



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

Date: 03/02/2015
Time: 09:00 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

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. The bill's intent is to help ensure students are healthy and ready to learn. Further, the proposal seeks to allow families 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. We are open to discussing and working on possible alternative approaches to address the workload increase while remaining mindful of the outlined impact this proposal will have upon schools and their staff.

Respectfully, the Department requests that SB 115 should 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.