



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
April 1, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

by

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

and

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Dean and Professor

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 841 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO SCHOOL HEALTH

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 841 SD2 HD2.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing (UH Mānoa Nursing) is in support of SB 841 SD2 HD2, with amendments, which establishes an interagency working group to create a comprehensive school health program.

Earlier this school year, UH Mānoa Nursing engaged with the Department of Education (DOE) in the Hawai'i Keiki Program: Healthy and Ready to Learn to place a school nurse in five complex areas across the State. Over the past eight months since its inception, Hawai'i Keiki nurses in the five complex areas have created school and student health policies, integrated school wellness planning, participated in Hawai'i Smiles, developed health content for newsletters and blogs, and enhanced regular communication with Public Health Nursing (PHN) and the Department of Health (DOH). This effort is a safety net partnership to increase access to healthcare for a vulnerable population – pre-kindergarten to high school keiki – by providing school health nursing and when required, primary care services in the public schools.

School health nurses are the coordinators of health in the schools. With the Hawai'i Keiki Program, UH Mānoa Nursing looks forward to contributing to the school health dialogue from the school nurse perspective and academic partner perspective. This bill adds depth and breadth to the school based health conversation and a cross-agency venue to discuss and develop system-wide strategies and school or complex area strategies, alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 841 SD2 HD 2.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Finance

The Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair

The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill 841 SD2 HD2

Relating to School Health

Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director

April 1, 2015, 2:30 pm, Room 308

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, supports Senate Bill 841 SD2 HD2, which calls for an interagency working group between the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to create a school health program.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as home life, income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, and housing environments can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes. Our youth need healthy, safe after-school opportunities that engage and connect them with positive experiences and outcomes in their lives. The health of our communities and the health of our future largely depend on the environments we provide our keiki to grow up in. The REACH program created by this measure is a good start to address this vital need for our youth while addressing social determinants of health.

This bill speaks directly to several key social determinants, seeking to bolster the education system as well as provide invaluable training and assistance for health and well-being to Hawaii's schoolchildren. It also calls for the active participation of a community health center representative, which is both appreciated and conducive to community involvement.

For these reasons we support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII
1177 Alakea Street • B-100 • Honolulu • HI • 96813
TEL: (808) 586-5363 • TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 • FAX: (808) 586-5366

March 30, 2015

Representative Sylvia Luke
Chair House Committee on Finance – Hawaii State Capitol

RE: SB841 SD2 HD2 - RELATING TO SCHOOL HEALTH

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committees,

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) of Hawaii **supports SB 841 SD2 HD2** which requires the Department of Education and Department of Health to jointly establish an interagency working group to create a comprehensive school health program.

A comprehensive school health program is critical to improve student success and ensure that both Departments are working in a joint, cohesive manner. This change will create a deep cultural impact in both Departments as the singular focus is serving Students. We would be happy to offer our expertise as a resource to the interagency group once it is constituted.

The CCCs are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education.

We respectfully request your consideration of **SB841 SD2 HD2**. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) at 586-5363. Thank you for considering our testimony,

Tom Smith, Co-Chair

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)



LATE

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance
The Honorable Scott Y Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Finance
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: March 31, 2015

Hrg: House Committee on Finance; Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in Rm 308

Re: **Support for SB 841, SD2, HD2, Relating to School Health**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of** Senate Bill 841, SD2, HD2, which will improve the delivery of school health services by establishing an interagency working group to create a comprehensive school health program.

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.

In 2004, Act 51 was enacted to revamp education in Hawaii by creating an interagency working group. These interagency working groups allow for the development of plans for transferring of certain rights, powers, functions, duties, and resources from various State Departments to the Department of Education. This will enable a revamping of the education system in Hawaii. The establishment of these interagency working groups will also facilitate interagency communication and help address various issues that may have not been resolved since Act 51, or may have arisen as a result of the transfers implemented pursuant to Act 51.

This bill will require the Department of Education and the Department of Health to jointly convene an interagency working group to discuss and create a comprehensive school health program. With rising health concerns and needs we believe this interagency working group is essential. Findings and recommendations from this group will allow for either the Department, and/or the Legislature, to address concerns regarding infrastructure necessary to establish a comprehensive, sustainable school health program and provide a sustainability plan with quality assurance and quality improvement parameters.

The Hawaii Public Health Institute supports Senate Bill 841, SD2, HD2 and feels this will help to address health concerns within the school system. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

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

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director



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



Date: 04/01/2015
Time: 02:30 PM
Location: 308
Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0841, SD2, HD2 RELATING TO SCHOOL HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education and Department of Health to jointly establish an interagency working group to create a comprehensive school-based health program. Appropriates funds. (SB841 HD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 841 SD2 HD1 which establishes an interagency working group to create a comprehensive school health program.

The Department has initiated a productive dialog with the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, the University of Hawaii School of Nursing, and other key stakeholders on this measure. The Department recommends narrowing the focus of the work towards the establishment of school based health. The Department has provided suggested language for the committee's consideration below.

Additionally, the Department respectfully request consideration for an appropriation of \$100,000 a year towards supporting this important foundational work for the next two years.

SECTION 1. Comprehensive school-based health programs have many benefits. School-based health programs can offer a full range of services that reduce health related absenteeism and increase student academic success, including screening for conditions that interfere with learning, identification of infectious disease outbreaks, providing referrals for additional services and

emergency care as well as primary care as needed, mental health, dental health, and social services. Students are more willing to seek help for sensitive issues like depression, suicide attempts, weight problems and pregnancy prevention within school walls. School-based health saves parents the inconvenience of taking time off from work, while also improving students' attendance, dropout rates, and classroom behavior. Programs reduce the time taken away from instruction and increase instructional of teachers.

Additionally, a recent federal policy reversal will enable schools to take on this enhanced role in managing chronic childhood diseases. The change by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will allow public schools to receive Medicaid reimbursement for covered health services provided to eligible students.

The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to establish an interagency working group to create a comprehensive statewide school-based health program responsive to the needs of local schools and their communities.

SECTION 2. (a) The department of education, in collaboration with the department of health, and the department of human services, shall convene an interagency working group to create a school based health program that includes a comprehensive, sustainable plan to address, at minimum:

(1) The development of a program infrastructure that incorporates federal reimbursements, public-private partnerships,

training for employees, and services such a program can deliver, such as diabetes care, mental health care, dental health, and emergency medical response where necessary;

(2) A needs assessment with resource inventory of school-based health services, including but not limited to responsibilities currently held by the department of education and department of health, and any issues relating to logistics and coordination of services;

(3) An evidence based delivery model that meets national nursing staffing recommendations for such activities;

(4) The identification of mechanisms necessary to maximize all relevant and available funds for services that may be offered through the comprehensive school health program;

(5) Any personnel issues that may arise as a result of the comprehensive school-based health program; and

(6) Any projected cost estimates and resource requirements, as well as phase-in options for the implementation of the comprehensive school based health program.

(b) The working group shall include the following members:

(1) The superintendent of education, or the superintendent's designee;

(2) The director of health, or the director's designee;

(3) The director of human services, or the director's designee;

(4) The dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's school of nursing and dental hygiene, or the dean's designee;

(5) A Chief Executive Officer representative with pediatric

experience from the Healthcare Association of Hawaii;

(6) The chair of the senate standing committee on education or the chair's designee;

(7) The chair of the house of representatives standing committee on education or the chair's designee;

(8) The chair of the senate standing committee on health or the chair's designee;

(9) The chair of the house of representatives standing committee on health or the chair's designee;

(10) A representative from the Hawaii Primary Care Association; and

(11) The parent of a child attending a department of education public school, to be chosen by the governor.

(c) The interagency working group may create working sub-committees necessary to accomplish its tasks. Individuals other than those on the interagency working group may be included on the working sub-committees.

(d) The working group shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2016, and a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017.

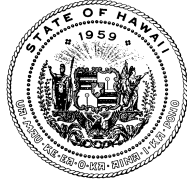
(e) No member of the interagency working group or any of its working sub-committees shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's participation as a member of the interagency working group or its working sub-committees.

(f) The interagency working group shall cease to exist on December 31, 2016.

(g) There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of education for the purposes of this Act.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB 841, SD2, HD2
Relating to School Health**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: APRIL 1, 2015

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of SB841 SD2
3 HD 2 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our
4 Executive Budget.

5 This bill directs the Department of Education (DOE) and the DOH to convene an interagency
6 working group to create a comprehensive school health program. Although this appears to be an
7 excellent opportunity to examine how the current services provided are meeting the health needs
8 of the students and to explore innovative ideas to enhance school health services, DOH is not
9 prepared to discuss the transfer of public health nursing staff to DOE. The department is under
10 new leadership and requests the opportunity to establish new strategic priorities and objectives.
11 The Public Health Nursing Branch delivers an array of services to the most vulnerable of
12 Hawaii's residents, from keiki to kupuna in all settings, often being the provider of last resort for
13 those without access or means to healthcare. We appreciate the opportunity to reinforce the
14 relationship between health and education that will support the best interest of students, and
15 recommend substituting the following section:

16 **Offered Amendments:** Page 2, Bill Section 2, Lines 13 – 17 to read as follows:

17 (2) The partnerships and collaboration of public health nurses from the department of health
18 within the department of education, including supervisory issues that may arise.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.