

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI  
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAI'I  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO**  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

**House Committee on Education  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
2:15 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309**

**Measure: House Bill 1803, Relating to Student Heat Exposure**

**Purpose of Measure:**

Requires the Board of Education to adopt a heat acclimatization and practice policy based on the Hawai'i Athletic Trainers Association's Hawai'i High School Athletic Association Heat Acclimatization and Practice Policy of 2017 for students in grades kindergarten to twelve in Department of Education schools and public charter schools statewide for certain physical activities. Appropriates funds.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes the importance of protecting our students from heat-related risks, and respectfully offers comments on House Bill 1803.

The Board appreciates the flexibility to formulate policy that best serves our students and schools, and the ability to use the Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association's Hawaii High School Athletic Association Heat Acclimatization and Practice Policy of 2017 to inform policymaking.

The Board defers to the Department and charter schools regarding implementation and funding.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



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

Date: 02/10/2026  
Time: 02:15 PM  
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Committee: EDN

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB1803, RELATING TO STUDENT HEAT EXPOSURE.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Board of Education to adopt a heat acclimatization and practice policy based on the Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association's Hawaii High School Athletic Association Heat Acclimatization and Practice Policy of 2017 for students in grades kindergarten to twelve in Department of Education schools and public charter schools statewide for certain physical activities. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB1803 to protect students from heat-related illness during school activities and acknowledges the requirement for the Board of Education (BOE) to adopt a statewide heat acclimatization and practice policy for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. However, the Department has concerns with the bill and cannot support it in its current form.

The Department respectfully notes that the term "activities" is not clearly defined in the bill, and the 2017 Heat Acclimatization and Practice Policy, on which this measure is based, was developed primarily for high school athletics and may require adaptation for broader school settings such as recess and elementary physical education. The Department respectfully recommends providing flexibility in applying such a policy across diverse settings and activities.

Implementation will require on-site monitoring of wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) at all 258 Department schools, along with ongoing maintenance, calibration, and eventual replacement of WBGT devices. The Department appreciates the one-time appropriation of \$143,000 for initial equipment, which, at approximately \$250 per mid-level device, is expected to provide about two units per school on average. However, larger or geographically spread campuses will need additional devices.

As these requirements would be ongoing, the Department estimates that recurring costs for calibration, routine maintenance, repairs, and a replacement reserve will total approximately \$70,000 to \$80,000 annually, with an additional \$20,000 to \$30,000

needed for statewide coordination, resulting in an estimated need of about \$100,000 per year. Additionally, the Department took a prudent approach in crafting its budget under the current fiscal landscape, and this appropriation was not included as a priority in its request to the Board of Education and the Governor.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



MAKALAPUA ALENCASTRE, ED. D.  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION  
(‘AHA KULA HO‘AMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

---

FOR: HB 1803 RELATING TO STUDENT HEAT EXPOSURE  
DATE: February 10, 2026  
TIME: 2:15 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

---

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1803** which:

1. Requires the Board of Education to adopt a heat acclimation and practice policy for students in grades kindergarten to twelve in Department of Education schools and public charter schools; and
2. Appropriates funds for training and implementation of the policy and for the purchase of wet-bulb globe temperature thermometers for all public schools.

The Commission appreciates the inclusion of public charter schools in this measure; both for the implications of this policy and in providing the necessary funding to implement the requirements of this legislation. The Commission does defer to the Board of Education on the policy aspects of this measure and is prepared to provide the Board whatever assistance is needed to implement the policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**Date:** February 8, 2026

**To:**

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

**RE: Support for HB 1803, Relating to Student Heat Exposure**

**Hearing:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 2:15 PM, Conference Room 309

---

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Elizabeth Kiefer. I am an internal medicine physician, trained in epidemiology, on faculty at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and the mother of two teenage boys. I am submitting testimony as an individual, but I am also a member of the Climate Change and Health Working Group, which helped author HB 1803. I strongly support this measure.

From a clinical perspective, heat-related illness in children is preventable. As health care practitioners, we consider severe heat illness a *never event* — something that should not occur when appropriate safety systems are in place. And yet, we are already seeing warning signs here in Hawai'i.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to heat. They acclimatize more slowly, regulate body temperature less efficiently than adults, and may be taking medications that impair heat regulation, such as stimulant medications used to treat ADHD. They often have little control over the timing or conditions of outdoor activities such as recess, physical education, and athletics. Clinically, heat illness frequently begins subtly — with headache, nausea, fatigue, or irritability — before escalating rapidly to vomiting, collapse, or more severe outcomes if not recognized early.

Heat-related illness is already affecting Hawai'i students. At a recent physical education conference, teachers shared serious concerns about keeping students safe as temperatures rise and reported that students are already experiencing heat illness during the school day, including incidents requiring evaluation in the emergency department. These experiences prompted immediate action, leading to a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) pilot currently underway in a West O'ahu school.

However, a pilot in one area is not enough.

HB 1803 takes a practical, evidence-based, and preventive approach by requiring the use of wet-bulb globe temperature monitoring in Department of Education and public charter schools statewide and pairing this tool with Hawai'i's existing Athletic Trainers Association heat acclimatization and practice policy. WBGT is the nationally recognized gold standard for assessing heat stress, accounting for temperature, humidity, radiant heat, and wind, and is used by the U.S. military, OSHA, the NCAA, and professional sports organizations. Measuring air temperature alone is not sufficient to capture the true physiological heat risk students face.

Importantly, this bill protects not only students, but also educators, coaches, and school staff. By providing clear, objective, and evidence-based guidance, it removes guesswork from safety decisions and supports schools in modifying, postponing, or safely conducting activities during periods of elevated heat risk — without discouraging physical activity, play, or learning.

We know this approach works. Other states like California and Georgia have adopted similar heat safety policies only after the tragic and preventable deaths of student athletes. Hawai'i has the opportunity to act before further harm occurs.

As Hawai'i continues to get hotter, the risks to our keiki will only grow. HB 1803 provides schools with the tools and guidance they need to protect student health and prevent avoidable heat-related illness.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of this measure HB 1803.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Elizabeth Kiefer

Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, JABSOM

Climate Change and Health Working Group



## HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS

Chair

John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Department of Pediatrics

Titiimaea Ta'aase, JD

Secretary

State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

Carissa Holley, MEd

Treasurer

Hale Makua Health Services

Debbie Erskine

ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD  
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Jennifer José Lo, MD

Hawai'i Health Partners

Misty Pacheco, DrPH

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP  
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD

Medical-Legal Partnership  
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai

HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH

John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native  
Hawaiian Research Office

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &  
Evaluation

Community Health  
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &  
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 9, 2026

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

RE: Support for HB 1803, Relating to Student Heat Exposure

Hrg: Tuesday, February 10, 2025, at 2:15 PM, Conference Room 309

---

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI), in partnership with the Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG), **strongly supports HB 1803**, which requires the Board of Education to adopt a heat acclimatization and practice policy for certain physical activities.

This bill would require all Department of Education and public charter schools to provide sufficient breaks during athletics practices when heat risks are elevated, providing protection for our student-athletes. This also provides funds for the tools needed to effectively measure heat risks.

### Extreme Heat is a Growing Public Health Risk for Children in Hawai'i

As global temperatures rise, extreme heat events are becoming an increasingly urgent public health concern in Hawai'i. Over the past century, the state's average air temperature has increased by approximately 0.76°F,<sup>1</sup> and high humidity further limits the body's ability to cool itself. Prolonged heat exposure can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and, in severe cases, organ failure or death.<sup>2</sup>

### Heat-Related Illness Already Affecting Hawai'i Students

In West O'ahu, students have already experienced heat-related illness during school activities, including incidents requiring emergency medical care. Children are particularly vulnerable. They acclimate more slowly to heat, regulate body temperature less efficiently than adults, and often lack control over the timing and conditions of outdoor activities such as recess, physical education, and athletics. Limited access to hydration and shaded rest during school activities further increases risk.

### Heat Safety Policies Protect Health Without Discouraging Play or Learning

Outdoor play and physical activity are essential for healthy child development, learning, and well-being. Heat safety policies must protect students without unnecessarily limiting movement or learning, and must be feasible and supportive for educators and school staff.

---

<sup>1</sup>[Regional Temperature Trends in Hawai'i: A Century of Change, 1916-2015](#), Marie McKenzie. 2016.

<sup>2</sup>[Twenty-Seven Ways a Heat Wave Can Kill You](#), Mora, Counsell, Bielecki, Louis. 2017.



HB 1803 strikes this balance. Rather than eliminating outdoor activity, it establishes clear, evidence-based guardrails that help schools make informed, real-time decisions about modifying, postponing, or safely conducting activities during extreme heat.

### **A Practical, Evidence-Based, and Preventive Approach**

The bill appropriately relies on wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT), the nationally recognized gold standard for assessing heat stress and the metric used by the U.S. military, OSHA, the NCAA, and professional sports organizations. WBGT accounts for temperature, humidity, wind, and sun exposure, providing a more complete picture of heat risk than temperature alone. While the Hawai'i Athletic Trainers Association standards currently recommend WBGT guidance, this bill would require its use, promoting consistency and clarity across schools.<sup>3</sup>

This approach reflects real conditions in Hawai'i. Local schools are now piloting WBGT monitoring to guide safer decision-making. HB 1803 builds on these lessons and scales them statewide, rather than waiting for additional incidents to occur.

### **Acting Before More Deaths Occur**

Other states, like Georgia and California, have adopted heat safety policies after the deaths of student athletes from exertional heat illness, outcomes that were largely preventable with proper protocols and monitoring.<sup>4,5</sup> We can protect students before more harm occurs by adopting these safety guidelines.

Extreme heat is already affecting our keiki, and the risks will continue to grow. HIPHI and the Climate Change and Health Working Group respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 1803 to provide a safe athletics experience for all of our students.

### **Proposed Amendments**

We've heard concerns from both the Department of Education and the Attorney General's Office about the need to better clarify what is meant by "activities," and we agree that added clarity would be helpful. Experts at the Korey Stringer Institute advised that while heat-based activity modifications are well supported for PE, recess, and sports, there is less standardized data to require specific modification thresholds for more variable activities such as marching band, ROTC, and field trips. In those cases, access to WBGT monitoring and situational decision-making is more appropriate.

Consistent with this guidance, we recommend an amendment that requires heat-based activity modifications for **physical education, recess, and athletic activities**, while not requiring prescriptive modification thresholds for marching band, ROTC, and field trips. For those more variable activities, schools would still have access to WBGT devices and be encouraged to consider heat conditions when making activity decisions. While activity modification for those settings is prudent and recommended by experts at the Korey Stringer Institute, there is not yet sufficient data to support specific modification thresholds for those more variable activities, making access to WBGT monitoring and discretion in decision-making appropriate at this time.

---

<sup>3</sup>[Hawai'i High School Athletic Association Heat Acclimatization and Practice Policy](#), 2017.

<sup>4</sup>Heat Policy Revision for Georgia High School Football Practices Based on Data-Driven Research. Cooper et. al, 2020.

<sup>5</sup>[California Senate Bill 1248](#), 2024



Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James McCallen".

James McCallen  
Director of Community Preparedness and Resilience

To: House Committee on Education  
Re: **HB1803 – Relating to Student Heat Exposure**  
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
February 10, 2026, 2:15 PM

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB1803**. This bill requires the Board of Education to adopt a heat acclimatization and practice policy based for students in grades kindergarten to twelve in Department of Education schools and public charter schools statewide for certain physical activities and also appropriates funds.

This bill is a reasonable and needed response to health risks associated with heat exposure during physical activities at schools. It would ensure that schools adopt science-based standards to prevent heat illness.

Keiki are especially vulnerable to heat stress due to immature thermoregulation and slower acclimatization to rising temperatures. Our state's high heat and humidity further challenges the body's ability to cool itself.

The bill includes an appropriation to equip every public and charter school with wet-bulb globe temperature thermometers — recognized as the gold standard for assessing environmental heat risk. These tools help teachers and coaches to make informed decisions about modifying or postponing activities based on actual heat stress conditions, rather than their judgment alone.

The long-term costs of heat-related emergencies — in health care, student absences, or potential litigation — far outweigh the relatively small initial investment in thermometers and policy development that this bill would provide.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Nicole Woo  
Director of Research and Economic Policy



February 9, 2026

To: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of HB1803 RELATING TO STUDENT HEAT EXPOSURE

Hrg: Tuesday, February 10th at 2:15PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy.

Hawai'i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids' bodies heat up faster than adults', they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate.

The climate crisis is a health crisis. As the state association representing public health, we urge you to support HB1803.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kessler".

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:37:07 AM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Climate change is increasing high temperatures across the state. Athletes and students in classrooms with ventilation or AC are especially vulnerable.

Please pass the bill

Mahalo

Henry Curtis

Executive Director

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:28:19 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edmar Castillo	Edmar Castillo Photography	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Edmar Castillo. I am a Hawai‘i resident and the owner of a humble, outdoor-focused photography business. I am writing in **strong support of this measure** to establish statewide heat safety policies and ensure the public and charter schools have the resources to monitor heat conditions and prevent heat-related illness.

Hawai‘i’s climate is changing, and extreme heat is becoming more frequent and more dangerous, especially for children. Students are among the most vulnerable to heat illness, yet many schools lack the tools needed to objectively assess heat risk and make timely decisions to protect student health.

As a small business owner who regularly works outdoors for extended periods of time, I have seen firsthand how quickly heat stress can escalate. Heat illness is not always obvious until it becomes serious, and relying on subjective judgment or air temperature alone is often insufficient. Tools such as Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) thermometers provide clear, science-based guidance that helps prevent emergencies before they occur.

Providing funding so every public and charter school can access WBGT monitoring is a practical, preventative investment. It empowers school administrators, teachers, coaches, and staff to make informed decisions (e.g., modifying activities, increasing rest and hydration, or moving students indoors) before children are put at risk.

This bill is not about assigning blame or creating unnecessary burdens. It is about setting consistent, reasonable standards that prioritize the students’ well-being and give schools the resources they need to act responsibly. Preventing heat illness protects not only students, but also educators, families, and the broader community, while reducing avoidable medical emergencies and disruptions to learning.

Ensuring student safety in the face of extreme heat reflects Hawai‘i’s shared values of mālama, responsibility, and care for one another, especially for our keiki. I respectfully urge the committee to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your commitment to protecting the health and safety of Hawai‘i’s students.





# 'Ahahui o nā Kauka

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 1015

Honolulu HI 96813

Phone 808.548.0270

E-mail [huikauka@gmail.com](mailto:huikauka@gmail.com)

2025-2026 Advocacy Committee

*Marcus Kāwika Iwane, MD*  
President

*Kapono Chong-Hanssen, MD*  
Vice-President & Advocacy Co-Chair

*Kaohimanu Dang-Akiona, MD*  
Advocacy Co-Chair

*Kara Wong Ramsey, MD*  
Treasurer

*Kapua Medeiros, MD*

*Natalie Young-Albanese, MD*

*Jordan Lee, MD*

February 9, 2026

## COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

Rep. Terez Amato

Rep. Luke A. Evslin

Rep. Andrew Takuya  
Garrett

Rep. Jeanne Kapela

Rep. Darius K. Kila

Rep. Ikaika Olds

Rep. Christopher L.  
Muraoka

Rep. Kanani Souza

## Group Testimony in Support of HB1803 RELATING TO STUDENT HEAT EXPOSURE

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated to the health of the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians in particular. We are writing in support of HB1803.

As practicing physicians from multiple specialties located across the state of Hawai'i and beyond, our physician members are faced with the rise in heat-related illnesses in our population as Hawai'i gets hotter. Keiki are especially sensitive to extreme heat. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids are more vulnerable to heat stress compared to adults because kids' bodies heat up faster, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressured to push through discomfort instead of speaking up. Extreme heat exposure in infancy and early childhood has been linked to learning loss, sleep disruption, immune and metabolic stress, and activation of toxic stress pathways.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside. Other states such as Georgia have successfully implemented such policies and tools, with a reported decrease in heat illnesses, and the prevention of any heat-related deaths among high school football players—a reality which occurred in

2023 when a 12-year-old student in California died from heat illness during on-campus physical education despite weather warnings, which led to legislation that directs the California DOE to develop statewide guidelines to minimize student exposure to hazardous heat conditions.

We know that environmental exposures and safe schools are fundamental determinants of health that impact overall Mauli Ola (health and wellness). ‘Ahahui o nā Kauka especially recognizes the link between the health of the land/environment and the health of our people. This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming environment.

The heat crisis is a Health crisis. We urge you to support HB1803. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our shared vision of a thriving, climate-resilient Hawai‘i. We are deeply grateful for your consideration of this important legislation.

Mahalo,  
‘Ahahui o nā Kauka  
Advocacy Committee



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 10, 2026

2:15 PM

Conference Room 309

### In SUPPORT of HB1803: RELATING TO STUDENT HEAT EXPOSURE

---

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB1803**, which would prompt the development of statewide safety guidelines to prevent heat-related illness among our students.

With our record temperatures guaranteed to increase in the years and decades to come, we must begin to explore proactive measures to prevent and minimize heat-related illnesses, injuries, and even deaths – especially for our keiki, who have played no part in creating the climate crisis they will inherit, and who may be particularly vulnerable our ever-increasing temperatures and heat waves. This measure will ensure that the process for protective planning for our keiki begins now, and not after students have suffered the otherwise avoidable impacts of heat stress during school activities.

Notably, this measure may be particularly needed to alleviate the disproportionate heat burden placed on students living in leeward and urban areas, where weather patterns and urban “heat island” effects can exacerbate the risks they face.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Mia Nishiguchi, a senior at Kalani High School, and **I support HB1803**. Hawai‘i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids’ bodies heat up faster than adults’, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

During my time participating in marching band, I witnessed multiple of my friends faint due to heat stroke and unsafe temperatures. One of my friends developed a heart condition due to her fainting, negatively impacting the rest of her life. Our practices during summer and fall break are 8 hours per day, with 7+ hours daily in the sun. During my freshman year, I suffered a severe burn on my lip from prolonged exposure, and the scar remains partially visible today.

However, these experiences are not unique to me or my school. Across Hawai‘i, students participate in outdoor classes, athletics, and extracurricular activities every day, often without adequate shade, hydration breaks, or heat-response protocols. HB1803 would help protect our keiki by ensuring schools have clear standards to prevent heat-related illness before students are harmed. I urge you to pass this bill so that no student has to risk their health simply to learn or participate in the activities they love.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate.

The climate crisis is a health crisis. I urge you to support HB1803.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mia Nishiguchi

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Debbie Millikan, and I support **HB1803**.

My students had a project last summer recording wet-bulb temperatures on school campuses across the island. There are clear differences between private and public schools and that has to change. Private school coaches are armored with expensive equipment, training and protocols to safeguard their students, public school coaches are not. We need to adopt best practices (they already exist) and outfit our public schools with proper equipment. It's simple. Let's do what's right for our young athletes who are suffering the consequences of rising temperatures.

Hawai'i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids' bodies heat up faster than adults', they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside. This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

The climate crisis is a health crisis. I urge you to support HB1803.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Debbie Millikan

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:31:39 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

I am a primary care physician and parent living and working in Hawaii, and also have background experience in environmental sciences and conservation prior to medicine. I am writing as an individual and my opinions are my own, but work as a physician and educator for the Queen's Health System and UH JABSOM. I am writing in SUPPORT of this bill.

Hawai'i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids' bodies heat up faster than adults, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:37:53 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martina Kamaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Dr. Martina Kamaka and **I support HB1803.**

I am a Family Physician, Professor at the John A Burns School of Medicine and a 2024 Climate and Health Equity fellow who was able to focus on impacts of climate on health as a part of my fellowship. Increasing heat and weather changes are impacting all of us. As Hawai‘i is getting hotter, our kupuna and keiki are particularly vulnerable and are already feeling the effects. We can prevent problems especially for our keiki who engage in outdoor activities. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. People don't often realize how important it is to pay attention to not only heat and sun exposure, but also to the effects of humidity. Kids' bodies heat up faster than adults' and thus, kids may not recognize early warning signs. In addition, in a competitive environment such as sports, kids may feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up for fear of letting down the team or appearing weak.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

I urge you, for the sake of our keiki now and in the future, to support HB1803. Our warming planet will continue to heat up and we need to be prepared with the right tools for help our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Martina Kamaka, MD, FAAFP and 2024 CHEF Fellow

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:43:47 AM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha, I am writing in support on HB1803 because I believe it codifies common sense measures to protect our keiki. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:37:23 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

I urge you to support HB1803, which will require statewide heat safety policies to ensure our children are given sufficient breaks amidst rising temperatures, and provide every public and charter school with the tools to prevent heat-related illness in student athletics.

Hawai‘i is getting hotter, and our children are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids’ bodies heat up faster than adults, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

Other states have experienced tragic and preventable student deaths from heat illness. States that adopted strong heat safety guidelines have not seen these tragedies continue. We have the opportunity to learn from those lessons and make heat-related illness a “never event” in Hawai‘i schools.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate.

Thank you

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 9:59:10 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Manali-Leonardo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

I am now a retired RN who arrived in Hawai'i from Florida almost 45 years ago on June 17th. I laughed at Hawai'i's Summer weather...it wasn't hot at all, certainly not like Florida's guaranteed high temperature and high humidity Summers.

Air conditioning was basically unnecessary in Hawai'i, and the steady trade winds served as nature's free AC.

But that's not the case in Hawai'i today. Trade winds are absent, and temperatures are rising as each year passes. So, now it's pure torture, and more importantly, unhealthy for children to be hot classrooms.

Please give our keiki a more humane environment to learn.

It's a no-brainer, Legislators.

Mahalo!

Nancy Manali-Leonardo

808-542-1556

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:08:11 AM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Ann K Poire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Hawai‘i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids’ bodies heat up faster than adults, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

Other states have experienced tragic and preventable student deaths from heat illness. States that adopted strong heat safety guidelines have not seen these tragedies continue. We have the opportunity to learn from those lessons and make heat-related illness a “never event” in Hawai‘i schools.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Elizabeth Poire  
Kailua Kona, Hawaii

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:26:27 AM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:40:42 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

*Hawai‘i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids’ bodies heat up faster than adults, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.*

*This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.*

*This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.*

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:31:35 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: HB1803

High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. So I am in strong support of this Bill. I understand that HB 1803 would require statewide heat safety policies to ensure our keiki are given sufficient breaks amidst rising temperatures, and provide every public and charter school with the tools to prevent heat-related illness in student athletics. Please pass this Bill.

Mahalo and aloha,

John A. H. Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW

51 Ku'ula St., Kahului, HI 96732-2906, john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:46:47 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Hawai‘i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids’ bodies heat up faster than adults, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

Other states have experienced tragic and preventable student deaths from heat illness. States that adopted strong heat safety guidelines have not seen these tragedies continue. We have the opportunity to learn from those lessons and make heat-related illness a “never event” in Hawai‘i schools.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 8:10:48 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katharine Pelican	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Hawai'i is getting hotter and our children are on the front lines of this change. Kids are more susceptible to increasing temperatures and more vulnerable to potential health effects including heat stress and heat stroke. School kids have many active outdoor activities that can put them at increased risk including recess and physical education. At particular risk are kids participating in sports where they may be dressed in heavy gear in full sun and often feel pressure to push themselves beyond what may be safe.**

**This bill will give schools clear guidance and tools to keep students safe as temperatures rise. It would establish statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer, the gold standard for heat safety. This allows schools to understand, set, and have the tools in hand to follow clear heat safety practices.**

**This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.**

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:30:13 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
An Vo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha,

My name is An and I'm a public health student on O'ahu. I support HB1803.

Hawai'i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids' bodies heat up faster than adults, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Please support HB1803. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,  
An  
Honolulu

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:50:41 AM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams,

*Hawai‘i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids’ bodies heat up faster than adults, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.*

*This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.*

*This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.*

*Thank you very much for your urgent help!*

*Sincerely,*

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:14:56 AM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Mahealani Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Dr. Nicole Mahealani Lum, and **I support HB1803.**

As a family physician practicing primary care in Honolulu, I am seeing the rise in heat-related illnesses as Hawai‘i gets hotter. Keiki are especially sensitive to extreme heat. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids are more vulnerable to heat stress compared to adults because kids' bodies heat up faster, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressured to push through discomfort instead of speaking up. Extreme heat exposure in infancy and early childhood has been linked to learning loss, sleep disruption, immune and metabolic stress, and activation of toxic stress pathways.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside. Other states such as Georgia have successfully implemented such policies and tools, with a reported decrease in heat illnesses, and the prevention of any heat-related deaths among high school football players-- a reality which occurred in 2023 when a 12-year-old student in California died from heat illness during on-campus physical education despite weather warnings, which led to legislation that directs the California DOE to develop statewide guidelines to minimize student exposure to hazardous heat conditions.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming environment.

The heat crisis is a Health crisis. I urge you to support HB1803. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicole Mahealani Lum, D.O.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Melanie Reis, and I **support HB1803**.

Hawai'i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids' bodies heat up faster than adults', they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

The climate crisis is a health crisis. I urge you to support HB1803.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Melanie Reis

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:48:49 AM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Writing in strong support. Mahalo.

Dear House Committee on Education Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

**HB1803/SB2583**

**I am writing in support of HB1803 “Relating To Student Heat Exposure”.**

My name is Sandra Chang and I reside in Nuuanu, Oahu. I am providing testimony as an individual in favor of HB1803/SB2583.

I am a Professor at the John A Burns School of Medicine and a steering committee member of the Hawaii Climate Change and Health Working Group. In recent years, Hawaii has experienced record-breaking heat. **Heat in the schools is an important health issue because children are highly vulnerable to high temperatures.** This summer, I worked with a group of high school students who monitored outdoor heat on various public school campuses on Oahu. Using a wet-bulb globe temperature thermometer, the students recorded high wet-bulb temperature levels above the standards for safe physical activity during certain school day hours on school campuses. Their observations supported the need for statewide requirements for managing extreme heat during outdoor school activities, including during physical education classes and sports practices and events. I strongly support the adoption of a heat acclimatization and practice policy by the board of education and provisioning of appropriate funds for training and implementation of this policy. **The modest request of \$180,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the training and implementation of this policy as well as wet-bulb globe temperature thermometer purchase for public and charter schools will be a worthwhile investment to ensure the safety and health of Hawaii’s keiki in a warming climate.**

In conclusion, I strongly recommend your support of HB1803.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sandra Chang, PhD

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:27:57 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina De Leon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cristina De Leon, and **I support HB1803.**

Hawai‘i is getting hotter, and our keiki are already feeling the effects. High temperatures combined with humidity make outdoor activities like recess, physical education, and sports more dangerous, especially for children. Kids’ bodies heat up faster than adults’, they may not recognize early warning signs, and many feel pressure to push through discomfort instead of speaking up.

This bill is important because it gives schools clear guidance and the right tools to keep students safe. It would require statewide heat safety policies and ensure every public and charter school has funding to purchase a wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT) thermometer. WBGT is the gold standard for heat safety because it measures heat the way the body actually experiences it, including temperature, humidity, sun, and wind, not just how hot it feels outside.

This bill is a practical, common-sense step to protect students, support educators and coaches, and help our schools adapt safely to a warming climate. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

The climate crisis is a health crisis. I urge you to support HB1803.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:32:33 PM  
Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2026 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jacob Lee, the current Chair of the American Psychiatric Association's Committee on Climate Change and Mental Health, author of a Cambridge University Health textbook chapter on climate and young people's brains, and Steering Committee member of the Hawaii Climate Change and Health Working Group, although speaking only on behalf of myself.

Research shows Hawaii is suffering more days of high heat and reaching new record air and water temperatures. While heat shelters are provided under FEMA budget, the nearest is in LA. Hawaiians are thusly disproportionately impacted by rising heat. Young people cannot sweat as efficiently, do not fully control their schedules, and are poorly able to communicate about heat injury. As such, their teachers and the DOE more generally has a responsibility to protect them from extreme heat. This bill is a great way to do that.

Please email me with any questions at [Psychiatry.JacobLee@gmail.com](mailto:Psychiatry.JacobLee@gmail.com)