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American Heart Association testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SR 110/SCR 143 “URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE INSTRUCTION IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION INTO HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.”

The American Heart Association strongly supports SR 110/SCR 143.

The American Heart Association is creating a generation of lifesavers by making sure students learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) before they graduate. To date, 39 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation requiring CPR training as a high school graduation requirement. At least seventy-five percent of public high school students graduating this year nationally will have learned lifesaving CPR in their schools. Unfortunately, Hawaii is among the 11 states that have not yet passed a policy to ensure that all of its graduating high school students receive this life-saving training.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the U.S. Every year, Hawaii EMS teams treat nearly 1,100 cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Currently, only 9% of those Hawaii witnessed out of hospital cardiac arrest victims survive making it a leading cause of death in Hawaii. Many of those patients die because they didn’t receive timely CPR. Making that statistic even more sad is that nearly 4 out of 5 sudden cardiac arrests happen at home and are witnessed by a loved one. A CPR trained bystander can double, even triple survival rates and improve long term healthcare outcomes. The life that is saved by CPR could be a loved one--a mom, a dad, maybe even a child.

SR 110/SCR 143 urges the State BOE to add CPR training into Hawaii public high school health class curriculum. "Hands-only" CPR training aligns to one of the bench marks under Hawaii DOE health curriculum standards. Health class is a required Hawaii public high school credit for graduation. In less than the time it takes to watch a 30-minute sitcom, we can give students the skills they need to help save a loved one's life with CPR.

Since 2011, the AHA has worked with the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) to eliminate potential barriers to implement a CPR in Schools policy. With assistance from AHA volunteers, in 2012 the State DOE used \$20,000, allocated by the Dept. of Health, to purchase CPR training manikins, AHA DVD instructional videos and materials. The AHA also provided volunteer CPR emergency cardiovascular care training volunteers to train DOE health resource teachers, so that they could support classroom teachers in implementing the training to students. AHA trainers provided a follow-up training for health resource teachers in November 2016, and again in August 2017. AHA volunteers remain available to provide additional free training as needed, and to support classroom teachers if necessary. However, the ease of teaching "hands-only" CPR and the availability of the training DVDs should allow for classroom teachers to implement the training to students without additional support.

"Certification" is not necessary to train "hands-only" CPR, and certification would not be required of the students. The training would not be "pass or fail" and would only require that the students demonstrate that have learned the CPR motor skills. "Hands-only" CPR can be taught in 30 minutes or less.

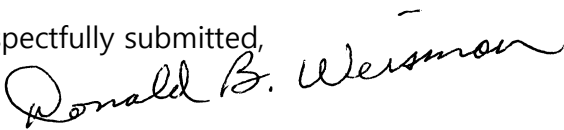
The AHA has worked with community foundations to secure grants to provide almost 30 Hawaii public middle, high, and charter schools with AHA CPR in Schools kits. The kits each contain 10 inflatable manikins, a training DVD and training materials designed specifically for training in schools. The AHA is committed to continue to find and secure grants to purchase additional school kits for Hawaii schools as needed.

Seventy percent of Hawaii residents feel helpless to act during a cardiac emergency because they don't know how to administer CPR. SR 110/SCR 143 could be a first step in helping to change that. "Hands-only" CPR takes roughly one high school health class period to learn and has two basic steps:

- 1) Call 9-1-1 and
- 2) Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.

The American Heart Association strongly urges legislators to support SR 110/SCR 143. Mahalo for your consideration of this life-saving resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the "i" in "Weisman".

Donald B. Weisman

Hawaii Government Relations/Communications Director