



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

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: 2/8/2019

Room Number: 309

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

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
and  
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education  
February 8, 2019 at 2:15 p.m.  
By  
John Morton  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

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

Chairs Mizuno and Woodson, Vice Chairs Kobayashi, Hashem, and Perruso, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 1157 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 for 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 the 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 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. The proposed exemption is consistent with the proposed HAR and DOH's intent. The bill contains language to repeal this session law once the revised HAR are adopted.

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.

**HB-1157**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:04:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1157**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 10:17:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2019 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tracy	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

No one should be forced to vaccinate their kids to get an education period! Vaccinations have been proven and linked to death and illnesses. The fact that the state thinks they have the power to force people to poison their keiki is crimmminal.