



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
Regular Session of 2014

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
The Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
The Honorable Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi  
The Honorable Sen. Gilbert Kahele

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, February 10, 2014  
TIME OF HEARING: 1:15 PM  
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 414

**TESTIMONY ON SB2610 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers,  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”)

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW strongly supports SB2446, which requires, by the end of the 2015-2016 school year, that: (1) Every public school, charter school, and the University of Hawaii shall have one automated external defibrillator (AED) situated in a permanent location on campus; (2) Public schools and charter schools that have athletic trainers, as well as the University of Hawaii, to have an additional AED available at every sporting event; (3) Athletic trainers shall be trained and certified on the use of AEDs; and (4) Public and charter schools that do not have athletic trainers to have at least two faculty members at every sporting event who are trained and certified on the use of AEDs.

We ask that the committees pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB2610**

This bill should pass unanimously if you believe the children of these islands are the future. We've all heard the statistics showing that Heart Disease is the number one cause of death in the State of Hawaii and that the biggest leap in cardiac arrests are our youth.

It is hard to fathom that we install fire extinguishers in each building on each floor in our schools to put out a fire as a safety measure, yet we do not consider installing automated external defibrillators in each building on each floor in our schools to be readily available to save a life. The first seconds are critical to a person who suffers a cardiac arrest.

But you might ask, what is a cardiac arrest and how does it differ from a heart attack? What are the symptoms and why is CPR and having an AED so important that a bill needs to be passed to make such a device mandatory for our schools? Well, let me summarize it for you...a heart attack is like poor plumbing - nasty things can get clogged in the pipes which causes water to slowly drain as it sits in the basin or tub; compare this with our arteries - we eat junk foods and clots block the blood carrying life wielding oxygen in the arteries that travel from our heart throughout our body. Thus a heart attack provides signs of the a problem like that of a clogged sink letting you know that you need a rotor-rooter to clean out the pipes - your heart sends signals - perhaps a pain or heaviness in your chest, arm, jaw or back - you might feel nauseous, sweaty and start to breath heavy - all these are signs telling you to call 9-1-1, have someone get an AED and a first aid kit at the ready until EMS arrives.

A cardiac arrest is very different - compare it to a power outage - one minute you could be watching the big game on tv and the next minute - "poof" - the power goes out. A cardiac arrest is just like a power outage - one minute you're talking to someone and the next minute you're falling to the ground as if the power was turned off - your heart has stopped and now you're praying that the person you were talking to you recognizes what has happened, knows what to do and immediately gets an AED and if none is available starts to perform CPR (Call 9-1-1, Push hard and fast in the middle of the chest to the beat of Staying Alive by the Bee Gees and simply Responds) rather than panicking and doing nothing.

These generations of kids sits ideal playing with their electronic devices and consume large quantities of sugary drinks and fast fatty foods with some consuming large quantities of energy or power drinks that spike their heart rates and dehydrates them all at the same time. God forbid if these kids play sports in the hot sun after drinking one of these Monster or Red Bull or other energy drinks.

These keiki o ka aina are our future and if we, their responsible adults, na kupuna don't pass this bill to help protect our future, we are robbing ourselves and those of our children. Do the right thing and put AEDs in the schools and emphasize the importance of knowing CPR and using the AED to save a life. Do it now as each minute we delay, another person dies and is added to the statistics list. Let's hope it's not your child or grandchild that falls in this category. Do the right thing and pass this bill.

Thank you ~ Crystal van Beelen, Ewa Beach, HI