



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1468, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

TIME: 10:20 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Melissa J. Kolonie, Deputy Attorney General, at 586-1255, or Angela A. Tokuda, Deputy Attorney General, at 587-3050)

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) for an unspecified number of full-time equivalent advanced practice registered nurse positions and various infrastructure improvements, including wi-fi connectivity and the purchase and maintenance of small equipment, for the continued operation of WCCHC's school-based health center located at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School.

As currently written, the means identified in this bill for the State to expend the funds appears to violate article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution. That section provides, in part, that "[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), prescribes the standards for the grant award or appropriation of state funds to a specified recipient.

Further, grants provided to an organization under chapter 42F, HRS, must be made to an organization "incorporated under the laws of the State". HRS § 42F-103(b)(1). This means that chapter 42F grants can only be awarded to a legal entity registered in the State of Hawaii. In this case, WCCHC as identified in this measure is the trade name of the legal entity, Waianae District Comprehensive Health and Hospital

Board, Incorporated. We recommend that, if the Waianae District Comprehensive Health and Hospital Board, Incorporated dba WCCHC, is eligible pursuant to the standards of chapter 42F, HRS, the Legislature appropriate the funds as a grant to the corporate entity dba WCCHC to achieve the goals intended by this bill.

Further, page 3, lines 4-6, states, “[t]he sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health through a contract awarded pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the purposes of this Act.” However, pursuant to section 103F-101(a)(1), HRS, chapter 103F does not apply to “[c]ontracts to award grants of state funds appropriated by the legislature to a specific organization or individual”. It is our understanding that neither the Department of Education (DOE) nor the Department of Health (DOH) has a Health and Human Services Contract with WCCHC. Rather, the relationship between DOE and WCCHC was established by a Memorandum of Agreement. As such, if the Legislature were to appropriate moneys to the DOE for the purposes of the Memorandum of Agreement, the appropriation would violate article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution because it would not be made pursuant to standards provided by law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1468-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:16:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darin Piliialoha	Testifying for Nanakuli High & Intermediate School	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz:

Aloha and Good Morning. I am Darin Piliialoha, Principal of Nanakuli High & Intermediate School (NHIS). This year marks my 11th year as the Principal of NHIS. I have been a part of many initiatives and partnerships over the years that benefit our students. I believe this latest bill, HB1468 HD2 SD1, will enable the partnership between NHIS and the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) to flourish and grow like how it did at our neighboring secondary schools. I am in full support of HB1468 HD2 SD1 in its entirety.

NHIS is fortunate to be one of three secondary schools along the Wai'anae Coast to have a School-Based Health Center (SBHC) located on its campus. The SBHC concept has been in our coast schools since 2015. Our school is the last secondary school to open its doors on August 6, 2018.

It is well documented the importance of having a SBHC on a school campus. Having a fully functional SBHC on campus will allow the child and families immediate access to comprehensive health services. The health and wellness of the student is primary and of utmost importance. Studies have shown that academic progress is directly connected to students being in school. The SBHC will allow a student to address their physical, emotional and behavioral needs immediately and get them back into the classroom. If it's left up to schedule an appointment at an off campus facility, any unattended or delayed response will have an immediate impact negatively on student achievement and success in the classroom.

Over the years NHIS has been and continue to be a good partner with WCCHC. We have partnered with them to do outreach programs or have our students participate in their training programs. I believe we have developed a strong relationship. This particular partnership between NHIS & WCCHC has always been one that we hold in the highest regard since it meets the needs of the whole child.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my thoughts and my full support of HB1468 HD2 SD1. I know it will benefit our students and families. It will allow them to have

immediate access to comprehensive health services in a fully staffed and fully functional facility on my campus.

Mahalo,

Darin Piliialoha



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 3, 2019; 10:20 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 1468, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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. 1468, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and the same amount in general funds for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, for the continued operation of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center's (WCCHC's) school-based health center located at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School;
- (2) Clarify that the appropriation be used for an unspecified number of full-time equivalent advanced practice registered nurse positions and various infrastructure improvements, including wi-fi connectivity and the purchase and maintenance of small equipment;
- (3) Require the sums be expended by the Department of Health through a contract in accordance with Chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 2050.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural 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 health.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1468, Senate Draft 1
Wednesday, April 3, 2019; 10:20 a.m.
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WCCHC has clearly demonstrated its leadership in serving the health needs of our most vulnerable populations. As such, the appropriation of funds to assist WCCHC most definitely will serve the public good.

By working with the Department of Education to establish school-based clinics at public schools situated near their facilities, WCCHC has proactively and creatively worked to improve the health care outcomes of not only the students of the Leeward Coast, but they have enhanced the quality of life for their families by providing intensive primary care services in a geographic location experiencing dire shortages of health care professionals. Clearly, WCCHC's school-based program is a beacon of hope for many of our most underprivileged citizens. Public support for this program is essential for the continuation of this vital operation.

For this reason, we urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**
www.wcchc.com

April 1, 2019

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 10:20am, Conference Room 211**

Re: HB 1468 HD2 SD1 Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (Supporting School Based Health Center Services at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School)

Submitted By: Dr. Vija Sehgal, Chief Quality Officer, Dir. of School Based Health Services, Pediatrician, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is grateful for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 1468 HD2 SD1 providing support to School Based Health Center (SBHC) services provided by the health center to Nanakuli High and Intermediate School (NHIS).

WCCHC has operated two SBHC since 2016, one each at Waianae High and Waianae Intermediate schools. A \$600,000 Federal Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) new access point grant assisted with our ability to open these two SBHC

In August 2018, responding to requests from the community, as well as an invitation from NHIS administrators, WCCHC opened its third SBHC on the campus of NHIS. Recognizing the high need for primary care and behavioral health services in this primarily Native Hawaiian population, we did so without the benefit of any Federal funding.

Our experience has demonstrated that SBHC improve access to comprehensive health care for adolescents who would otherwise not seek care, or have their health conditions contribute to high absenteeism rates. Through December of last year, our SBHC have served 2,795 students through 6,620 visits, with 95% of students returning to class immediately after having been seen.

Our operational model is lean, with one APRN and one Clinic Manager staffing each clinic. Additionally, we provide Behavioral Health services by a Licensed Clinical Psychologist whose time is split between now three of our SBHC sites. Most of the students seen at SBHC are WCCHC patients. We bill for all services provided.

High risk behavior surveys and depression screens which are administered to every student seen at SBHC have demonstrated significant behavioral health needs. Depression and anxiety are common and substance abuse rates are high. Suicide risk is significant, with 15% of WHS students seen having hurt themselves on purpose and 13% having ever attempted suicide. Notable improvement has been shown in many individual cases after initiation of SBHC BH services. To date, 478 students have accessed BH services at SBHC through 1,567 encounters.

We are grateful for the DOE's support of this bill and agree with their recommendation of changing the bill's initial request of funding an APRN to instead fund a Licensed Clinical Psychologist to increase our ability to address mental health issues.

WCCHC requests \$200,000 per year to be appropriated to continue providing SBHC services, including expanding our behavioral health capacity, at NHIS.

Mahalo for our support of HB 1468 HD2 SD1.

Vija Sehgal MD, MPH, PhD
Email: vsehgal@wcchc.com
Chief Quality Officer
Director Pediatric Services
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
86-260 Farrington Highway
Waianae, HI 96792
Ph. 808-282-6665

HB-1468-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 4:07:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Disa Hauge	Testifying for Waianae High School	Support	No

Comments:

April 1, 2019

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB 1468 HD2: RELATING TO SCHOOL BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Submitted by: Disa Hauge, Principal, Wai‘anae High School

Aloha Honorable Senators Dela Cruz, Keith-Agaran, and Committee members:

I am Disa Hauge, principal of Wai‘anae High, and I am requesting your support of HB 1468 HD2: Relating to the Wai‘anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC).

When I was a child in Wai‘anae in the early 1960s, we had a doctor in the community on Thursday afternoons; otherwise, because we had no public bus system, it was a drive to Waipahu or town. Many people went without care. Access to health care increased exponentially when the community advocated to establish the WCCHC, a federally-connected health center specifically supported by the Federal government to address the needs of underserved communities.

We are a school with a Wai‘anae Coast Comprehensive Health Clinic satellite clinic on campus, and I can attest to the vital importance of providing students with access to care which enables them to minimize absences from school and gain access to Early College and extracurricular opportunities. Critically, our students’ access to mental health treatment is also increased, particularly those at highest risk who need medication management.

It’s normal for teenagers to test boundaries both at home and at school as they learn independence and grow into adulthood. What’s dangerous is when students endure trauma and are depressed or angry because then they abuse

substances to dull their pain. And as we know, all drug abuse does is complicate their pain.

Let me tell you about a pill problem we had last school year. Parents were frantic and brought us confiscated Instagram pictures they saw of pill drug deals and asked us to help their kids. Adding to the angst, a recent graduate died in a horrific car accident that was linked to pills. We aggressively sought to put the dealers out of business, but we also realized that we had to address the core problem: that there was a demand for the supply.

We worked with WCCHC and their two Community Educators, both graduates of our high schools, to go into every classroom to educate our kids and give them tools to both resist and help. Overnight, kids started bringing in their friends to us to get help. We worked as school teams to get them into treatment or into counseling and to support them in finding hope and making their way to health. We couldn't have done this without the clinic as a resource.

What made the difference was a full spectrum of supports, from our teachers to school counselors to the School Based Behavioral Health Specialists to the APRNs and psychologist at the clinic. Having a psychologist on campus was and is critical for us to be able to respond immediately to the most severely impacted and at risk students.

Nā• nā• kuli students also need and deserve this range of supports. For the students in our moku to become caring, competent citizens in our community we need to be able to help them manage their pain by finding hope. Hope is not something we can dispense. Our kids have to work hard to acquire it by putting one foot in front of the other, being honest with themselves, taking responsibility. Our job is to set boundaries and be their critical questioner, to support them in processing their choices and moving towards health, both physically and psychologically. Nā• nā• kuli needs an APRN and/or a psychologist for this important work.

I ask for your support of HB 1468 HD2 and thank you for all that you do.



O'ahu County Democrats
oahudemocrats.org



Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

RE: HB1468 HD2 SD1, Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Healthcare Clinic.

The O'ahu County Democrats write in support of House Bill 1468, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1.

Our Democratic Platform on O'ahu reads:

"Access to health care is a basic human need. Our citizens and visitors have an inherent right to high quality, high standard health care. The state legislature and the federal government should take all appropriate steps to create and support a health care system of public, for profit, and nonprofit hospitals and other medical facilities that follow best practices to enhance and protect and preserve life."

The Party supports fair healthcare access for our rural residents, this is also in keeping with the Health section of our Democratic State and County platforms.

If you too believe that this is the right thing for our people on the Leeward side, please vote in support of HB1468 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

DYLAN P. ARMSTRONG, VICE CHAIR

O'AHU COUNTY COMMITTEE, O'AHU COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: April 3, 2019 at 10:20am
Conference Room 211

From: Eve Teeter-Balin, APRN

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 1468 HD2 SD1**, Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means in Conference Room 211.

Aloha Senator Donavan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

As a Waianae Coast Comprehensive School-Based APRN, I strongly support HB 1468. We help provide care to adolescents who normally would not have received it or have health conditions that lead to high rates of chronic absenteeism. Our three School-Based Health Centers have seen 2,795 students through December of this past year, with 95% of students returning to class immediately after being seen.

Nanakuli High and Intermediate's (NHIS) School-Based Health Center opened in August, 2018 due to strong community and school support for an on-site APRN and Behavioral Health services. Unfortunately, it did not have the benefit of having a HRSA grant to help fund the opening of the clinic, like Waianae High School and Waianae Intermediate School. The NHIS clinic still needs infrastructure improvements for us to expand our services to the level that the other school-based clinics are able to offer.

I also support changing the funding for 1 FTE APRN to 1 FTE Clinical Psychologist. We have such a high demand for Behavioral Health services from school counselors, teachers, parents, and the students themselves. Additionally, we administer high risk behavioral surveys and depression screenings to all patients at the School-Based Clinics. I have seen many students for sick visits and physicals that turned into a behavioral health intervention and referral. Common disclosures include anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and previous suicide attempts, sexual trauma, physical and emotional abuse, and drug use. The demand is much higher than what our one Clinical Psychologist is able to handle, as she currently splits her time between all three School-Based Clinics.

We are so grateful to be able to serve the NHIS campus and passing this bill would greatly improve our ability to provide the truly comprehensive services that is unique to school-based health centers.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to **SUPPORT** passage of HB 1468 HD2 SD1 bill.
Thank you for your consideration.

Eve Teeter-Balin, APRN

HB-1468-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 2:15:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Metzger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: Julia Metzger

Testimony in support of HB 1468 HD2 SD1, Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means in Conference Room 211.

Aloha Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1468. The School Based Health Center provides vital care to children who often slip through the cracks. I have been working as an APRN for Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center for the past three years, splitting my time in Pediatrics main center, and the School Based Health Centers (SBHCs). The care in the schools vastly differ than those provided at a Pediatricians office. At the SBHC we are often seeing the patients who have not seen a provider in years; parents cannot afford to take a day off; or unfortunately parents who are not able to care for their children. The clinics we have created in the schools have become a safe haven for the kids, where they can talk about anything and receive care to keep them in school.

I have also learned a headache is rarely just a headache, and that stomachache a student is complaining of isn't due to a virus. What makes us unique is that for each visit, we screen for depression, anxiety, and various social/mental health issues. The rate of positive screeners is astounding, and I am forever grateful to we have a psychologist rotating between the schools. However, currently we are lacking a mental health provider, which leaves us with all these children struggling, and a waitlist to receive adequate care. Mental health is an integral part of physical well-being, and I hope Hawaii will support their keiki.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to support passage of HB 1468 HD2 SD1 bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julia Metzger

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: April 3, 2019 at 10:20am
Conference Room 211

From: Blane K. Garcia

Testimony in support of HB 1468 HD2 SD1, Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means in Conference Room 211.

Aloha Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1468. As a proud resident born and raised in the community of Wai‘anae. I have grown to understand that Health and Education was not a priority within my community. As a proud Native Hawaiian, I recognize that the Native Hawaiian population throughout the state of Hawai‘i is afflicted by a considerable number of major health disparities, especially in the adolescent population, which is alarming. This is the principal reason behind my intention in seeking higher education after graduating from my community’s public high school in earning my Masters degree in Public Health, specializing in Native Hawaiian & Indigenous Health. Through the rigorous academic elements of this discipline, my communities up bringing, and many supportive mentors. I have been better equipped to critically evaluate the challenges faced by the Native Hawaiian population and strengthen my ability to construct strategies to investigate behavioral health and chronic diseases like: suicide prevention, diabetes, obesity, asthma, cardiovascular disease and different types of cancer.

Being able to come back to my community to serve the ‘ōpio (next generation) has been truly a blessing. Through the means of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center School Based Health Centers, I now can empower the ‘ōpio to understand the educational struggles and health disparities our community faces. As their Health Educator and Research Assistant, it is my responsibility and goal to build the health literacy of the next generation in understanding that it will take their generation to start making change and for their generation to have a voice, to be heard, and to be the leaders for the next to follow. Our kupuna, our ancestors left us with this valuable Hawaiian proverb. It says “‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia,” “No task is too big when done together by all.” This beloved proverb is heard often in Hawai‘i. It offers guidance to many, including myself. Simply said with the support of HB 1468 HD2 SD1, together we will be able to keep our expanded health education, and health services available to the many ‘ōpio in the community.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to support passage of HB 1468 HD2 SD1 bill.

Mahalo piha for your consideration,
Blane K. Garcia, MPH



April 01, 2019

RE: HB 1468 Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Dear Senator Delacruz and Member of the WAM Committee:

My name is May Okihiro. I have been a pediatrician and clinical researcher at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) for almost 20 years now.

Children of the Waianae Coast have a very high risk for chronic diseases, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, and mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety. High risk behaviors including smoking, drug use, and unhealthy eating are common and exacerbate this risk. It is not surprising then that many teens do poorly in school and drop out before graduation. It is also not surprising that many in the community experience debilitating chronic diseases as younger adults.

The WCCHC School Based Health Centers (SBHC) at Waianae High School and Waianae Intermediate have proven their value. Since opening our WCCHC SBHC three years ago, the SBHC staff have cared for hundreds of teens, identified numerous acute and chronic physical and mental health issues, and initiated and continued teen-centered care. Feedback from school administration, teen patients, and their parents, have indicated that the SBHC have improved access to very useful care which has enabled more kids to stay in school.

The requested funding will now enable WCCHC to move ahead with full time SBHC services at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. We are confident that this one-time funding will enable WCCHC to expand services to a level that can then be sustained through other strategies.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'May Okihiro', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

May Okihiro, MD MS

HB-1468-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:32:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vanessa Razon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: April 3, 2019 at 10:20am
Conference Room 211

From: Vanessa Razon

Testimony in support of HB 1468 HD2 SD1, Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means in Conference Room 211.

Aloha Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1468. The School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in the Waianae Coast have been beneficial in providing access to healthcare for students not only for their physical health but mental health as well.

I am currently one of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurses working at our SBHCs. Since starting this position almost 2 years ago, I have had the privilege to assess, evaluate, and treat students with various ailments in a setting that is safe and supportive. One of the notable advantages of having a health center in the schools is easier access to health care for the students. SBHC allows students the ability to take control of their health, improve their health literacy, and in turn lead to better health outcomes as they make the transition from adolescents to young adults. Because of easier access to health care, many parents have often expressed their strong appreciation for our school based health services and wishing they had something similar during their adolescent years.

Another advantage of our SBHCs is bridging the gap between physical and mental health. Having a licensed clinical psychologist has been a tremendous asset to SBHC. Since the addition of our clinical psychologist, many students have utilized our mental health and counseling services to address and treat depression, anxiety, stress,

bullying, substance abuse, and others. By addressing and treating both physical and mental health, we have the potential to profoundly impact the overall health and wellbeing of our adolescents.

With the appropriate funding, we can continue to provide SBHC services that would benefit Nanakuli High and Intermediate School.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to support passage of HB 1468 HD2 SD1 bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vanessa Razon, APRN, CPNP-PC

HB-1468-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:27:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kamuela Werner. I am a Wai'anae resident, registered voter, public health professional, and Nanakuli High and Intermediate School (NHIS) alumnus. I am in strong support of HB1468 HD2 SD1 which plays a critical role in securing, promoting and expediting NHIS campus access to quality health services.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner, MPH

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: April 3, 2019 at 10:20am
Conference Room 211

From: Malia Agustin

Testimony in support of HB 1468 HD2 SD1, Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means in Conference Room 211.

Aloha Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1468. The Nānākuli community has voiced numerous times the need to support our keiki's physical and mental health. Since the opening of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Centers School-Based Health Center at Nānākuli High & Intermediate School (NHIS) in August of 2018, students have expressed their appreciation for the primary care or behavioral health services they've received.

I am an alumni of NHIS and have been working with the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center for four years as a Community Research Assistant and Health Educator. I have the amazing privilege of speaking to the students with the experience as an alumni and current member of the community, who is immersed in understanding the health issues we face. When I was in high school I did not have this type of health service opportunity, so when I was injured from sports or sick I had to stay home from school and my mom had to miss work to take me to my doctors appointments. It brings joy to my heart to be able to share with students about the health services we provide and help them understand the benefits. The school based health center is able to relieve the multiple barriers that families face such as time availability, transportation and financial constraints when needing to get their children immediate medical care.

The health education topics we present in schools focus on issues identified by students and school staff, such as suicide prevention, prescription drug abuse and reproductive health education, which are not always readily available in the school curriculum. Through in class surveys, students have voiced that they themselves and their families are suffering from multiple health issues, such as chronic asthma, diabetes, various cancers, suicidal ideation, bullying, depression and drug abuse. Our goal is to help students recognize their health status and increase health literacy for an overall change in their longevity and quality of life. With the states support we hope to reach the students of the Nānākuli community who are suffering from these multiple ailments. With your generous approval to hire a permanent APRN and or Behavioral Health Specialist we hope to do so.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to support passage of HB 1468 HD2 SD1 bill.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,



Malia Agustin

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: April 3, 2019 at 10:20am
Conference Room 211

LATE

From: Anna Gilbreth

Testimony in support of HB 1468 HD2 SD1, Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means in Conference Room 211.

Aloha Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1468. As a member of Waianae Coast community as well as one of the healthcare providers at the school based clinics, I see firsthand the health needs of this community. This service is much more accessible to the students and allows them access care in a more comfortable and familiar setting, which allows for more sensitive and in depth conversations regarding teen health, which is critically important.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to support passage of HB 1468 HD2 SD1 bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anna Gilbreth, MSN, CPNP

LATE

HB-1468-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 11:01:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Kaeo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

two testimonies from 2 community members.

Mahalo,

Kanani

LATE

HB-1468-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 11:23:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marita Padilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of government funding for school-based clinics. As someone who works/has worked in education and community mental health, students having access to these services at school has demonstrated the best preventative outcomes. School-based health clinics are desperately needed for our children.



**WAIANAE COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**
www.wcchc.com

Submitted on: March 19, 2019

Testimony in support of HB 1468, Relating to funding for Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center providers and infrastructure at the Nanakuli High and Intermediate School Base Health Clinic

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, (CPH).

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1468. Health access significantly drops during adolescence, a critical time for behavioral and physical changes, habit formation, and lifelong wellbeing. Majority of chronic physical and behavioral health concerns, homelessness, and unemployment begin with choices made in adolescence. I am aware that in choosing between physical health and behavioral health needs, the community and committee are recommending behavioral health needs as superior. I'm honored, however, as a clinical psychologist at the school base clinics and working within the community with various agencies (UH Manoa, IHS, and Kidney Foundation), I disagree. Mind and body are connected and to ensure wellness one cannot be granted over the other. I have had to cancel appointments due to physical health concerns and these concerns are at times directly related to behavioral health. Majority of mental health concerns are identified by primary care as it's less stigmatizing for teens to enter for a stomach ache versus admit to depression and anxiety. The current social climate supports stigmatized ideas instead of accurate mental health literacy. We cannot ignore the current media influence of linking behavioral health patients to "disruptive," "deficient," "dangerous psychopaths" or other social structures that reframe mental health concerns as "evil."

Almost every student that enters my office by referral has their head down in shame. I calm them by changing the traditional narrative by saying "congratulations, behavioral health is a benefit for everyone, and you're lucky enough to experience it. I appreciate the school counselors, administration, health educators, and APRNS, as many of the students that they refer have a better acceptance and understanding of mental health literacy and care. However, until the overall climate changes, we must work through traditionally accepted systems of care. The new face of wellness is not physical or behavioral but integrated care.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to support passage of this bill with support of both primary and behavioral health providers. The children and our future deserve full care.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Garcia", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Garcia PSYD
Clinical Psychologist

LATE

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hearing: April 3, 2019 at 10:20am
Conference Room 211

From: Janis Kaeo

Testimony in support of HB 1468 HD2 SD1, Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Submitted to: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means in Conference Room 211.

Aloha Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 1468. I am a proud Native Hawaiian community member of the Waianae Coast and alumni of Nanakuli High & Intermediate School, class of 1985. Growing up back then was very different because health and education was not a priority. Working hard to provide for your family and put a roof over your head and food on your table was most important. The mentality back then compared to now has changed tremendously. If I knew back then what I know now, I would have been able to make better and healthier choices for myself. I would have been comfortable and confident talking to my family members about our health and a higher education or directing to them to someone who could. SBHC (School-Based Health Center) is the missing link and it is making a huge and positive impact on our keiki's and families in our communities right now. Imagine how much more it can benefit our future generations to come.

If you would have suggested this in the past, it would have seemed impossible. But now it is a reality and a blessing that SBHC is providing the necessary services our keiki is in dire need of. It's hard for parents to take children to the doctors due to work or no transportation. SBHC Nurse Practitioners are providing these services as well as keeping our students in school. Health Educators provide important information to bring awareness to our students. This allows students to better understand the consequences of taking drugs, the importance of taking care of their health and to seek counseling if they are depressed, stressed, angry, or confused. SBHC provides resources and guidance for students to be open, to interact, and to make educated choices because SBHC reveals the truth behind illness, diseases, addiction, depression, etc., that we face today in our lives at home and in society. In addition, the Psychologist is able to reach out to students who is in desperate need of help but find it difficult to confide in their teachers, their parents and/or guardians.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to support passage of HB 1468 HD2 SD1 bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kanani Kaeo, COM

