all solution but is a necessary step to bridge service gaps for the Keiki and `Opio. There is more to it than simply providing permission for personnel to volunteer to be medical gatekeepers for the students but I wholeheartedly support the adopting of the spirit of this measure. Thank you for your attention to this issue. Mahalo, Brian Shimabukuro

SB-532-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:01:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/19/2025 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terrie Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE SB532

Compromise is NOT Wise--DOE should not waste funds to minimally train volunteers, but to wisely recruit & retain well-trained School Health Assistants!

Compromise may Risk lives--errors by volunteers administering medications may harm or kill students!!

Compromise is Costly--costly lawsuits for medical malpractice, and Loss of DOE funding if parents disenroll children because of compromised school medical safety standards!!!

Don't allow DOE to Compromise or Risk our Keiki's Lives! Seek BEST Solution-- Hire More School Health Assistants!!!

PLEASE VOTE NO to SB532

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

SB532, SD2, HD1

Wednesday, 03/19/2025

10:00am House conference room 329

Testimony **IN OPPOSITION** of **SB532, SD2, HD1**

My name is Nicole Rae Munoz, a resident of Ewa Beach and a social work graduate student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa but the views I am expressing in this testimony are my own and don’t represent my school. I am testifying **IN OPPOSITION** of **SB532, SD2, HD1** which will allow school staff and agents trained by healthcare professionals 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 school.

I am writing to express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to **SB532, SD2, HD1** as it may be

- A violation of parental rights
 - Parents/guardians need to provide the school with consent for school staff and agents to administer medication. Parents need to feel included in decisions about how and when the medication should be administered. As a parent I would not want school staff and agents to administer medication to my child unless it is the nurse and with my consent.
- Lack of medical training
 - School staff and agents may not have the necessary medical training to safely administer medications, especially in cases involving complex dosages or specific medical conditions.
- Inconsistency
 - School staff and agents might be juggling numerous responsibilities, increasing the risk of missed doses or inconsistent medication administration, may affect the student’s health.

For these reasons, it is crucial that Hawai‘i take actions to **OPPOSE SB532, SD2, HD1**.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Nicole Rae Munoz
Social Work Student