

Date: 02/27/2012

Committee: House Finance

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2513,HD1 (hscr308-12) Relating to Education

**Purpose of Bill:** Provides flexibility to Department of Education to implement student health programs by deleting certain operational requirements established by law and deletes the requirement to adopt rules.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2513, HD1 (hscr308-12). The Department currently has 254 full-time school health aide positions, one in each public school. This school year \$5,602,229 was allocated to fund these positions. Of the 254 full-time positions, ten are currently vacant. There are no school health aide positions that are less than full-time. Next school year, 2012-2013, school health aide positions will be placed in Weighted Student Formula.

The Department recognizes the unique qualities of the various communities served by our schools. Thus, schools should be able to provide health programs and services that reflect the needs of their students as well as their school community. In addition, matters regarding working schedule and leave allowances for school health aides and other personnel who provide similar services will be part of the collective bargaining process.

This bill, with the proposed changes as outlined, will provide the Department with necessary flexibility in providing student health services to meet the diverse needs of our student population.