



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1157, H.D. 1
RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENT IMMUNIZATIONS

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/26/2019

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department understands post-secondary institutions' concerns
3 regarding the uncertainty of timing related to the adoption of proposed amendments to title 11,
4 chapter 157, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR 11-157) and does not foresee any negative
5 impacts as a result of this measure. Exemptions for students who are enrolled in exclusively on-
6 line courses or degree programs will be included in proposed amendments to HAR 11-157 as
7 these students would not be required to report to traditional, congregate post-secondary school
8 classroom or dormitory settings.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 26, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

By
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1157 HD1 – RELATING TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENT IMMUNIZATIONS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) strongly supports HB 1157 HD1 which exempts post-secondary students in exclusively online education or distance learning programs from providing evidence of immunizations as required by Title 11, Chapter 157, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR).

Post-secondary online education and distance learning programs expand access to higher education and workforce development opportunities. Online and distance learning programs provide more flexibility in location and schedule for students who are working, have family demands or have other challenges participating in on-campus, in-person classes. Participation in UH's online and distance courses is robust with 1,428 online classes in Fall 2018. With the legislative support appropriated in 2018, the UH is increasing its online learning opportunities. A new, fully online Associate in Arts (AA) program, organized as a year-round program of 5-week "accelerated" classes, begins with an optional college readiness class on July 2, 2019 and a two and a half year series of courses beginning August 26, 2019. Students in the first cohort will graduate from Leeward Community College in December 2021 with an AA degree and may subsequently pursue a bachelor's degree online.

Currently, HAR requires that post-secondary students provide immunization records with evidence of identified vaccinations. These rules, last updated in 2001, apply to all enrolled students, whether students are attending in person or remotely via technology. The Department of Health (DOH) revised the HAR for Tuberculosis 2018 and proposed changes to HAR for immunization to exempt students who participate in fully online programs. These exemptions streamline enrollment in online programs, reducing paperwork which is often a barrier to participation. In Fall 2018, DOH held public hearings for the proposed HAR for immunizations and is currently reviewing public comments on proposed HAR; the proposed immunization exemption for students in online and distance programs will not be in effect until the revised rules are adopted.

Therefore, HB 1157 HD1 would exempt post-secondary students in exclusively online and distance-learning programs from immunization requirements in time to benefit students who are participating in UH's inaugural online accelerated AA cohort and would establish the exemption in statute.

In closing, I wish to thank the Legislature for their support of expanding opportunities for Hawaii's residents through online and distance education. We request your support for this bill to streamline enrollment for online students.

February 24, 2019

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education (HRE)

From: China Kobuke
University of Hawaii, at Manoa
Bachelor's of Social Work student

Re: Testimony in Against of HB 1157

Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and fellow committee members,

My name is China Kobuke, and I am a current online BSW student at the University of Hawaii, at Manoa. I am testifying against HB 1157. While I understand the logistics behind not needing immunizing requirements, it is my concern that if we (students) are not required to be immunized and we start our practicum (internship) with the general public, my worry is for not only our health and well-being, but for the population that we will be servicing as well. We will have access to populations such as geriatrics, the homeless, children, etc., therefore I believe it would be beneficial for all parties involved in our care that everyone is protected from possible diseases.

Once again, I am in opposition to HB 1157.

Mahalo,
China Kobuke
BSW student
University of Hawaii, at Manoa
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