



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

Date: 04/16/2026

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: LAB

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SCR87, ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO EXAMINE REQUIRING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN ALL STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AND PURSUE EXISTING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAMS.

Purpose of Bill: Encouraging The State To Examine Requiring Automated External Defibrillators In All State-owned Buildings And Pursue Existing Automated External Defibrillator Programs.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 87, as expanding access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and AED training programs will support local community health and save lives throughout the state.

As a result of Act 143, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, the Department has already implemented a very robust and active Common Sense (CS) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training Program. CS CPR is a Department initiative to provide life skills for students, faculty, and staff and over time it will contribute to an educated population who are better able to respond to life-threatening emergencies, with correspondingly improved survival rates. The program is an approved course for teaching community responder CPR and AED skills. It is an interactive, hands-on class designed for students seventh to twelfth grade, as well as teachers, faculty, and staff at all Department schools. To date, about twenty Department schools statewide and over 13,000 students, faculty, staff, and student leaders have completed the training. Compliance with AED and CPR training, as well as maintaining first-aid capabilities in the workplace, is also required under OSHA General Industry (29 CFR 1910.151(b)).

The Department requests that funding is provided to support programs and resources related to this resolution, requiring AEDs to be procured and installed in all Department schools and facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support to SCR 87.



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea Street, #402, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

April 14, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Chair
Representative Mike Lee, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **SCR 87 -- RELATING TO AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DIFIBRILLATORS**

HEARING: Wednesday, April 16, 2026 @ 09:00 am; Conference Room 309

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

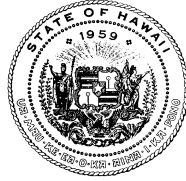
SHPDA strongly supports the intent of SCR 87 with comments. This resolution encourages the State to examine requiring automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all state-owned buildings and to pursue existing AED programs. Expanding access to AEDs in public buildings could help save lives by improving the chances that a person receives rapid assistance when an emergency occurs.

Access to the device alone is not enough. Training and education are important to support successful use of AEDs. Pairing wider AED placement with practical training can strengthen community emergency preparedness and improve outcomes when cardiac events happen in public settings.

SHPDA defers to the Department of Health and DAGS responsible agencies on the resources, implementation approach, and coordination needed to examine statewide AED placement in state facilities and expand training opportunities, but we believe this is a worthwhile effort that could meaningfully improve public safety and emergency response capacity across Hawai'i.

Thank you for hearing this measure.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of (SCR87/SR79)
ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO EXAMINE REQUIRING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATORS IN ALL STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS PURSUE EXISTING AUTOMATED
EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAMS**

REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON D. SAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 9:00 AM | Room Number: 309

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) is submitting testimony in
3 support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 87 (SCR87) and Senate Resolution 79, which
4 encourages the state to examine require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all state-
5 owned building and purse AED trainings programs.

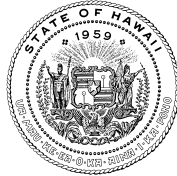
6 **Department Testimony:** The Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Systems Branch
7 (EMSIPSB), on behalf of the Department, respectfully submits this testimony in **support** of this
8 concurrent resolution.

9 Sudden cardiac arrest remains a leading cause of death, and immediate access to AEDs combine
10 with trained responders dramatically increases survival rates. Ensuring AEDs are accessible in
11 state own facilities, alongside widespread training, represents a critical, evidence-based public
12 health intervention that can and will save lives.

13 **Offered Amendments:** None

14 Mahalo for your consideration and for your commitment to public safety.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR

APRIL 16, 2026, 9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 87

ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO EXAMINE REQUIRING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN ALL STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AND PURSUE EXISTING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAMS.

Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.C.R. 87.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **support** on this resolution encouraging the state to examine requiring automated external defibrillators (AED) in all state-owned buildings and pursue existing automated external defibrillator programs.

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, and rapid access to early defibrillation is one of the most effective ways to save lives. These measures reflect a thoughtful, proactive approach to public health and facility safety, aligns with national best practices and reinforces the State's responsibility to

safeguard employees, visitors, and the public.

As of the date of this testimony, DAGS has completed the installation of AEDs in DAGS-managed facilities in our East Hawaii, West Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui district offices. Training has also been completed in all of our district offices. We continued to push forward to complete the installation of AED in our Oahu DAGS-managed facilities with 41 of 119 installed at this point in time. We have also conducted training for those facilities on Oahu that have AEDs installed. We look forward to completing installation of all AEDs in our Oahu DAGS-managed facilities by the end of July 2026.

The department would also like to clarify that DAGS does not manage or have oversight of all state facilities. It is important for legislators and the general public to understand and be aware that there are state departments that have direct control and oversight over their respective facilities. Should an effort be made to expand the installation of AEDs into non-DAGS-managed facilities, it will be necessary to engage those departments with that oversight.

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



April 14, 2026

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SCR 87, which encourages the State of Hawai‘i to examine requiring automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all state-owned buildings and to pursue existing AED programs.

More than 350,000 people experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital each year and only about 1 in 10 survive. During cardiac arrest, CPR can double or triple a person’s chance of survival and quick use of an AED can further improve those odds. This makes immediate access to AEDs critical.

The American Heart Association recommends key policies to increase survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest. These policies include awareness and education, having cardiac emergency response plans in place, CPR education and AED training and accessibility.

Expanding AED access in state-owned buildings is an impactful step toward strengthening Hawai‘i’s emergency response infrastructure. Equally important is the resolution’s emphasis on education and training. Encouraging the State to explore and expand these efforts will help ensure that more individuals are equipped with the knowledge and confidence to act in an emergency.

Initiatives such as the American Heart Association’s “Nation of Lifesavers” campaign emphasize the importance of widespread community training in Hands-Only CPR. Teaching individuals and students in schools how to recognize cardiac arrest and immediately begin chest compressions and use an AED can dramatically improve survival rates from cardiac arrest. Encouraging the State to explore partnerships and expand access to Hands-Only CPR education would further strengthen Hawai‘i’s emergency response capacity.

Ultimately, increasing access to AEDs and strengthening training programs will save lives, improve community health outcomes, and demonstrate Hawai‘i’s commitment to public safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support SCR 87.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Simpson-Gomez".

Lauren Simpson-Gomez
Hawai‘i Government Relations Director



April 15, 2026

COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Chair

Rep. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett

Rep. Jeanne Kapela

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong

Rep. Julie Reyes Oda

ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO EXAMINE REQUIRING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATORS IN ALL STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AND PURSUE EXISTING
AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAMS.

AED Institute strongly supports the intent of SCR 87 with comments. This resolution encourages the State to examine requiring automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all state-owned buildings and to pursue existing AED programs. Expanding access to AEDs in public buildings will save lives by improving the chances that a victim of cardiac arrest receives rapid assistance when an emergency occurs.

In 2006, AED Institute was awarded a contract by the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation-Airports Division to implement Hawaii's inaugural Public Access to Defibrillation Program. The Project Manager, Chief Martinez Jacobs, Airport Fire Chief, emphasized that the program aimed to place AEDs throughout every airport at intervals of no more than ninety seconds. The devices were required to be highly visible, easily accessible, and available for use by employees, travelers, and responders. Additionally, the contract included a comprehensive maintenance plan and a practical CPR/AED training program for all prospective responders.

The Airport's Program started with a 0% chance of surviving a community cardiac arrest in any state airport. Within the 1st year, we saved six victims of cardiac arrest and achieved a 100% neurologically intact survival for all victims. The community responders were employees and travelers, not professional responders.

Fast forward twenty years, to date we have recorded one-hundred and twelve cardiac arrests in our airports, and we have celebrated 85 lives saved. The Airport survival rate is seven times higher than our current community cardiac arrest survival rates, and this is all because of trained responders and easy access to AEDs.

Successful AED Programs must include easily accessible, well-maintained AEDs, **PLUS** a simple hands-on, open session, training program.



In 2025, AED Institute partnered with Hawaii's Department of Accounting and General Services to install 162 AEDs in state buildings and provide Common Sense CPR training to occupants. Post course surveys showed unanimous support for extending this training to all state employees.

AED Institute is in full support of this resolution, however there must be some language added regarding the necessity for the care and maintenance of the AEDs. We currently have record of over 10,000 AEDs in Hawaii, but many are not being maintained which will lead to liability issues and loss of life.

Maintenance includes following all manufacturer recommendations and replacement of pads and batteries prior to their expiration dates. This is similar to the care and maintenance of publicly located fire extinguishers and can be done with minimal training and time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I plan to attend the Committee on Labor session and can provide more information on request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Foster".

Pamela Foster, RN

Owner and President

AED Institute

3375 Koapaka Street, B264

Honolulu, HI 96819

808-440-8988

Committee on Labor
Thursday, April 16, 9:00 am
Conference Room 309

SCR 87, ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO EXAMINE REQUIRING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN ALL STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AND PURSUE EXISTING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAMS

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

There are approximately 1,500 Cardiac Arrests in Hawaii every year. Sadly, our survival rate has not improved significantly for over a decade. That's about to change!

As more and more high school students and teachers across Hawaii (over 13,000 from over 20 DOE high schools statewide at last count) are trained in Common Sense CPR, and a large proportion of DAGS employees, first responders and community responders are trained to perform high quality CPR, the chance that a person in cardiac arrest gets timely CPR goes up exponentially. The survival rate should correspondingly improve... ***as long as the community has access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED's).***

AED's are a key component to restarting a heart that is not beating regularly, but time is of the essence! By embracing AED placement in state buildings, and hopefully throughout the community, we will see improved survival rates across the state of Hawaii! Those are not just numbers, those are our loved ones, from keiki to kupuna!

Dr. Elizabeth Char
Emergency and EMS Physician
Honolulu, HI