



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0115
RELATING TO HEALTH**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 13, 2015 Room Number: 414

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports Senate Bill 0115
3 (SB0115). The purpose of SB0115 is to connect adolescents back to their healthcare provider by
4 expanding the physical examination requirement. Currently, physical examinations are only
5 conducted upon entry into the school system in kindergarten. SB0115 expands the physical
6 examination requirement to also include entry into seventh grade. Grade seven was chosen
7 because it coincides with current immunization requirements. This bill follows the lead of other
8 states and Hawaii private schools who have multiple physical examination requirements
9 throughout a child's educational journey.

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

16 The proposed increase in the physical exam requirements is congruent with the policy
17 priority set forth by the Obesity Prevention Task Force. The Task Force, co-chaired by our late
18 Director Loretta Fuddy developed and recommended legislation pursuant to Act 269 (SB2778
19 CD1), Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. The policy to expand physical examination requirements

1 for public school students was proposed to reinforce a culture of wellness and preventive health
2 care.

3 Currently, the state expends \$470 million a year on obesity-related medical costs, and
4 \$770 million on diabetes-related medical costs. Today in Hawaii, more than one in two adults
5 (BRFSS 2012; 56%) and over one in four high school (YRBS 2013; 28.2%) are overweight or
6 obese. The rate adults with diabetes in Hawaii is 8.4% and an additional 12.9% have been
7 diagnosed with pre-diabetes (2013 BRFSS). By 2030 half of adults in Hawaii are projected to be
8 obese without effective interventions (2013, Trust for America's Health). According to the Trust
9 for America's Health, "Keeping people healthier is one of the most effective ways to reduce
10 healthcare costs," (July 2008).

11 The adoption of this measure entails family and community engagement. The additional
12 physical exam requirements offer physicians and healthcare providers together with parents and
13 adolescents the opportunity to address developmentally relevant physical and mental health
14 issues. Regular visits are preventive, so health needs can be assessed and addressed early. The
15 requirements of SB0115 embraces the whole child to assure they are healthy and ready to learn.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

Date: 02/13/2015
Time: 02:30 PM
Location: 414
Committee: Senate Health
Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0115 RELATING TO HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Requires a child to undergo a physical examination prior to attending seventh grade, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 115 which proposes that a child undergoes a physical examination prior to attending seventh grade beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. This bill will help to ensure students are healthy and ready to learn. Further, families will be able to coordinate the physical exam with the adolescent series of vaccinations.

We respectfully ask for your favorable support of an appropriation since this measure places more recordkeeping and accountability responsibilities on the schools and will increase their workload. As such, this will result in a significant workload increase for schools with limited office staffing, combo schools that serve a broader population in terms of grades, and schools with a high student enrollment. This will stretch already limited resources, as schools will need to:

- Inform parents/legal guardians about the new 7th grade requirement in advance of enrollment (e.g., written notice);
- Ensure the school health aide can review all new student health records (Form 14) for complete immunization information and confirm proof of physical exam in a timely manner;
- Notify parents/legal guardians in writing about any compliance problems;
- Follow-up on students with pending physical exams; and
- Maintain a database of students who have met and not met the requirements.

Also, work related to this measure would not end upon enrollment. For all schools, the amount of additional work required would necessitate, at minimum, additional half-time clerical support to aid with the recordkeeping and accountability embedded in this measure. This would allow the health aide to attend to the general health/first aid needs of students throughout the school

day.

The Department has estimated funding in the amount of \$801,625 for fifty-five half-time equivalent (27.5 FTE) Office Assistant positions to carry out the purposes of this measure. Respectfully, the Department would like to ensure that SB 115 would not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Further, the Department suggests that the language in the new subsection (a) (p.1, line 11) parallel the existing language in (b) by referring to "...or **other** authorized representative of the department of health." (p.2, line 8)

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB115 on Feb 13, 2015 14:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 2:25:42 PM

SB115

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for HTH/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Comments Only	No

Comments: While this of course is a good idea, and one of the ideas of the State Obesity Task Force, I feel it is too late in a child's life. Children have a physical exam before kindergarten and probably should have one beginning of 5th at the latest. Childhood obesity and related adult diseases are a real and present problem and the problem is not going away until we address the core issues. increasing knowledge and practice, both in school and out, in the areas of Nutrition and Physical Activity. Both of these areas are not currently DOE priorities, but could be. There are currently 195 school gardens, and if supported could be creating life-long skills for healthy nutrition and physical activity. Please support the kind of learning that is deeply engaging and meaningful to our children's futures. Mahalo, Nancy Redfeather
The Kohala Center

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: tandemadams@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB115 on Feb 13, 2015 14:30PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 6:11:15 PM

SB115

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for HTH/EDU on Feb 13, 2015 14:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Adams	Hawaii community pharmacy association	Support	No

Comments:

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February 13, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glen Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, 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: **SB115: Relating to Education**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB115 to mandate a physical examination for entry into seventh grade in the public school system.

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving over 33,000 patients in Leeward Oahu. Of those patients, 13,385 are school age children served primarily in our pediatric clinic on the main campus in Waianae. To better meet the dynamic physical, emotional and social needs of our adolescent patients, an adolescent clinic and two school based health centers are 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. SB115 combines the physical assessment requirement into the same timeframe required for immunization updates, thus lessening the burden for parents.

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 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.

Reconnecting our adolescents with their primary care provider embraces the whole child to assure they are healthy and ready to learn. While we know SB115 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.**



To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Education
Members, Senate Committee on Education

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: February 11, 2015

Hrg: Senate Committee on Health; Friday, February 13, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in Rm 414
Senate Committee on Education; Friday, February 13, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in Rm 414

Re: **Support for SB 115, Relating to Health**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of** Senate Bill 115, which requires children to undergo a physical examination prior to attending seventh grade, and provides for provisional attendance with written documentation if a child is in progress of undergoing a physical examination and sets a deadline for submittal of documentation of completion of such examination.

The Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawaii. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawaii the healthiest place on earth.

Currently, kindergarten is the only time when students are required to have a health assessment in order to attend public school. In contrast, students attending private schools are assessed every one to two years. While physical examinations are conducted for sports activities, those types of examinations are limited and not as comprehensive as a health assessment. As academic success of Hawaii's youth is intimately linked to their health, this additional health screening has great promise for strengthening our youth. Research shows that poor health such as mental health disorders, uncontrolled asthma, poor nutrition and sleep disorders are closely linked to poor academic outcomes. Further, obesity is becoming more of an issue each year, with as many as one in four children in Hawaii already being considered overweight or obese, contributing to medical expenditures that totaled more than \$470 million in 2009 alone.



The routine physical assessment of students is important for monitoring the health and wellbeing of our keiki. Conducting an additional physical assessment at the benchmark of entering seventh grade 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. Vision and hearing are also screened, which can interfere with learning. The physical exam helps link the child back to their medical home, which has shown an improvement in health for a variety of outcomes. 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. Under the Affordable Care Act, these physical exams would be done free of charge for all of Hawaii's keiki.

Hawaii Public Health Institute supports SB 115, and asks the committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

The Hon. Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill 115

Relating to Health

Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director

February 13, 2014, 2:30 pm, Room 414

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified health centers/community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 115, requiring children undergo a physical examination prior to beginning seventh grade.

In Hawaii, public education is student centered and grounded in a commitment to equity. Part of that equity depends squarely on ensuring all children having the opportunity to pursue, and excel in, their education. The number one cause most often provided by parents of children experiencing chronic absenteeism from our public schools is healthcare. As a community, we must do more to ensure our students have access to health care, and utilize that access through wellness checkups and preventive visits so they can reduce their incidents of chronic absenteeism by identifying and addressing health issues early-on. Asthma, vision, hearing, depression, and many other health issues can be identified through screenings and physical examinations.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and
Senate Committee on Education
February 13, 2015 at 2:30 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
And

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

May Okihira, MD, Professor of Pediatrics
John A. Burns School of Medicine

SB115 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chairs Green and Kidani, Vice Chairs Wakai and Harimoto, and members of the committees:

Thank you for an opportunity to testify in strong support of SB115, which requires children to undergo a physical examination prior to attending seventh grade beginning with the 2016-2017 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.

RE: SB 115

Hearing scheduled 12/13/15

HTH/EDU

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Honorable Senators and Committee Members

The purpose of this testimony is to amend SB 115 by adding physician assistant as per the bracketed, capitalized, and underscored amendments as noted below. These amendments are included in the amended attached version of the Bill.

A child may attend school provisionally upon submitting written documentation from a licensed physician,[PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT] advanced practice registered nurse, or authorized representative of the department of health stating that the child is in the process of undergoing a physical examination. Further documentation showing that the required physical examination has been completed shall be submitted to the appropriate school official no later than three months after the child attends the school.

(b) No child shall attend any school for the first time in the State unless the child presents to the appropriate school official a report from a licensed physician[.PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT] or advanced practice registered nurse of the results of a physical examination performed within a year of the date of attendance at school.

- Physician assistants are licensed to practice medicine under physician supervision, in accordance with HRS Chapter 453.
- They represent approximately 15% of the combined physician/advanced practice provider workforce.
- 453-5.3, HRS delegates to the board of medical examiners the responsibility to adopt rules regarding standards of medical education and training governing physician assistants, such standards to equal but not be limited by existing national education and training standards, and the degree of supervision required by a supervising physician.
- "Supervision" means overseeing the activities of, and accepting responsibility for, the medical services rendered by a physician assistant. Supervision shall be continuous but shall not be construed as necessarily requiring the physical presence of the supervising physician at the time and place the services are rendered. Charts are reviewed, but there is no co-signature requirement.

As allowed by law, physician assistants are working in clinics remote from their supervising physicians, and this is by design, in order to fill provider shortages.

The delivery of primary care medicine in Hawaii and nationally is provided by physicians and advanced practice providers. When referencing any information regarding advanced practice providers, one sees the term advanced practice nurse or nurse practitioner listed simultaneously or side by side with physician assistant. The training for both is generally considered equivalent. Both of these provider types are helping to fill provider shortages in Hawaii.

In 2012 The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) broadened the definition of “medical staff” to include physician assistants and advanced practice nurses. The explicit change now allows hospitals to give non-physician practitioners, such as advanced practice nurses, physician assistants the power to perform duties that they are trained for and allowed to do within their scope of practice and state law.

It is the position of the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants, that in general, any proposed legislation regarding the provision of health care that is presented to the legislature that contains the language, physician and advanced practice registered nurse should also include physician assistant. This is because physician assistants are the only other component of the health care work force that is licensed to practice medicine in Hawaii and is providing primary care medical care services to Hawaii’s residents.

HAPA is uncertain whether these omissions are intentional or oversights, but would like to bring your attention to it here, so that it can be remedied by the simple amendment as proposed by HAPA.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Fielding Mercer, PA-C
Immediate past President
Legislative Liaison
Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants

THE SENATE
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 115

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Section 302A-1159, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§302A-1159 Physical examination required. (a) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, no child shall attend seventh grade unless the child presents to the appropriate school official written documentation from a licensed physician, [PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT,] or advanced practice registered nurse showing completion of the required physical examination performed within twelve months before the date of attendance. A child may attend school provisionally upon submitting written documentation from a licensed physician, [PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT] advanced practice registered nurse, or authorized representative of the department of health stating that the child is in the process of undergoing a physical examination. Further documentation showing that the required physical examination has been completed shall be submitted to the appropriate school official no later than three months after the child attends the school.

(b) No child shall attend any school for the first time in the State unless the child presents to the appropriate school official a report from a licensed physician [PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT] or advanced practice registered nurse of the results of a physical examination performed within a year of the date of attendance at school. A child may attend school provisionally

upon submitting written documentation from a licensed physician,[PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, OR] advanced practice registered nurse, or other authorized representative of the department of health stating that the child is in the process of undergoing a physical examination. Further documentation showing that the required physical examination has been completed shall be submitted to the appropriate school official no later than three months after the child first attends the school."

SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Report Title:

Health; Education; Physical Examination

Description:

Requires a child to undergo a physical examination prior to attending seventh grade, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.