



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SB2235 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO EDUCATION



Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 19, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports Senate Bill 2235 Senate Draft 2
2 House Draft 1 (SB2235 SD2 HD1).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None for DOH.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of SB2235 SD2 HD1 is to connect adolescents back to their
5 healthcare provider by expanding the school physical examination requirement. Currently, physical
6 examinations are only conducted upon entry into the school system in kindergarten. SB2235 SD2 HD1
7 expands the physical examination requirement to also include entry into seventh grade. This bill follows
8 the lead of other states and Hawaii private schools who have multiple physical examination
9 requirements throughout a child's educational journey.

10 The Department offers comments in the interest of the health of our students because increasing
11 the physical exam requirement for school attendance provides a broader, systematic approach to
12 connecting children back to their primary care physicians. The policy also promotes utilization of the
13 covered preventive health benefits established by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Due to the ACA,
14 annual well child examinations are a required covered benefit in all health plans.

1 The proposed increase in the physical exam requirements is congruent with the policy priority set
2 forth by the Obesity Prevention Task Force. The Task Force, co-chaired by our late Director Loretta
3 Fuddy developed and recommended legislation pursuant to Act 269 (SB2778 CD1), Session Laws of
4 Hawaii 2012. The policy to expand physical examination requirements for public school students was
5 proposed to reinforce a culture of wellness and preventive health care.

6 Currently, the state expends \$470 million a year on obesity-related, and \$770 million on
7 diabetes-related medical costs. In 2012 13.2% of high public school students in Hawaii (2012, Youth
8 Risk Behavior Survey), and 23.6% of adults were obese (2012, Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance
9 Study). By 2030 half of adults in Hawaii are projected to be obese without effective interventions
10 (2013, Trust for America's Health). According to the Trust for America's Health, "Keeping people
11 healthier is one of the most effective ways to reduce health care costs," (July 2008).

12 The adoption of this measure entails parental and community engagement. The additional
13 physical exam requirements offer physicians and healthcare providers together with parents and
14 adolescents the opportunity to address developmentally relevant physical and mental health issues.
15 Regular visits are preventive, so health needs can be assessed and addressed early. Early screening and
16 health management can contribute to lowered absenteeism rates and support graduation completion.
17 The requirements of SB2235 SD2 HD1 embraces the whole child to assure they are healthy and ready to
18 learn.

19 The current language in SB2235 SD2 HD1 aligns the timing of the physical examination
20 requirements with the seventh grade immunization requirements. Aligning the timing of physical
21 examination requirements with immunization requirements will avoid duplication of efforts for the
22 initial review and follow up on student health records.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

LATE

Date: 03/19/2014

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2235, SD2, HD 1(hscr949-14) RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires children to undergo a physical examination prior to attending seventh grade beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Education. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB2235 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the substantive content and intent of SB 2235 SD2 HD1. In doing so, the Department notes that the mandate to present the results of a physical examination prior to seventh grade may serve as a deterrent to maintaining continuous enrollment and regular attendance.

For the Committee's information, the Department has estimated funding in the amount of \$1,600,000 for fifty-five full-time equivalent (55.0 FTE) Office Assistant positions to carry out the purposes of this measure. While we understand this will be a matter for the Finance Committee to address we ask for your favorable support since this measure places more recordkeeping and accountability responsibilities on the schools and will increase their workload.

We are also aware of HB 1776 HD2 SD1 that speaks to this same subject matter and is moving in the Senate.

The Department thanks you for consideration of our testimony and the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

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www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – 8:30 am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Re: **SB 2235, SD2, HD1 Relating to Education**
Testimony in Support

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA. I am the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-government employer. It is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I write in support of SB 2235 SD2, HD1 which requires children to undergo a physical examination prior to attending seventh grade beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, and makes an appropriation to the department of education.

Currently, kindergarten is the only time when students are required to have a health assessment in order to participate in a public school. In contrast, students attending private schools are assessed every one to two years. While cursory physical examinations are conducted for sports activities, those types of examinations are limited and not as comprehensive as a health assessment.

The routine physical assessment of students is important for monitoring the health and wellbeing of our keiki. Conducting physical assessments at the benchmark time periods for children greatly aides in addressing and preventing health-related issues such as childhood obesity, smoking, and dealing with stress, as well as maintaining a current schedule of vaccinations.

We urge your committee to pass SB 2235.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.





Hale Kipa

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March 19, 2014

House Committee on Health
Hearing in Conference Room 329 at 8:30 a.m.

Re: SB 2235 SD2 HD1 Relating to Education

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in **support of SB 2235 SD2 HD1**.

My work at Hale Kipa, a nonprofit youth services agency, involves providing educational and vocational services to at risk youth. Many of the youth in our program have physical, mental and behavioral issues. These range from simply poor exercise and eating habits to the more severe substance abuse and mental disorders, all of which impact the ability of these youth to do their best in school. As a result, most of the youth we serve are well behind their peers academically or have already dropped out of school.

Requiring a physical exam prior to attending 7th grade will provide a mechanism through which youth will be able to engage with their health care provider early enough to identify health issues and effectively intervene. This type of systematic approach to wellness for school aged children is long overdue. And, because of the clear association between health status and academic performance, with the implementation of this new requirement, we should not only expect the health of our youth to improve but their performance in school as well.

Sincerely,

Stacy Evensen
Director
Educational & Vocational Services





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Testimony for SB 2235 SD2 HD1

From: Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
March 18, 2014

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in *strong support* of SB 2235 SD2 HD1, which will establish a policy mandating documentation of a physical examination, by a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse, at entry to the 7th grade.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is a voluntary organization of over 200 pediatricians in Hawaii. Our mission is to attain optimal physical, mental and social health and well being for infants, children, adolescents and young adults in Hawaii.

Adolescence is a period of tremendous physical, emotional and social change. During this period youth can develop numerous health issues, the majority of which are preventable. High-risk health behaviors contributing to the most common causes of morbidity and mortality among young adults are often established in childhood and adolescence. These include smoking, drinking/drug use, high-risk sexual practices, unhealthy nutrition, lack of sleep and physical inactivity. These behaviors are also intimately linked to academic underachievement.

Primary care practitioners, pediatricians, family physicians and nurse practitioners who have a long-standing relationship with families, are ideally suited for preventing problem behaviors. The adolescent well child visit creates a safe environment where adolescents can feel comfortable talking to their doctor about their health and wellness. The American Academy of Pediatrics has advocated that child should have regular "Well Child" physical exams throughout childhood. In adolescence, they should receive appropriate screening and guidance for alcohol and drug use, depression and suicide, sexuality and reproductive health issues as well as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. However, this cannot be done in a 10-minute sick visit for a cold.

Too many adolescents are now *only* seen by their primary care provider for the occasional sick visit. The reasons are many. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, some health insurance policies did not cover preventive healthcare visits for children. The Hawaii Department of Education has mandated documentation of a comprehensive physical exam *only* at kindergarten entry. In turn, many busy, over-taxed parents have not prioritized preventive healthcare visits. It should not be surprising then that many public school students have not had a comprehensive physical exam for years. It should also not be a surprise that depression, obesity, pre-diabetes, substance abuse too often go undiagnosed until a crisis occurs.

The HAAP, along with our working group of healthcare stakeholders, will continue to discuss additional opportunities to address the concerns expressed by the DOE, related to health assessment as a barrier to school entry.

SB 2235 SD2 HD1 will ensure that all youth attending public school in Hawaii have a well child preventive health care visit at 7th grade entry. While we know this is just the start, we think this bill strongly supports the medical home, optimal adolescent health and student achievement. In addition, the bill enhances the working relationship between adolescents, their parents, and the health and educational systems in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'May Okihiro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

May Okihiro, MD, HAAP Obesity Taskforce Member for
Michael Hamilton MD, HAAP President



LATE

House Committee on Health
The Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2235, SD2, HD1
Relating to Education
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
March 19, 2014, 8:30 am, Room 329

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2235, SD2, HD1, requiring children to undergo physical examinations prior to entering the seventh grade.

The HPCA believes in leading a shift from a sickness based form of medicine currently practiced in Hawaii to one of wellness. A key part of this is by instituting wellness physical exams at regularly scheduled intervals to ensure patient health and catch any malady before it becomes catastrophic. Nowhere is this need more apparent than with adolescents, who often only see primary care providers when ill, despite the enormous amount of physical and mental change they encounter.

Further, obesity is becoming more of an issue each year. In recent years, as many as one in four children in Hawaii are already considered overweight or obese, contributing to medical expenditures that totaled more than \$470 million in 2009 alone. Instituting more regular physical examinations will allow providers to keep better information on patients, as well as provide regular feedback for patients about their health status.

For these reasons, and the continued physical and financial health of Hawaii, the HPCA supports Senate Bill 2235, SD2, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of Phyllis Dendle

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair



March 19, 2014
8:30 am
Conference Room 329

SB 2235 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Belatti and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB2235 SD2 HD1 which would require students in the seventh grade to have physical exams.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

Preventing illness is the best way to assure a happy, healthy life. It is also the best way to reduce the cost of health care. Prevention is important though out our lifetimes however, children may not always get the attention that may help to identify health issues before they become a crisis. This bill seeks to assure that at least once, on the brink of puberty, that children will have a physical exam to determine their overall health.

These well child exams are already covered under insurance plans. The small commitment of time needed by parents, students and the department of education to assure that students are healthy as they approach their teen years is a worthwhile investment to assure the wellbeing of our children.

Thank you for your consideration.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 8:30 am

by

Jerris R. Hedges, MD
Dean

And

May Okihira, MD, MS
Pediatrics Department

John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2235 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Education

Aloha, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee. Thank you for an opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2235 SD2 HD1, which requires children to undergo a physical examination prior to attending seventh grade beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

Almost three-fourth (3/4) of all adolescent mortality is a result of motor vehicle accidents, homicide, suicide, and unintentional injuries (CDC, 2010). Unhealthy lifestyles and risk factors for chronic disease, such as smoking, poor nutrition, and mental health problems, begin in childhood and adolescence and track into adulthood. Youth are also at risk for suicide from underlying depression. In 2011, among youth in Hawai'i:

- 29.5% reported that they felt sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row
- 15% said they would attempt suicide in the past 12 months
- 1 in 4 are overweight or obese, and in some communities over 50% of adolescents are overweight or obese
- 37% reported that they ever had sexual intercourse

Except for routine immunizations and mandated sports physicals, many youth do not receive health screening for depression or chronic health conditions such as obesity. As academic success of Hawaii's youth is intimately linked to their health, annual health screening of school age youth has great promise for strengthening the fabric of society. Research shows that poor health such as mental health disorders, uncontrolled asthma, poor nutrition and sleep disorders are closely linked to poor academic outcomes. On the other hand, research also shows that academic success is a primary predictor of adult health outcomes. For example, in Hawai'i, the prevalence of diabetes among those who did not graduate from high school is 10.6%, twice that of those who graduated from college (4.8%).

Primary care providers are in a unique position to screen for chronic disease risk factors and behaviors and provide guidance, brief counseling and care coordination for the adolescent and his/her parents. In the ideal world, youth would see their physicians regularly throughout childhood for preventive health care. However, in today's busy world this often does not happen; physicians often only see children and adolescents when they are sick or injured.

Thus mandating annual health screening by a primary care provider as they enter their adolescent years offers great promise for advancing the health of our keiki, ensuring that they are healthy and ready to learn.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



LATE

March 19, 2014

TO: House Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

FROM: Dr. Vija Sehgal, Pediatrician and Chief Quality Office / Associate Medical Officer
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center / 697-3457 or wcchc@wcchc.com

RE: **SB2235 SD2 HD1: Relating to Education**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB2235 SD2 HD1 to mandate a physical examination for entry into seventh grade.

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving over 31,000 patients in Leeward Oahu. Our main campus in Waianae has a pediatric clinic that serves 8,485 of the school age children along the Leeward Coast. To better meet the dynamic physical, emotional and social needs of our adolescent patients, a new adolescent clinic at the Waianae Mall is under development.

It is during adolescence that youth can develop numerous health issues, the majority of which are preventable. High-risk health behaviors that contribute to the most common causes of morbidity and mortality among young adults are often established in childhood and adolescence. These include smoking, drinking/drug use, high-risk sexual practices, unhealthy nutrition, lack of sleep and physical inactivity. These behaviors are also intimately linked to academic achievement.

Establishing a health care home, where primary care practitioners, pediatricians, family physicians and nurse practitioners have a long-standing relationship with families, is a factor in preventing these problem behaviors. The adolescent well child visit creates a safe environment where adolescents can feel comfortable talking to their doctor about their health and wellness. They should receive appropriate screening and guidance for alcohol and drug use, depression and suicide, sexuality and reproductive health issues as well as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. However, this cannot be done in a 10-minute sick visit for a cold. The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center supports the American Academy of Pediatrics standard that regular "Well Child" physical exams should occur throughout childhood.

There are many reasons that adolescents are *only* seen by their primary care provider for the occasional sick visit. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, some health insurance policies did not cover preventive healthcare visits for children. The Hawaii Department of Education has mandated documentation of a comprehensive physical exam *only* at kindergarten entry. Thus, busy parents have not prioritized preventive healthcare visits. It should not be surprising then that many public school students have not had a comprehensive physical exam for years. It should also not be a surprise that depression, obesity, pre-diabetes and substance abuse too often go undiagnosed until a crisis occurs.

In a recent study of children seeking care at our Waianae Pediatric Clinic, 52% of the 11-14 year olds are overweight or obese and 55% of the 15-19 year olds are overweight or obese. We know that obesity is the primary risk factor for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. And, studies have shown that 80% of children who are overweight at 10-15 years become obese adults. This recent study indicates increasing rates of adult obesity on the Waianae Coast when compared to 2012 data (from the Hawaii Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book, DOH.). This data on obesity alone is cause for alarm and a motivating factor for the health center to support mandatory physicals for adolescents.

SB2235 SD2 HD1 was amended to mandate a physical assessment during 7th grade rather than in the 6th and 9th grades. The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center supports this amendment because immunization updates occur at the same age, thus lessening the additional burden for parents. Further amending the bill to implement the 7th grade physical assessment in a way that doesn't create a barrier to



entry is ideal. Allowing the physical to occur within the 12 months surrounding the 7th grade school year could help to address this concern from the Department of Education (DOE) about the bill.

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, along with our working group of healthcare stakeholders, has continued to discuss additional opportunities to address the barrier to entry concern raised by the DOE. The amendment to HB1776 HD2, requiring notice of the exam mandate to sixth grade students and their parents, is a great start. We all can do a better job of reaching out to students and their parents to come in for a physical assessment throughout the school year. Bringing together health plans, medical providers, school health personnel, families, and others is exactly the model of wrap around services we've all been saying that our students need.

The companion legislation to SB2235, HB1776 now contains an amendment to add a dental exam requirement prior to entry into public school. The WCCHC fully supports regular dental care as a part of our health care home model. However, we are still seeking to better understand whether this dental requirement would be affordable for everyone based on ACA and MedQUEST health insurance coverage for students.

Finally, the WCCHC supports the SB2235 SD2 HD1 implementation of the 7th grade physical assessment across the school system rather than as a pilot to more effectively roll-out the program. Otherwise, a pilot diminishes the positive impact we hope to achieve with all 7th grade students reconnecting with their medical provider.

Reconnecting our adolescents with their primary care provider embraces the whole child to assure they are healthy and ready to learn. Refining amendments to SB2235 SD2 HB1 can help to ensure that all youth attending public school in Hawaii have a well-child preventive health care visit during 7th grade. While we know this amended bill is just a start, we think it strongly supports our patient centered medical home model, optimal adolescent health and student achievement. **Most importantly, the bill strengthens the relationship between our health and educational systems, as well as adolescents and parents in Hawaii.**

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:47 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bbrody1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2235 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*

SB2235

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bev Brody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

Lovejoy Tolentino

University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social Work

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator: David Y. Ige

Senator: Michelle N. Kidani

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 8:30 AM

State Capital, 415 South Beretania Street, House conference room 329

RE: SB2235 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Establishes the requirement of children to undergo a physical examination prior to attending the seventh grade.

Aloha Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Lovejoy Tolentino and I am a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2235 SD2 HD1**.

Current students entering the seventh grade aren't required to take physically examinations. Physical examinations provide schools with a report of the student's overall health and wellness. In addition, physical examinations provides a chance for the student to talk to his or her doctor about they overall health, such as ongoing pain, symptoms or any health concerns. I think physical examinations can provide schools with a awareness about a student health needs and is able to create a plan to help assist the student health wise if needed in school. The SB2235 SD2 HD1 Bill will support the requirement of all students to participant in a physically examination before attending the seventh grade at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment on this bill. I strongly urge the committee to pass the SB2235 SD2 HD1.

Lovejoy Tolentino

Lovejoyt@hawaii.edu

LATE**SB2235**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danson Honda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Physical conditions may be detrimental to a student's learning experience. By having students undergo a physical examination, it can be determined whether or not that student needs to seek medical treatment. A student may unknowingly have a physical condition due to the lack of taking a physical examination.

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:19 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: paulakomarajr@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2235 on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM*



SB2235

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 19, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul A. komara, Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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