



Dear Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for your efforts in bringing SB 2610 and HB 1747 to where it is today. My family has been working very hard to spread awareness on Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), CPR, and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use since my sister passed away from SCA. I have faith that people will realize how important it is to be proactive and do what is necessary to save lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony. My two children will also share their written testimony at the end.

In 2009, my family and I were away on vacation when I received a telephone call that I would never forget and has changed our lives forever. My step-mom, Sharon Maekawa, said that my sister, Kristin Claudi, passed away of a SCA. How could this be? My baby sister was a seemingly healthy 28-year old woman. And what was a SCA??

Kristin was a special education pre-school teacher who collapsed while attending a meeting on campus. Unfortunately, others who attended the meeting did not recognize signs of what was happening to Kristin and therefore, made sure she was comfortable until first responders arrived. No one performed CPR and there was no AED on campus. I don't blame them as they probably did not recognize or know signs of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Admittedly, I did not know what a SCA was at the time and thought that it was another term for "heart attack." Kristin left behind a heartbroken family and a devastated 4th grade niece and 2nd grade nephew, whom also attended the same school.

Since Kristin's passing, my step-mom, Sharon, has made it her life's mission to spread SCA/CPR/AED awareness and education. Seeing that Kristin was a teacher, Sharon also envisioned a law that would require AEDs on all school campuses. Sharon chose to begin her quest by educating students and faculty. Sharon joined forces with Pamela Foster, founder of the AED Institute, and formed a non-profit organization called Hawaii Heart Foundation, in memory of my sister. Together, with countless volunteers, Sharon and Pam continue to bring awareness to schools and the community.

Kristin's niece, Bailey, and nephew, Kenney (my children), have since become certified instructors and have accompanied Grandma Sharon and Pam on numerous occasions to schools and events in the community. Knowing how to perform hands only CPR and use of AEDs is so simple that an elementary school child can do it! My children and many other children who have since learned and volunteered will attest to that. Lives saving lives.

We spend the majority of our days at work or school. This is where we should feel safe and reassured that if something were to happen; fellow students and coworkers are educated on what to do. We want to spare another family the

heartache of what we went through with my sister's passing. Please help to support SB 2610 and HB 1747.

Sincerely,
Michele Chan

Testimony from Bailey, age 15:

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this bill. The fact that it has gone this far is unbelievable. If my mother hasn't mentioned it already, my aunty, Kristin Claudi, passed away about five years ago due to a cardiac arrest. Being in fourth grade at that time, it was hard for me to process what was going on. All I knew was that my aunty was gone because of a heart defect and that the people around her didn't know what to do. It is very possible that if they knew what to do, my aunty would be here right now, but I don't blame them, because the word about how to do Hands-Only CPR and how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator) is spectacularly increasing.

When I was eleven years old, I became a certified CPR instructor. Honestly, at that young age, I had no idea where it was going, but I knew I wanted to teach people. In the sixth grade, I started off teaching my GT (gifted and talented) language arts class how to perform Hands-Only CPR and to operate an AED. They actually enjoyed learning and it lead me to teach my whole sixth grade class at Moanalua Elementary School, where my aunty used to teach before she passed. Ever since then, throughout my busy schedule from sports, I've been trying my very best to attend all events that I can to inform people about how to save lives. With people knowing that knowledge and the tools needed, many lives have a greater chance of surviving.

Schools are where the children of Hawai'i stay for most of the day. I feel that teachers, administration, staff, and especially the students should know how to do CPR and how to use and AED. The chances of someone collapsing at any time are high, and imagine if everyone knew what to do, lives would be saved, people eternally grateful for the person who saved their life. I feel we need the AEDs in every single school and every person informed and taught how to perform CPR.

We need AEDs at every sporting event and every athletic trainer proficient in how to operate the AED. Being a student athlete, knowing many other athletes and knowing that we all have a chance at being the one to collapse, I know the value of these AEDs, along with knowing CPR. It's priceless.

No one's life is worth giving up on. Every student deserves the opportunity at a second chance at life; knock on wood, it never happens. Sadly, it will and I really hope that this bill follows through.

There is nothing more touching and moving than when you hear about someone's story of how they saved a life. This would mean so much to not only me, but also a vast group of people who really dedicate themselves to saving lives.

Thank you so much for your time, I truly appreciate it.

Mahalo and aloha,
Bailey Chan

Testimony from Kenney, age 12:
Dear Ways and Means Committee,

I personally feel that there should be AED at every school and sporting event, and that there should be someone trained to use it. I feel like there should be an AED at every school because if someone does ever need to help someone, an AED should be available. Just like in case of a fire, an extinguisher should be available.

I also had my auntie pass away from a cardiac arrest in a teacher meeting, nobody knew what to do, and that's why I think a trained athletic trainer should also be available. I know what it feels like to have someone close to me, pass away when they could have been saved. I don't want anyone else to go through what I did. I was angry for a very long time because everyone, even the doctors, didn't know what was wrong with her. Then when they found out, it seemed as if it could have been so easy to save her. I don't want anyone else to lose someone when they could have been saved.

Sincerely,
Kenney Chan III