



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

Date: 02/12/2016

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Education Senate
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2387 RELATING TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Purpose of Bill: Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, requires a child to provide written documentation of a physical examination performed within twelve months prior to attending seventh grade at a public school. Provides for provisional attendance if an exam is scheduled.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports healthy lifestyles for Hawaii's youth. However, the Department does not support physical examinations as a condition of entrance and attendance for seventh graders at a public school.

While the Department recognizes the intent of this bill, the mandate to present results of a physical examination prior to seventh grade will serve as a deterrent to maintaining continuous enrollment and regular attendance, and may negatively impact student learning and achievement outcomes.

In lieu of a mandate, the Department is open to collaborating on a public campaign on this subject and exploring alternatives with the Department of Health (DOH) that may allow DOH staff to follow-up with families of students who require assistance or services.

Further, this bill has significant programmatic impacts as it will place additional recordkeeping and accountability responsibilities on schools and increase workload of staff. As schools already have very limited staffing, additional resources will be required in order to implement this measure effectively. The department's current budget does not have the means to cover such additional expense.

The Department has estimated funding in the amount of \$801,625 for fifty-five half-time equivalent (27.5 FTE) Office Assistant positions will be needed to address the record-keeping and accountability responsibilities this measure will place on schools. The follow-up requirements will result in a workload increase for schools with limited office staffing, as schools

will need to:

- Inform parents/legal guardians about the new 7th grade requirement in advance of enrollment (e.g., written notice);
- Work with the school health aide (SHA) to ensure the SHA 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.

The follow-up work related to this measure would not end upon enrollment. The additional half-time clerical support would provide the necessary supports to schools, and allow the school health aide to attend to the general health/first aid needs of students at a school throughout the school day.

Additionally, should this measure move forward, the Department is exploring alternatives that may allow Department of Health staff to follow-up with families of students who have not met or are unable to meet the physical examination requirement mandates of this proposal.

Last year, the Department sought feedback from our Complex Area Superintendents and Principals on this measure. For your consideration, we would like to share some of those comments:

"Our school has challenges with chronic absenteeism. Having this new regulation will be "one more thing" and extreme burden to our students and families, as it is already difficult getting them to come to school regularly." - Oahu Middle School Principal

"I think the bill is good re: 7th graders having physical exams before attending school. It should be for all students in grade 7. However, I do see difficulty: No problem for families who live here long, have a job, transportation and have family doctors on hand as well as medical insurance. Just being able to have an appt would be a factor to consider. For many who are not as fortunate and struggle daily, there will be difficulties:

- 1. Scheduling appts. way in advance; so difficult to obtain appts. Walk-ins at sub clinics may be able to accommodate such.*
- 2. Our immigrant families worrying about doctor bills and may be very hesitant to move on it. Will need ELL personnel to help them understand what needs to be done.*
- 3. Transportation and where to go may be another factor for new families to the island*
- 4. insurance. Immigrant families may have difficulty with this." - CAS (Oahu)*

"What message are we sending to the community...we want your child here but they can't attend until they have a physical. Which could be an extra cost and time off for parents for doctor appointments. If we are looking at identifying health issues with our students, there are free programs already in the communities that offer screening for students, especially low economic areas. If there is a clear purpose of why we are asking for a physical, I could better understand whether to support or oppose this bill. It would be a lot of man power at the school level to ensure all students submit and follow up the actual physicals are on record." - Maui Middle School Principal

"In polling my school principals most felt that any additional level of health screening would be beneficial but all were concerned about the huge compliance load on schools. Who chases the parents, not in compliance? How can we force people to pay for a physical if they cannot afford to do so? Is thus not another obstacle to providing a free compulsory education?" - CAS (Big

Island)

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

LATE

RE: SB 2387

RELATING TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.
EDU/CPH 02-12-16 12:30PM in conference room 229

Honorable Senators and Committee Members:

HAPA supports this bill, but only with amendments.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are not included in the list of providers who can perform or report on physical exam status. The bill should be amended to include PAs.

PAs are included in previous laws as providers who perform school physicals. They routinely perform school physicals and need to be included here.

Medicare defines non physician providers as follows:

Non-Physician Practitioners (NPPS) fall into 2 broad categories: Physician Assistants (PAs) and Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs or ARNP's). APRNs in Hawaii.

The ACA (Affordable Care Act) recognizes PAs as an essential part of the solution to the primary care shortage by formally acknowledging them as one of the three primary care health providers, along with NPs and doctors.

Medical home accreditors recognize PAs. Standards from NCQA (National Committee for Quality Assurance), JCAHO (The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations), and URAC (Utilization Review Accreditation Commission) recognize PAs as primary care providers and as qualified to lead patient care teams.

In most cases, whenever legislative changes regarding the provision of medical care proposes changes to include physicians and nurse practitioners (NPs/APRNs), language should also include PAs who are an integral part of the health care team in improving access to care and providing primary medical care to patients in Hawaii.

We have included proposed amendments as follows:
Amendments are bolded, capitalized, italicized and underlined.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of these amendments.

Fielding Mercer, PA-C
Legislative Liaison
Director at Large
Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that school physical examinations are currently only conducted upon entry into the public school system, usually in kindergarten. The expansion of physical examination requirements for public school students will help reinforce a culture of wellness and preventative health care in the State. Furthermore, for children and adolescents who are obese, an additional physical examination visit provides an opportunity for the health care provider to assess the possible causes of obesity and develop a plan to support family-based lifestyle changes.

The purpose of this Act is to require a child to provide written documentation of a physical examination performed within twelve months prior to attending seventh grade at a public school.

SECTION 2. Section 302A-1159, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§302A-1159 Physical examination required. (a) Beginning with the 2017-2018 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; provided that 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 seventh grade.

(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~~] twelve months before the date of attendance at school. A child may attend school provisionally upon submitting written

documentation from a licensed physician, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, 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 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Report Title:

Physical Examination; Education

Description:

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, requires a child to provide written documentation of a physical examination performed within twelve months prior to attending seventh grade at a public school. Provides for provisional attendance if an exam is scheduled.

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