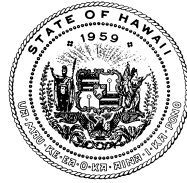


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB936 HD1  
RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.**

REP. AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: March 23, 2021 Room Number: N/A

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully opposes this measure  
2 1) as a new program with no appropriation, and 2) due to the lack of enforcement provisions. As  
3 a result, this measure should be indefinitely deferred.

4 SB936 HD1 compels DOH to disseminate information to all employers, employees, and the  
5 general public. This includes federal government, state government, county government, large  
6 and small corporations, and sole proprietors, in addition to 1,400,000 residents overall. This  
7 cannot be accomplished without an appropriation to maintain lists of employers, research contact  
8 information, translate into common languages other than English, and assure compliance.  
9 Furthermore, the state is unable to compel the federal government to participate.

10 Additionally, the department does not have seizure program and will require at least 1.0 FTE to  
11 implement this program, including vetting medical and scientific sources, negotiating  
12 communications contracts, developing public education materials, and facilitating lectures. This  
13 measure also lacks enforcement and penalty provisions that undermines the mandatory action  
14 employers must take to comply with state law.

15 The department may recommend a veto if this measure passes without a new position with  
16 funding, recurring appropriation of approximately \$150,000, or adequate enforcement and  
17 penalty provision.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 20, 2021

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Via Video Conference

Aloha Chair Ling Johanson and Vice Chair Kitagawa:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, we urge your support of Senate Bill 936 SD2 HD1. 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 employers educate employees on seizure recognition and proper seizure response.

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. 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 members of the public are prepared to appropriately and effectively respond in this very unpredictable event.

Senate Bill 936 SD2 HD1 would require employers to educate employees with critical seizure safety information downloadable for **free** through the Epilepsy Foundation's national resource repository. Seizure Recognition and First Aid Certification training, developed by the Epilepsy Foundation and the CDC, is available through the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, would come at **no cost** to employers, and would educate employees on different seizure types, general seizure first aid, and how to recognize a seizure emergency. Knowing what to do in the event of a seizure is just as important as knowing what not to do.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii strongly urge your support for Senate Bill 936 SD2 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi Manuel".

Naomi Manuel  
Executive Director  
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii

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).**

Dear Legislators,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Paul's Purple Warriors, an epilepsy charity that created Paul's Law in NJ. for seizure safe schools. On a national level, we run National Epilepsy Advocates for Seizure Safe Schools, where we mentor advocates in various states across the country. We are writing to you in full support of SB 936. By passing this critical legislation Hawaii could become the role model for 49 other states in the epilepsy community. More importantly this bill will save lives by educating the general public on seizure first aid which will in turn save lives. The passage of this bill will have implication across the USA. In fact, in NJ. we are meeting with our legislators to begin our quest to follow along by introducing a similar bill here. Thank you for allowing me the honor of writing this letter as a small part of making history by supporting HB 936.

Sincerely,

Colleen Quinn  
President Paul's Purple Warriors

**SB-936-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 8:05:42 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Cheri Badua and I am writing in support of SB936. I work as a pharmacy technician at Kaiser Permanente's Honolulu Clinic and come into contact with a wide variety of individuals on a daily basis. We've had several incidents of patients having seizures in front of us and we have codes that we can call overhead to alert the medical staff. I would like our company to provide seizure education and training so that we can help these individuals in a moment's notice and feel confident, instead of feeling scared and helpless. It's a win-win for everyone!

**SB-936-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 10:40:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Brianne Yamada and I am in full support of this bill. Epilepsy is something that we can continue to bring attention to in our community and educate others to assist in in time of a seizure or an emergency situation. We are pushing for the same support that was once received for AEDs in our state legsitration. Imagine the amount of lives saved due to this past effort! Thank you for this opportunity to share my support for SB936!

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

March 21, 2021

**Support for Senate Bill No. 936 – Seizure First Aid**

My name is Julie Matsumoto, was born and raised in Waianae and Aiea, and currently live in Seattle, WA with my husband and nine-year-old daughter. **I am submitting written testimony in favor of passing Senate Bill No. 936 – Seizure First Aid.**

A seizure can happen to anyone, at any time, and anywhere. My previously healthy daughter, Nora, began having seizures out-of-the-blue back in May of 2018. No one in our family had seizures, and it never even crossed our minds that it could happen to us, let alone how to recognize, and administer first aid. My husband and I are both professionals holding multiple college degrees between us, yet we were ignorant.

My husband was home alone with Nora when she had her first generalized tonic-clonic seizure. She stopped breathing and he initially thought she was choking. He picked up her small body up and started trying to clear her airway while calling 9-1-1. His words to the 9-1-1 operator went something like “my daughter is not breathing and is dead in my arms. Please send help.” Eventually she started breathing and regained consciousness, but my husband could have caused Nora even more harm because of his lack of knowledge around seizure first aid. Since then, we had to quickly educate ourselves to keep Nora safe.

As an adult (prior to the pandemic, and hopefully once again soon), we spend a good amount of our lives at the workplace. Would you know what to do if your boss, cubicle mate – or anyone, for that matter – started having a seizure in front of you? Would you be able to recognize the signs and then take the right steps to keep them safe? Would you know when to call 9-1-1?

I had never planned to be the mom of an epileptic child. But now that I am, it would give me great comfort to know that the greater ‘ohana of the Hawaii community is also armed with accurate information to keep Nora safe in the event of a seizure. It does not take long, nor does it take many resources to educate the Hawaii workforce on seizure first aid; a small investment like this is the right thing to do. I would be proud to know that my home state is leading by example to support the thousands of people affected by seizures and epilepsy – both kama’aina and visitors.

I have nothing but gratitude for the young activist whose reach has extended all the way to help a little girl in Seattle, and I wholeheartedly support the passing of Senate Bill No. 936.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Julie Matsumoto  
Seattle, WA  
julie.matsumoto@gmail.com

**SB-936-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:19:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill; it can save lives!

As a public health professional and former employer of over a hundred employees, I can honestly share that these types of bills can make a substantial impact on our workforce and their families.

Thank you,

Colby Takeda, MBA, MPH

Resident of Kaka'ako

**SB-936-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:24:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I write to you in support of SB936 and all of the children and adults affected by this disease. One of my three children came very close to being diagnosed with epilepsy, but thankfully, by the grace of God, he grew out of his seizures. Some children and families, are not so lucky.

I will never forget the first time I saw his eyes roll back and start to shake and drool - he was 3 yrs old. I will never forget the second time I got a call from his preschool telling me, "I think your son is having a seizure." I will never forget the third time he was sitting on the couch and I was trying to get his attention (he was five) but couldn't. I went over to talk to him and he had a blank stare and started to shake. I remember feeling helpless as I drove him to the hospital and he was shaking in his car seat and in the ER as he was shaking in the bed and all I could do was try to comfort him and tell him he was going to be okay. Today, he is a thriving 11 yr old who loves basketball (sorry Yamaguchi's), video games, and spending time with his friends and family.

As I'm sure you all know, seizures can happen anywhere and anytime. Knowing what to do in the event someone around you is having one can save their life. Besides calling 911, there are things you can do to help the person and also be able to help the paramedics when they get there.

Many children and adults with epilepsy and seizures seem to lead normal lives and maybe that's why it gets overlooked. By making more and more people aware of the disease and what they can do to help, many lives could be saved.

I understand there is cost involved in printing and distributing flyers. But it's the same thing as when new businesses are registered or if there is a change in employee law - flyers, posters, notices - get distributed to businesses to be posted. I'm also sure that there are many people in this great Aloha state willing to donate their time and resources to save a life.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Please vote yes and be a part of saving lives.



**SB-936-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:58:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Jared Sham and my ohana and I 100% support this bill. I think it's very important for a bill like this to pass because it makes the public aware of warning signs that an epileptic seizure may come and how to respond to it. We fell in love with the idea when we played in our seizure awareness baseball game and we applaud Brennan and his ohana for coming up with this bill. Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing a positive outcome.

Aloha,

Jared, Korin, Noah(12) & Isaac(10)

Brennan Yamaguchi

State of Hawaii Student (Age 12)

Date: March 23, 2021

Support for SB 936 (and amendments)

Regarding Public Health

TO: LABOR & TOURISM COMMITTEE

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

As a student and citizen in the State of Hawaii, I want to make sure members of the community, especially my friends who work in or visit state offices and buildings have access to first aid posters. This bill passed the Judiciary in 2020 but was halted due to the pandemic. I strongly support SB 936 which would put a first aid seizure poster in Hawaii workplaces, hopefully starting with State of Hawaii buildings.

There has been discussion on how this can be implanted and that a cost and fee would be too great for departments to bear. It doesn't need to be at all. OSHA is a good example as it provides and actually encourages workplaces to utilize its **\*FREE\*** downloads to display and implement. One simple free seizure care posters can be easily added to, or credited within existing training or posters that the state or OSHA already requires. Downloads are at no cost and perhaps workplaces can confirm with an electronic signature or reply with a photo of the simple poster displayed.

This is OSHA's site: <https://www.osha.gov/publications/poster> however similar posters are also available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/index.html> or <https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/seizure-first-aid-and-safety/first-aid-seizures-stay-safe-side>

Many citizens in the State of Hawaii may not think seizure care applies to them but it does. One in 26 people may be affected by Epilepsy or similar condition in their life. 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 don't have Epilepsy, ten percent of the population may also experience a seizure in their lifetime from a head injury like a fall or car accident, high heat levels, wrong medication, diabetes, or even a high fever. With the onset of COVID -19, The Boston Medical Center, Cleveland Clinic, and other medical institutes have declared that seizures and strokes are becoming more common with the virus.

When I first introduced this bill in person to the Committee for Labor, Culture, and the Arts, in February 2020 I asked the senators in the room to raise their hands. I also asked the audience to raise their hands if they were a visitor to the State Capitol with so many staff people and visitors coming to the State Capitol, State libraries, or offices, even more people could experience a seizure while they are at a state building. Now imagine all work places. Think of how many people working all over the state could be affected!

People should be able to feel secure in their place of employment. Everyone, no matter where they are working should be able to feel that way. I thought of our state offices, libraries, and other buildings first, because have been used by hundreds of members of the community daily. However I also think about my parents, my teachers, my coaches who have to work daily to provide for their families, and I want them to be safe. It is our duty to make sure everyone feels safe in these spaces.

My proposal is simple. Make sure first aid seizure information is placed in the work place for a safer work environment. I would love to see this start at state offices and buildings in areas such as libraries, break rooms, bulletin boards, and other shared spaces. These materials can even be through downloads or electronic mail to make it simple. I want to create a healthy work environment for everyone. I urge the committee to please pass SB 936. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Brennan Yamaguchi

**SB-936-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 7:49:14 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In the early 2000's my children attended Pearl Harbor Elementary. My daughter had an IEP and was in a special needs class with an autism diagnosis. She also lives with a grapefruit sized arachnid cyst, enlarged pituitary gland, and has a history of seizures. Resources at PHES were low for special needs keiki and I was self-required to educate/aid/inform her multiple teachers during her years there regarding medical emergencies. "I need you to do x, y, and z should you suspect or see a seizure," I gently reminded her teachers and school staff every month or so. There were no resources in place giving teachers, aides, faculty, and staff any idea how to properly assist a student suffering from a seizure during school hours; all they had was a worried mother's verbal account. Implementing Brennan's bill - making it part of HRS - will provide 1 ) peace of mind for parents who release their keiki to the care of faculty and staff during the school day as well as 2 ) give confidence to faculty and staff who are charged with providing a safe space at school for students in their care, control, and custody. Passing this bill is the right thing to do and I'm confident people like my daughter and her educators would applaud its passage.

Schools wouldn't be the only beneficiary; workplaces would benefit, as well. I remember like yesterday being at work when a co-worker suddenly went down; he slid out of his chair and his immediate peers began shrieking in horror at his convulsions on the floor. I was across the room and I did two things; I called 911, and I calmly directed his peers to roll him to his side and put anything that could be made into a pillow under his head. EMT's arrived shortly thereafter. It's unfortunate that I seemed to be the only one who could offer assistance in the office based on my background. What if I wasn't there that day? If the workplace had had some kind of one pager giving succinct instructions on how to respond and treat someone in the midst of a seizure, imagine how many others could have come to his rescue.

Again, I plead to you to pass this bill because it's the right thing to do.

Aloha,  
K.DeMay

I've worked as a registered nurse in California for the past 5 years. A few months after I gained my license and was waiting to hear back from job postings, I was sitting in a bar in Berkeley watching a prime time NFL game. About 20 minutes into the game, I saw a commotion happening near some of the dining tables. I got up to see what was going on and saw a customer give the Heimlich to another customer. I went over to see if I could help in any way and noticed that the customer was not choking, but was having a seizure. I immediately told the other customer to stop what he was doing and get the man on the ground onto his side. The customer neglected to listen to my advice so I took matters into my own hands and grabbed the man from the front and laid him on his side. His seizure subsided shortly after and it took him a few minutes to come to. It is examples like this one that I feel that if there were more proper education on recognizing the signs and steps to take involving a seizure, that we can help those who suffer from them.

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN  
RE: SB936 Seizure First Aid (In Support)  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Dear Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair, Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani and I am an RN who supports this bill. While it requires employers to provide employees access to seizure first aid information (specified by the department of labor and industrial relations) it does not include training to medically treat a person suffering a seizure.

“Seizure first aid” means procedures to respond, attend, and provide comfort and safety to a person suffering from a primary generalized tonic-clonic seizure or complex partial seizure.

I believe this could save lives and minimize damage from a seizure. For example, if an employee witnesses a seizure they could place padding near the seizing person’s head to minimize head injury. An employee could help the victim by bringing them their rescue medication or by recording information that could be helpful for first responders (such as timing the event). Employees need education so that they know how they can be helpful as well as what NOT to do (such as putting your fingers into a seizing person’s mouth).

Please support this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN  
Kailua Resident

**House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce**

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Support for Senate Bill 936 SD2 HD1 -- Relating to Public Health

March 22 2021

Aloha Chair Johanson and Vice Chair Kitagawa,

My name is Alexa Ortiz. I am a Bachelor's of Social Work student at UH Manoa. I appreciate this opportunity to **provide testimony in support of SB 936 SD2 HD1**. This bill's purpose is to ensure that employers provide their employees with access to seizure first aid information. This may come in the form of lectures, flyers, exhibitions, etc.

Within the past month, I became certified in Seizure First Aid via the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i. The training consisted of less than two hours of my time; I can now recognize signs of a seizure, administer appropriate seizure first aid, and determine when medical assistance is truly necessary. According to the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i, 1 out of every 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime. This means seizures are far more common than we may believe. Schools and workplaces are some of the most common institutions people interact with on a daily basis. If seizure first aid is made visible in workplaces, a good portion of the population will come into contact with helpful information about seizures. This can be vital to those 1/10 individuals who suffer from seizures, especially since they are likely to experience a seizure within the workplace and/or school.

The Seizure First Aid training opened my eyes to the experiences many of those around me are going through. Disseminating information is such a simple yet profound way of having an impact on a community that is often overlooked.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of SB936 SD2 HD1. I genuinely hope this committee chooses to move forward with this bill. Many lives can be positively impacted by its effects.

Sincerely,  
Alexa Ortiz  
House District 31

**SB-936-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:58:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in House conference room 329

Support for Senate Bill 936 SD2 HD1

March 22, 2021,

Aloha Chair Ling Johanson and Vice-Chair Kitagawa. My name is Jahanavi Priya, and I am a social work student at UH MÄ• noa's Thompson School. I am also a field intern at the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i. I am submitting my testimony as an individual in support of SB 936 SD2 HD1.

This bill is to have employers provide their employees with information to seizure first aid. It would be helpful in the workplace and the community since many trained individuals can recognize and provide appropriate first aid for a seizure.

I did the training and found it to be so valuable. Not only did I learn about the types of seizures, but what my response should be. It was a 90-minute training through the Epilepsy Foundation with just a pre and post-test to be certified. The materials were provided by them and did not cost extra money. The certificate lasts two years and can save the lives of people in our community.

At least 1 in 10 will have a seizure at some point in their lives. The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i provides services to 14,000 individuals with epilepsy in the state. It would be so helpful to them and help us better understand epilepsy and seizures. Instead of being a bystander or panicking, people would know what to do when someone has a seizure. I strongly urge you to pass this bill because it can help the overall community if



there are trained individuals to help in seizure first aid and recognition since a seizure can occur anywhere.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jahanavi Priya

**SB-936-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 1:13:02 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Cobi Koike and I support SB 936 regarding public health. I am 12 year's old and have been playing baseball with Brennan Yamaguchi. Each year, we set aside one game for Epilepsy Awareness. This is a very important game for us as we help to raise awareness to other families and community members about this health condition that affects many people around us.

It is very important that everyone is aware of what to do if someone has a seizure while in their presence. According to the Epilepsy Foundation website, free posters are available for anyone to print and post. There are 3 simple steps:

1. Stay with the person until they are awake and alert after the seizure. Time the seizure. Remain calm.
2. Keep the person safe. Move or guide away from harm.
3. Turn the person on to the side if they are not awake or aware. Keep airway clear. Loosen tight clothes around neck. Put something small and soft under the head.

There is zero cost to train everyone and to simply read a poster, flier, hear a broadcast, or other means of learning about what to do if someone has a seizure. After reading the fliers, as a 12 year old, I am better prepared to help another person if they have a seizure and hope to save a life. If this bill passes, I am willing to use my own money to print out posters, pass it out to all offices and/or establishments so everyone can be aware of, and have the proper education to recognize the signs and steps to take if someone has a seizure.