



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.C.R. 99 S.D. 1**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AN**  
**INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF**  
**CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC**  
**SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: April 10, 2019

Room Number: 309

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) requires additional resources, not  
2 budgeted for, to hire a neutral/professional facilitator to support the interdepartmental working  
3 group. The cost of a professional facilitator for 4-6 months is estimated at \$25,000.00.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health offers comments on this resolution to  
5 convene an interdepartmental working group to address the lack of consolidated, consistent  
6 health screening programs in public schools for children in the State.

7 The DOH recognizes the importance of the early identification and treatment of vision, oral  
8 health, and behavioral concerns, to support children in their development and readiness for  
9 learning, school performance, and academic achievement. DOH Family Health Services Division  
10 currently provides consultation and training on vision screening protocols and tools.

11 The scope and membership of this resolution may be too big, and the timeline too short for the  
12 development of any realistic and/or meaningful recommendations. Consideration should also be  
13 given to the time period (May-August 2019) which coincides with summer break and the  
14 beginning of the new public school year which involves health-related projects by most, if not  
15 all, of the stakeholders identified in the resolution.

1 The DOH is willing to convene and participate in the interdepartmental working group to address  
2 the lack of consolidated, consistent health screening programs in public schools for children in  
3 Hawaii. The DOH is willing to work with the Departments of Education, and Human Services,  
4 our community partners, and health care provider representatives to identify the various health  
5 screening services offered to public school children in the State. Due to the scope of the working  
6 group and the multiple state agencies and community partners, we offer a few friendly  
7 amendments to the deliverables and timeline of the resolution.

8 **Offered Amendments:** Suggest the following amendments:

9 Delete page 3, lines 37-39:

10 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit its draft report to~~  
11 ~~the Legislative Reference Bureau no later than September 1, 2019; and~~

12 Change page 3, line 42:

13 “to submit a [final] report of its findings and recommendations,”

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 8, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno  
House Committee on Health

The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 99 SD 1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE.**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the resolution and offers comments.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of SCR 99 is to request that the Department of Health (DOH), DHS, and Department of Education (DOE) form a working group with stakeholders to review and make recommendations on ways to enhance the provision of health screening programs in public schools through school based health programs and services.

DHS supports the intent of the resolution and is in favor of collaborating with other agencies and stakeholders to promote a holistic approach to children's well-being. DHS has worked positively with the other agencies and stakeholders named in the past on various topics including health and education in the schools. The connection between health and education is an important one. That is why the agency will continue to support community-driven efforts to bring inclusive and sustainable progress to health care and supportive services for children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

**Date:** 04/10/2019  
**Time:** 02:00 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Health  
House Lower & Higher Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 099, SD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 99, SD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education approved budget.

It is the Department's vision that Hawai'i's students are educated, healthy, and joyful lifelong learners who contribute positively to our community and global society. This Senate Concurrent Resolution will help effectuate Board of Education Policy 103-4, which states, "Schools may partner with relevant government agencies and community organizations to support the provision of coordinated school health services whenever mutually agreeable to benefit students. Based on school community needs and available resources, schools may implement a range of services including but not limited to primary and preventive health care; dental, vision, and hearing screenings and services; school counseling, school based behavioral health, mental health, social services, school nutrition, health literacy education, physical education, a healthy school environment, and staff health and wellness."

We look forward to collaborating with state and community partners to achieve this vision and policy.

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

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice,

and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Director

Research (808) 587-0666  
Revisor (808) 587-0670  
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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 446  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## Written Testimony

### **SCR99, SD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE**

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director

Presented to the House Committees on Health and Lower and Higher Education

Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

Chairs Mizuno and Woodson and Members of the Committees:

Good afternoon Chairs Mizuno and Woodson and members of the Committees, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on S.C.R. No. 99, S.D. 1, Requesting the Department of Health to Convene an Interdepartmental Working Group to Address the Lack of Consolidated, Consistent Health Screening Programs in Public Schools for Children in the State.

The purpose of this measure is to request that:

- (1) The Department of Health is requested to convene an interdepartmental working group to address the lack of consolidated, consistent health screening programs in public schools for children in the State;
- (2) The working group submit their findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislative Reference Bureau no later than September 1, 2019; and
- (3) The Legislative Reference Bureau submit a final report of the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020.

While the Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on the merits of the measure, we submit the following comments for your consideration.

As a general matter, we note that the working group contemplated in this measure is to be convened the Department of Health, along with two other executive branch departments, and will be composed of members from those departments and from the private sector. No members of the Legislature will be part of the working group. The Bureau is statutorily directed to use its resources and services to assist the Legislature and its members, unless otherwise directed by the Legislature.

Accordingly, we have some concerns with how the measure is drafted with respect to the work requested of the Bureau. The language of the measure requires the Bureau to assist the working group with the drafting of its final report and proposed legislation, even though the working group will be housed within the Department of Health and work in conjunction with two other executive branch departments, all of which possess far more resources than the Bureau and are capable of drafting and finalizing their own reports and proposed legislation. Consequently, the Bureau does not believe that the working group contemplated under this measure requires the Bureau's assistance.

If the Committees decide to recommend the adoption of this measure and desire to keep the Bureau involved, the Bureau believes that the services requested under the measure could be manageable and that the Bureau will probably be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting studies, writing or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or any combination of these for the Legislature or for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for your consideration.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committees on Health and Lower and Higher Education  
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

by  
Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, Dean and Professor  
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene  
and  
Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 99 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT HEALTH SCREENING PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

Chairs Mizuno and Woodson, Vice Chairs Kobayashi, Hashem and Perruso, and members of the House Committees on Health and Lower and Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SCR 99 SD1.

This resolution recognizes that chronic absenteeism, poor health, and delayed or limited access to healthcare and preventive health services hinder students' academic success and schools' ability to meet the needs of the whole child. To address these challenges, this resolution establishes an interdepartmental working group, convened by the Department of Health, to address the lack of consolidated, consistent health screening programs in public schools for children in the state and to submit a report to the Legislature no later than September 1, 2019.

National evidence shows the presence of school-based licensed health care professionals, including APRNs and registered nurses (RNs), decreases absenteeism and time away from class of children with acute and chronic conditions, increases parents' and caregivers' time at work, and principals' and teachers' instructional time (Wong, 2014).

The 2015 Legislature, in its wisdom, recognized that students must come to school healthy and ready to learn. Through Act 139, you provided fiscal support for school-based health services through a Department of Education (DOE) partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (UHMSONDH) that enabled Hawai'i Keiki (UHM SONDH) to provide at least one school-based APRN to each of the 15 Complex Areas and 3 RNs to selected high need schools on four islands.



We are pleased to report the program has nurses on O‘ahu, Maui, Kaua‘i, and Hawai‘i Island. In the three-month period from October through December 2018 the program documented, with the school health aides (SHAs), that 5,300 students made 14,090 visits to the health rooms. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of students were able to return to class with an average time in the health room of 15 minutes for care for illness, injury or health guidance. Hawai‘i Keiki provided 85 consultations to DOE staff and parents regarding keiki with new or existing health conditions.

Since beginning this work, Hawai‘i Keiki has engaged with DOE, interdepartmental, and community partners to enrich, expand and coordinate the school-based health services available to students. Nurses engaged with DOE administrators, staff, and district-level Parent-Community Networking Centers (PCNC) to support wellness goals and with Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) to develop emergency response protocols and to facilitate requisition of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for schools. Other highlights include partnering with DOH for Stop Flu at School, Project Vision for vision screening, and leading a school-based UH health sciences team of child psychiatry, clinical pharmacy, and dental hygienists at one middle school.

Additionally, the project is supporting the successful statewide launch of a web-based school health record system that is capturing data to create school health profiles, ensure student health records are current (FERPA and HIPAA compliant), provide data to guide State planning and resource allocation, and share data across public agencies (via data sharing agreements). Hawai‘i Keiki has also identified the elements of Essential School Based Health Services.

UHM SONDH recognizes that more progress is needed to ensure that all keiki in Hawai‘i are healthy and ready to learn and is honored to serve on this interdepartmental working group. Therefore, the UHM SONDH respectfully requests that SCR 99, SD1 be adopted by this committee. We appreciate your continuing support for keiki, nursing, and school-based health care services.



April 9th, 2019

## Testimony in Support SCR99

Honorable Chair Representative Woodson, Honorable Vice-Chair Representative Hashem, Honorable Chair Vice-Chair Perruso, Honorable Chair Mizuno, Honorable Vice-Chair Kobayashi Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education, House Committee on Health.

Project Vision Hawai'i submits testimony in strong support of SCR99.

Project Vision provides mobile health screening units in Hawai'i targeting communities with access to care issues such as lack of insurance, geographic challenges, cultural barriers and limited or no income.

Project Vision Hawai'i is a locally grown nonprofit with a mission to work in partnership with the people of Hawai'i to increase access to healthcare. Our success in serving vulnerable populations comes largely because of two unique strategies: (1) we bring services to access-challenged communities via mobile screening units; and (2) services are always 100% free of charge to participants.

Project Vision provides mobile health screening units in Hawai'i targeting communities with access to care issues such as lack of insurance, geographic challenges, cultural barriers and limited or no

income.

Project Vision Hawai'i's is supportive of school based health programs, particularly in vision. School based health services are vital to the success of our children in school and in life by addressing the whole child. Project Vision Hawai'i supports school based health services with further wrap around services in niche areas such as vision, dental and behavioral health. Screening and follow up referrals may be conducted by in school clinic nurses or through community partnerships. This resolution provides a necessary convening of stakeholders to enhance services around access to vision care, dental care and behavioral health services. Project Vision Hawai'i supports this resolution because it will strive to increase interdepartmental and community communication across multiple health discipline, and in turn, work to ensure that no keiki's health is left unaddressed.

School based health services are critical to increase access to healthcare for a vulnerable

population from pre-kindergarten to high school keiki by providing school health and primary care services in the public schools. More support in these wrap around services is needed. Integrating vision, dental and behavioral health screening into these programs is a perfect fit and enhances the potential short and long-term impact for school aged children of Hawai'i.

The legislature is to be applauded for it's willingness convene stakeholders around these important niche services in school based health. In the partnership of the DOE, DHS, DOH, and other partners this resolution can improve student access through improved health screening, monitoring, and management of chronic conditions that impact learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Annie Valentin', with a large, stylized initial 'A' on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth "Annie" Valentin, MPH (Annie Hiller)

Executive Director

PROJECT VISION HAWAI'I PO Box 23212

Honolulu, HI 96823 (808)-282-2265 [www.projectvisionhawaii.org](http://www.projectvisionhawaii.org)

**LATE**

**SCR-99-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 9:49:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/10/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert M. Armstrong	Hawai'i Lions Foundation	Comments	Yes

Comments:

The Hawai'i Lions Foundation registers its concerns with the process of SCR 99 and asks that this hearing and SCR 99 be put "on pause" until the next Legislative year.

We make this statement having been initially denied a spot at the table until an amendment including the Hawai'i Lions was made and passed on March 29, 2019.

Eight days later, without any meetings or communication, a request for information was publicly announced by the Department of Education to solicit information for providing school-based health services, the central component of SCR 99. A request for proposals will undoubtedly follow after its April 16, 2019 deadline.

Clearly, this process is more advanced and considerably more mature than what was originally communicated and we are concerned a wasteful, expensive process to administer hearing and vision screenings in our primary schools has begun.

For over twenty years, the Hawai'i Lions have been providing these services to schools on O'ahu and all neighbor Islands FREE OF CHARGE to students and their families. We have changed the lives of thousands of children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

We have also saved taxpayers of our beautiful State millions of dollars through the years and cheerfully paid for it through our members, Clubs, and Foundation, which also runs Hawai'i's only Eye and Corneal Tissue Bank.

If there is a change coming, it should be well communicated in the press and vetted in a democratic way before implementation. As such, we have now no confidence in the process surrounding SCR 99 and ask that it be paused until all parties and citizens can have input in a meaningful and honest way.

Mahalo

**LATE**

**SCR-99-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 9:42:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/10/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: