



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

**LATE**

**Date:** 03/11/2020

**Time:** 09:00 AM

**Location:** 229

**Committee:** Senate Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health  
Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 0141, HD3 RELATING TO HEALTH.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication. Exempts schools that do not have a student with a seizure disorder. Requires a seizure action plan for every diagnosed student and distribution of the plan to employees charged with supervising the student. Requires all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to perform self-review of seizure disorder materials annually. Makes an appropriation. Effective July 1, 2030. (HD3)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the overall concept of HB 0141, HD3 and offers the following comments.

The Department already has a system in place to support students with chronic health conditions such as seizure disorders.

When a Department school receives notification of a student with a chronic health condition such as asthma, diabetes, severe allergy, or seizures, a team is formed with the student's parent or legal guardian, a Hawaii State Department of Health Public Health Nurse, and all appropriate school staff to develop an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) individualized to the student's needs during the school day. The EAP is reviewed annually and as needed.

To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, every Department school has a School Health Assistant who has been trained in first aid, CPR, and medication administration.

The Department complies with the provisions of Section 302A-853, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by requiring submission of a "Request to Store and Administer Emergency Rescue

Medications and Daily, Routine, Scheduled Medications at School.”

Per HRS §302A-1164, the Department allows for the self-administration of medication by a student for asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, or other potentially life-threatening illness. Under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), a student with a seizure disorder may be eligible to receive additional services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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).



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2020; 9:00 a.m.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0141, HOUSE DRAFT 3, RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Chair Baker, Chair Kidani, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0141, House Draft 3, RELATING TO HEALTH.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would require beginning January 1, 2022:

- (1) Each public and charter school to have at least one trained employee on duty during the entire school day to administer or assist with seizure rescue medication;
- (2) The training of all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers employed at each public, and charter school to complete at least one hour of self-study review of seizure disorder materials developed by medical professionals on an annual basis;
- (3) All public, and charter schools to provide an age appropriate seizure education program to all students on seizures and seizure disorders; and
- (4) All public, and charter schools to establish a seizure action plan for any student having a seizure disorder that includes the identification of the employee or employees trained to assist the student in the event of a seizure, and the method by which the trained employee is contacted in the event of a seizure.

Furthermore, this bill would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021 to train employees, clarify that the Act only applies to a school that has at least one student with a seizure disorder, and take effect on July 1, 2030.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 0141, House Draft 3**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2020; 9:00 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The bill before this Committee is based on model legislation proposed by the national Epilepsy Foundation to increase the public's awareness of seizure disorders and to make our Nation safer for those afflicted. Under the leadership of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, the HPCA has been a partner in this effort.

The HPCA is committed to this initiative and pledges to work with the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, the Department of Education and Charter Schools, the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and all other stakeholders for this cause. As a network of fifteen (15) health centers situated throughout the State, the HPCA welcomes the opportunity to assist with the training that would be necessary under this bill.

Lastly, it has come to our attention that concerns were raised on whether the language found on page 13, lines 9 through 15, will provide an employee with adequate immunity from civil liability resulting from the employee's actions or failure to act in accordance with this measure. We note that the Seizure Free School Act enacted in the State of Texas provides language that might address these concerns.

Specifically, Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Section 38.032 (d), Texas Education Code, reads:

"(d) The immunity from liability provided by Section 22.0511 applies to an action or failure to act by a district employee in administering a medication, assisting with self-administration, or otherwise providing for the care of a student under a seizure management plan submitted for the student under Subsection (a)."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiipca.net.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: HB 141 HD3 Relating to Health  
DATE: March 11, 2020  
TIME: 9:00 A.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education and Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
ROOM: Conference Room 229  
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Kidani, Chair Baker, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT OF THE INTENT of HB 141 HD3** which requires public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication and exempts schools that do not have a student with seizure disorder. The measure also requires that all school principals, guidance counselors, and teachers complete at least one hour of self-study review of seizure disorder materials and requires all students to be provided an age appropriate seizure education program.

The Commission appreciates that this measure is intended to support the health and well-being of all students, particularly those students with seizure disorders. This measure, however, serves to highlight a larger health and safety concern for public charter schools which is that public charter schools do not have regular support and access to public health services, such as public health nurses, that are intended for public school students. A further concern is that the requirements in this measure shifts public health services for public charter school students from health care professionals on to public charter school administrators and staff.

The Commission remains available to collaborate with the committees, other interested stakeholders, and public charter schools as this legislation moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 6:57:23 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Comments	No

Comments:

We certainly support the idea of this bill. We do offer an additional point for your consideration. While we can appreciate the intent of exempting schools where no student currently has a known seizure disorder, it is our understanding that seizures can occur randomly and can be triggered via sports injuries. For that reason there is value in making the requirements of the bill apply to all schools.



March 9, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Committee on Education  
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 229  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Education:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and the Epilepsy Foundation of America, we urge your support of House Bill 141, HD3. This bill supports a critical priority for the epilepsy community – safety and continuity of care in the event of a seizure. This legislation makes certain that school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are not only prepared but can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to a student experiencing a seizure. Even more importantly, the legislation safeguards physician-directed care in the school setting, allowing students to access necessary and potentially life-saving medication. The legislation would also mandate the use of a Seizure Action Plan, to be distributed to all personnel charged with the care of a student, to ensure that they have access to information that may be specific or unique to that student. Taken together, provisions in this bill represent important protections necessary to ensure the safety of students living with epilepsy while they are attending school or a school-related function.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, advocates and provides services for the almost 14,000 individuals living with epilepsy throughout Hawaii. Collectively, we foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition characterized by seizures, which are sudden surges of electrical activity in the brain, that affects a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy, and approximately 1 in 10 people will experience a seizure, at some point in their lifetime. A seizure can happen to any person, in any place, at any time, and it is vital that school personnel are prepared to appropriately and effectively respond in this event. Compared to students with other health concerns, one Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study showed that students aged 6-17 years living with epilepsy were more likely to miss 11 or more days of school in the past year.<sup>1</sup> For these students, proper seizure first aid and continuity of care while they are at school is crucial to ensuring they can reach their full potential with as minimal disruption to their learning environment as possible.

House Bill 141, HD3 would require school personnel, including school nurses, to undergo a short training to learn how to recognize a seizure and how to properly administer seizure first aid. The seizure recognition and first aid training, developed by Epilepsy Foundation of America in conjunction with the CDC, is available for free online or

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017, May 09). Healthy Schools. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/epilepsy.htm>

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. **Please learn more about our advocacy work at [epilepsy.com/advocacy](http://epilepsy.com/advocacy).**



through in-person training provided by the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii or partner agencies. This training is free, accessible, sustainable, and would come at no additional cost to schools, school personnel, or the state. Its objectives are to educate personnel on different seizure types, general seizure first aid response, how to recognize a seizure emergency, and how to best socially and academically support students living with epilepsy.

House Bill 141, HD3, if passed, would also facilitate continuity of care while a student is at school by providing school personnel with a Seizure Action Plan, containing information specific to the student's unique disorder and by preserving access to physician-prescribed medication while on school grounds. While seizure first aid is largely consistent no matter who the student is, there are times when a particular student may have specific triggers or treatment protocols that are individual to them. The Seizure Action Plan, which would be filled out in consultation with the child's physician, provides school personnel with important considerations, precautions, and contact information to help ensure aid is timely, tailored to the student's needs, and properly administered. Further, HB 141, HD3 would mandate that children have access to their anti-seizure medications or seizure rescue medications on school grounds which is critical to ensuring continuity of care, and in the case of seizure rescue medication, necessary to stop a seizure emergency – a seizure lasting longer than five minutes or a cluster of seizures that won't stop.

To address concerns raised regarding an employee's immunity from civil liability resulting from an employee's actions or inactions in relation to this measure, we would like to provide language from Sam's Law (H.B. 684) in Texas that may address those concerns.

Specifically, Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Section 38.032 (d), Texas Education Code, reads:

"(d) The immunity from liability provided by Section 22.0511 applies to an action or failure to act by a district employee in administering a medication, assisting with self-administration, or otherwise providing for the care of a student under a seizure management plan submitted for the student under Subsection (a)."

The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and Epilepsy Foundation of America urge your support for HB 141, HD3. Hawaii students deserve to learn in a safe environment, and all parents & caregivers deserve to know that school personnel are properly equipped to care for their children's health needs while in school. The simple steps in this bill can save lives. Please feel free to contact Abbey Roudebush, Esq., Senior Manager, Government Relations & Advocacy at our National Headquarters, at [aroudebush@efa.org](mailto:aroudebush@efa.org) or 301-918-3784 with any questions or follow-up.

Sincerely,

Naomi Manuel  
Executive Director  
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii

Laura Weidner, Esq.  
Vice President, Government Relations & Advocacy  
Epilepsy Foundation

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. Please donate today to help END EPILEPSY. [Epilepsy.com/EndEpilepsy](http://Epilepsy.com/EndEpilepsy)



**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/7/2020 2:57:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chairs, Baker, Kidani, Vice Chairs and members of the Senate CPH/ EDU committees

My name is Jari Sugano and I strongly support HB141. Children who have epilepsy and attend the public school system need assurances that they are safe by simply surrounding them with educated and trained staff in seizure recognition and management. Without these protections, our children can not access the public education system. My daughter has been out of the public education system for over 3 years due to lack of adequate nursing and behavior management services provided by the state.

Before this bill becomes law, calcification from the DOE is needed in regards to the role of health aides in administering rescue medications in all formulations at the DOE.

I support HB 141. Please create a safe and educated environment for our keiki so they can attend school despite having epilepsy.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 10:07:05 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Takahiko Kimura	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and humbly ask for your support in passing it.

My daughter was diagnosed with epilepsy several years ago and I still vividly remember the panic my whole family felt the first time she had a seizure because none of us had any knowledge of what a seizure is or how to react. Having knowledge about seizures and a seizure action plan for students who have epilepsy would go a long way to ensure the safety of our keiki. Knowledge is power, so please pass this bill ensure that our schools have the power to protect students with epilepsy.

Mahalo!

I remember the fear and panic As a parent of a child with epilepsy, it's been tough to watch her struggle with the diagnosis. It's difficult enough for a girl to struggle with the normal pressures of being a teen, but the stigma and lack of information surrounding epilepsy makes it so much harder for her to "fit in". Beyond the stigma, I was surprised at how much misinformation there is surrounding epilepsy and how to deal with seizures. The basics of what a seizure is and how to react to someone having a seizure are woefully misunderstood and that lack of information is dangerous for our children who are dealing with the disease and a potential liability for the schools and their staff who are unaware. 1 in 26 people in the U.S. will develop epilepsy, so this is much more common than most people think.

I hope and pray that my daughter can live a full and productive life, and this legislation will go a long way to make that a reality. Thank you for your consideration

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 10:10:38 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lacey Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I support HB141 HD3 and ask for your support as well.

Epilepsy and seizures can develop in any person at any age. Seizures and epilepsy are more common in young children and older people. It's important for our community to learn about epilepsy so they can aid a person they encounter having a seizure - at school, on the bus, or at a restaurant or park.

HB141 would be a huge step forward in reducing the stigma associated with epilepsy. I've spoken openly about my son's epilepsy for the last 9 years. I've met many people living with or caring for someone with epilepsy. Unfortunately, I also know people who have passed away from SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy). I thought I didn't know anyone with epilepsy, but I do - I just didn't know about their epilepsy. Some of the adults I know choose not to talk about their epilepsy due to employment concerns, the stigma of epilepsy, or other personal reasons.

HB141 would require epilepsy education in our public and charter schools, leading to a community with a greater understanding of epilepsy. Not only would this education help students like my son, but it will help the estimated 1 in 10 people who have a seizure in their lifetime.

Please support HB141 HD3. I'll be at the Wednesday hearing should you have any questions for me. Thank you.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 11:10:39 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angela McCarthy	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha~

I am full support of this Bill. My daughter was diagnosed with epilepsy while in elementary school. If she did not have a principal and a nurse aid that were fully capable of recongnizing the signs leading up to a seizure, my daughter would have been in danger. They were a power house, they still are! If it was not for them and the quick acts Of some at Kapiolani, my daughter may have went undiagnosed for a longer period of time. She does not shake, foam at the mouth or have what is portrayed in movies or TV as a seizure. My daughter has Atypical Absence seizures. I was raised with my grandfather having Grand Mal seizures and also my sister had them. I never knew there were multiple other types of seizures until my very own daughter was diagnosed.

This is why it is so very important to have proper staff and training in our public schools to be prepared for emergencies pertaining to our children who have epilepsy. They should never feel different, but they should feel protected!  
My daughter was left out of many different events and schools events unless I could be there with her the entire time. Why!? Not enough education and training, in a school.... and also fear.

That is why this is so important, our keiki are worth it and our keiki deserve to be included just as much as every other keiki.  
Please support this bill and make sure EVERY single keiki gets the same treatment they deserve!

Mahalo~ Angela McCarthy ~ mother of Ava (Now 12 living with epilepsy)

Ron Shimabuku  
[ronshimabuku@gmail.com](mailto:ronshimabuku@gmail.com)  
#808-295-4954

Testimony on House Bill No. 141 House Draft 3  
RELATING TO HEALTH  
Wednesday, March 11, 2020  
9:00am  
Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Supporting House Bill No. 141 House Draft 3, Relating to Health

Chair Baker, Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ron Shimabuku and I am the Board President for the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii. I am approaching you in my capacity as a caretaker of a loved one diagnosed with the epilepsy condition.

**I strongly support this bill** which requires public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication. It exempts schools that do not have a student with a seizure disorder. It requires a seizure action plan for every diagnosed student and distribution of the plan to employees charged with supervising the student. It requires all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to perform self-review of seizure disorder materials annually. It makes an appropriation for these acts.

Having experienced firsthand my loved one going into a seizure, it was very scary and traumatic. The first time it occurred, I was unfamiliar with the condition, so I did not know what to do. I automatically dialed 9-1-1 which likely could have been avoided if I knew how to respond with seizure first aid basics. The subsequent times that the seizures occurred was at child daycare and elementary schools. I am very fortunate that the administrators, staff and

teachers knew what to do when a seizure occurred based on past experiences, so they reacted appropriately.

As a caregiver, I cannot assume that when my loved one is at a trusted school and/or institution, that they are going to be taken care of when a seizure event occurs. This bill will give me comfort and security to know that the teachers and staff are properly trained in seizure first aid to respond when my loved one is not with me. Therefore, I highly encourage you to consider passing this proposal into law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 9:03:26 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
VINCENT KIMURA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of three young kids, I know first hand the challenges we face bringing up our keiki. 6 years ago, I supported a friend who's daughter suffers from epilepsy, seeing daily and weekly ER hospital trips, my heart ached for the pain and fear of their young child. I made it a personal mission to support others whose children need more specialized care. How we care for our most needy at a young age, supports their development with the hope that they can one day lead happy lives, being a contributing citizen. If we expect our children with special needs to have an education, in a safe environment, we must empower our schools with the right knowledge and support to ensure they are able to care for them.

Respectfully,

Vincent Kimura

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/7/2020 7:23:15 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randi-Lynn Tam	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

My name is Randi-Lynn Shimabuku, parent of a child who was diagnosed with epilepsy. I am providing written testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill No. 141 House Draft 3, which requires public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication. Please consider passing this bill into legislation as parents of children would have some comfort in knowing that are children's teachers would know how to react when in a seizure situation. Thanks!



**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/7/2020 7:23:57 AM

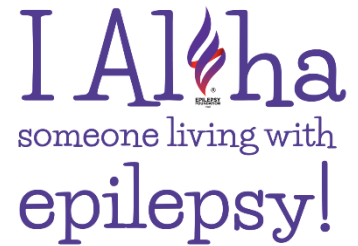
Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lani Shimabuku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Lani Shimabuku, grandmother to a child who was diagnosed with epilepsy. I am providing written testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill No. 141 House Draft 3, which requires public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication. It is an absolute scary situation to be in when a loved is having a seizure. I have been present when my grandchild experienced a seizure and let me tell you it is not an easy thing to witness. If I am feeling this way, I can only imagine how teachers and staff would feel in this situation. This training would equip them to know what to do in instances such as these. Please consider this when making a determination on this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

March 7, 2020



SUBJECT: Support for H.B. No. 141 H.D.3, Relating to Health

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

I support H.B. 141 H.D.3, Relating to Health for Seizure Safe Schools and strongly encourage you to also support this measure. This bill will ensure schools in Hawaii are well-equipped with the resources necessary to provide a safe and enriching environment for our children living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

When my daughter, Sela, was diagnosed at the age of 13 years with epilepsy in 2017, it became very apparent that there is a lack of epilepsy and seizure awareness in our schools and community. This lack of awareness and education at her school, even with highly skilled professionals, almost prevented Sela from doing the one thing she loves...competing on the cheer team. She has been very afraid that others will judge her and treat her differently because of the lack of awareness. Epilepsy awareness and seizure response training will help others to be compassionate and able to respond to anyone having a seizure. Statistics include: 1 in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime and 1 in 26 people in the U.S. will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.

Please support H.B. 141 H.D. 3 as this bill gives my family hope that we can provide a safe and enriching environment at our schools and eliminate the stigma around epilepsy.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karin Kimura".

Karin Kimura  
710 Luawai Street  
Honolulu, HI 96816

March 8, 2020

TO: Senator Roslyn Baker, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Education

RE: HB 131, HD3: Hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9:00 am, Room  
229

**Support of HB 131, HD3 Requiring Public Schools and Charter Schools  
To Have An  
Employee Trained to Administer Seizure Disorder Rescue Medication.**

I am writing in support of this measure because seizure disorders are more common in individuals with developmental disabilities (Camfield, & Camfield, 2007; Lindblom, 2001) such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Individuals with an FASD experience a higher incidence of seizure disorders compared to the general population (Bell et al, 2010; Stephanie et al, 2010).

I work with families affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Having a person at every school trained to assist students during seizures would not only be helpful to the safety of the child, but also reassure their parents and other health providers, and add to the team of people needed to help individuals with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection & Health  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

RE: HB141, HD3

Dear Senators Baker, Kidani, and members of the Committees on CPH and Education

I fully support the passage of HB 141, HD3 which requires public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication. One of the populations this Bill (Measure) would benefit are those individuals (children) with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) as these individuals have a higher incidence and potential for having seizures. Mahalo nui for your attention and supporting the passage of this critical Bill.

Sincerely,

Kenichi K. Yabusaki, Ph.D.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 2:32:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support. Anything that will help make our students and personnel safer and keep them healthy.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 8:48:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Douglas L. Vincent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Please support HB 141 HD 3. This is an important measure that supports special needs children in the public school system. These children need your support. Please pass HB141. Do the right thing. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Douglas L. Vincent, Ph. D., P.A.S.  
Emeritus Professor and Animal Scientist  
University of Hawaii at Manoa.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 8:08:21 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sela Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because I've gone through the struggle of teachers, nurses, and students not understanding epilepsy. This bill could prevent that for others and could've helped me feel more accepted. When the school nurses were not open to learning about epilepsy and didn't even know what it was made me feel like no one would accept me. They're trained nurses and there's so many people with epilepsy I thought they would know what epilepsy is. The nurses were going to make me take an elevator and go to the bathroom with someone. They were going to make me quit cheer even though I'm still fully capable.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 7:33:49 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With all due respect to the stable geniuses in the Legislature, can we just listen to the Epilepsy Foundation on this one?



**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 8:51:44 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Kazama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 141 and am very pleased to see it moving forward to become a reality for the welfare of the 1 in 26 people affected by epilepsy and seizures. My grandson Jax is a 4th grader at Pearl Ridge Elementary, and our family is concerned for his safety, welfare, and education when he is in school. Having the school staff educated about epilepsy and seizures is critical to his well-being away from home, and I fully endorse the training of school staff in helping him should he have a seizure. Learning about epilepsy will prepare the adults in the schools to help him and others; some may not know they have the medical condition until their first seizure. We have worked with Jax's teachers and school administrators since pre-school to learn about epilepsy and how to help him. All the school community would benefit from epilepsy education and how to avoid injury to anyone having a seizure. Jax will have epilepsy his whole life, and a seizure could happen at any time--in the classroom, on the playground, on a field trip, in the cafeteria, and as an adult, at work. It's not only children who have epilepsy but also adults--faculty, and visitors. The school adults need to know how to react and safely assist in such a seizure emergency. Students with epilepsy should be given every opportunity to participate in activities safely, and that requires that the school community be prepared through workshops and professional development sessions. As a retired educator, I can see this being implemented at all schools at the beginning of each academic year similar to other special trainings. Thank you in advance for providing for the welfare of our children and adults with epilepsy in our schools..

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 10:07:22 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jenna Robbins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is heartbreaking to see all that the epilepsy families and their children go through on a day to day basis. The difficulty they experience being able to attend school and receive proper care. I also do not think people realize how common epilepsy is. We need to work to remove the stigma associated with seizures and educate students, teachers, and the public on how to properly care for someone experiencing a seizure.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 10:40:10 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Howard Char	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB141. My granddaughter attending high school has epilepsy and is a cheerleader. She also wants to participate in other activities that may not permit students with epilepsy. This bill will ensure schools take action to allow students with epilepsy to participate in these activities.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 11:13:55 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Manuel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 141 HD3 because Seizure Safe Schools will improve the safety and learning environment of our keiki who have to live with seizures. It won't cost the state much if anything. The trainings being asked were developed in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are completely free and accessible online or free in person through the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, are professionally relevant, age appropriate, and a clear need within our schools. This is a potential asset that should be capitalized on being that epilepsy isn't a new circumstance and seizure safety isn't a new idea or project. Myself and my family are in full support of this bill. If it can offer an optimal learning environment for our kids, relieve their anxieties and the anxieties of parents/teachers/administrators/community, this bill is a no-brainer. Mahalo...

(Aiea)

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 5:02:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eloy Paglinawan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in very strong support of this bill because I have a loved one who is an adult that has epilepsy. He and his family has lived with seizures all 39 years of his precious life. Myself, as a family member, only wanted to help, but lack of information and education made that difficult to support him academically, physically, socially, and emotionally. There was a time where I was alone with him and he unexpectedly had an intense convulsive seizure that lasted about 5 minutes. I freaked out, didn't know what to do, and called the ambulance. If I had something similar to a Seizure Action Plan like this bill is proposing, I would have known to try my best to put him on his side, that his seizures usually don't last longer than 4-5 minutes, and that calling 911 isn't the first thing I should have done. I can only imagine his school-age years living in rural Puna with limited access to neurologists, epilepsy specialists, resources, and the appropriate medications and treatment. Education and communication is critical! This bill would bring much needed education on how to recognize the different types of seizures, what they typically look like, and how to best respond to ensure the safety of a person having a seizure...and for our kids, creating an opportune learning environment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of H.B.141 HD3.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 6:43:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tiffany Tawata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 8:42:15 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rene Matsumura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB141 as it requires schools have staff available to render aid to students with seizure disorders.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 8:53:12 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryson Matsumura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB141.



**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 9:13:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Mellow Art	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Laura Mellow and I have fought seizures and the stigma of epilepsy most of my life. I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 141, Proposed HD3.

Too many children suffer seizures and the stigma of epilepsy. Living with seizures is challenging for those that have them as well as for those who love & care for them.

In addition to the physical seizures, they are made fun of, teased and these emotional scars can stay with them all their lives.

There are so many types of seizures & these different types are handled in a different ways. Those who care for them need to be educated.

Epilepsy can also be life threatening and having school representative know how to react in a timely and efficient manner is critical to minimizing this treat. Education can light the candle of understanding, helping children & those who care for them.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Melissa Yamaguchi

Date: March 8, 2020

Support for HB 141 HD 3 relating to Public Health

As a parent and citizen in the State of Hawaii, I want to make sure my fellow members of the community especially those in school or on school campuses have adequate access to seizure care. I strongly support HB 141 HD 3 which would provide for training in the event of seizures occurring on a school campus.

While many citizens in the State of Hawaii may not think seizure care applies to them, it does. One in 26 people may be affected by Epilepsy or a similar seizure condition in their lifetime. As of 2019, over 15,000 people in the State of Hawaii and over 3 million in the United States are living in with Epilepsy. Even if they do not have Epilepsy, ten percent of the population may also experience a seizure in their lifetime that could be a result of head trauma like a fall or car accident, another medical condition, or even a high fever. Those who cope with diabetes are extremely susceptible to seizures as well.

As a parent of a child whom does not have Epilepsy but has participated in Epilepsy and Seizure awareness activism for 4-5 years now, I have seen firsthand the need for our schools to have these life saving measures. My child and I have done the research ourselves and pretty much anyone is prone to being in need of this type of first aid. I urge the committee to please pass HB 141 HD 3. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 10:20:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alanna isobe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Children with seizures should have adequate safety and emergency medications while at school. We should have trained personnel in all schools to be able to render aid, whether it be CPR, epipens for allergies or seizure protocol in case of seizures. We have every other type of training for school personnel to protect our children, why not seizure patients?

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 5:34:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melissa Malahoff-Kamei	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in SUPPORT of HB141.

As a mother of a child with seizures, I understand the importance of having fast intervention with rescue medication in order to stop a person who is seizing.

If a person having a seizure has to wait longer than 5 minutes to get their rescue anti-seizure medication administered, they are at risk for a catastrophic outcome. People who are seizing for a duration of time longer than 5 minutes are at risk of not breathing, or breathing inadequately. This delay during a seizure could mean the delay of oxygen flowing to the student's brain, which could cause long term damage or even death.

If you rely solely on calling 911 emergency responders to the scene, there is every chance that they will not get there in time. Seizures require immediate monitoring of the patient, and immediate intervention.

Administering the medication isn't difficult - as a parent I've done it for my son countless times. It does not require much more than some demonstrations and practice. If a parent has ever given their infant a rectal administration of Tylenol suppositories, giving anti-seizure medication is not much different. It is for this reason that I believe school staff could easily be adequately trained to administer a dose of emergency anti-seizure medication.

I am lucky, in a way. My son is medically fragile and requires an RN to attend to him (Administer tube feedings, administer medications, monitoring vital signs for signs of distress, providing PRN and emergency rescue medications, etc.) while he's in school, so he has someone always on hand to administer his anti-seizure medication. But not all children have an RN at their school.

Because not all schools have RNs, there needs to be several staff members who can administer emergency rescue medications to a child in danger of losing their oxygen supply to their brain due to seizures. This is a situation that simply cannot wait for 911 responders to arrive, or for parents to be called and then rush to the school.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,  
Melissa Malahoff-Kamei (a.k.a. Davin and Ayden's mom)

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 8:47:50 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill for all schools not just those with known seizure disorder students.  
Thank you.

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 8:54:23 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support, for the safety of our children.

Please delete the exemption for schools that do not currently have students known to have seizures.

Many children have their first seizure unexpectedly and during school hours. This bill would sadly not be helpful for these children who may be the most in need of assistance.

thank you.

**LATE**

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 11:42:00 AM  
Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
melissa Kaonohi-Camit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support bill HB 141 HD3. I am a mother with a child who has epilepsy . I also work in Special Education. My son who was diagnosed with a seizure condition at the age of 10 has gone through our public school system. He has already graduated from high school. However, he has faced many opsticals. One of these opsticals faced were staff and faculty not knowing what to do when he had a seizure on campus.

Imagine, last thing you remember is everything slowly going black and you feel as if you are falling. When you wake, multiple people standing around you, ambulance is being called, people in a panic state. You start to panic but can not really move just yet. Everything still feels "foggy!" This is how my son has explained some seizures that he has had at school. The fear of not knowing when your seizure will hit you. Worst of all, thinking that no one knows what to do or how to help you. Not feeling safe in school.

When faculty and staff are properly seizure trained they will have the knowledge of knowing that the ambulance does not need to be called every single time . An emergency seizure plan if in place properly will also help all those that work with the child to know what to do. As each plan would be catered to that particular student. All seizures are not the same.

Working for the DOE I have witnessed times where teachers,facutly and staff are afraid to help a child with this condition because they . And do not feel are not trained to assist. It is crucial that anyone who works with a child with a seizure disorder reacts in a timely manner when seeing that the child is having a seizure. Emergency medications on hand at the school can be life saving as well.

I am writing to you as a mother, and as an advocate for all keiki who suffer from seizures. They should feel safe in school. Parents should feel comforted knowing that when they drop off their child to recieve education in our public schools, their are properly trained people on campus. I hope that this committee willll feel compelled to pass this bill. Our keiki deserve to know that they are important and even though they suffer from seizures their overall well being and safety are priority.



Mahalo nui,

Melissa Ka'onohi-Camit

**LATE**

**HB-141-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 12:52:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Justin McCarthy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My daughter Ava was in Honowai Elementary School. As hard as the principal tried and as much as he cared his hands were still tied and his voice was silenced. This is the case for many parents and caregivers who's children are on the DOE public school system. To long have we and our children been cast into the shadows. We many times feel as if we shouldn't be leaving our kids who we care so deeply about in the care of those who arnt adicuatly qualified to care for our keiki. Think personally about how you'd feel letting your child go for a few hours of the day not knowing how they will be cared for, or even if they will be. And even more so think of the child and how they must feel in these instances. Having heavy anxiety everyday due to the care they don't revive. We need more taught and more awareness in the school system. More sympathy and love as well

thabk you very much for your time and understanding.  
Justin Mccarthy