



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB936 HD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: April 1, 2021

Room Number: N/A

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates the intent but
2 respectfully opposes this measure as drafted. DOH is willing to support if instances of “shall” are
3 amended to “may” and a sunset date of five years is established.

4 As drafted this represents a new program with no appropriation, since there is no seizure disorder
5 resources within DOH. In addition there are no enforcement provisions and it is logistically
6 complicated to implement.

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

12 Furthermore, the state is unable to compel the federal government to participate. At least 1.0
13 FTE is required to implement this new requirement in a meaningful way. Alternatively, this
14 requirement may be changed from a department mandate to an employer mandate.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

17



March 31, 2021

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
 Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
 House Committee on Finance
 Via Video Conference

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen :

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 provide employees access to seizure first aid information which is intended to save lives.

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. The Seizure First Aid poster is available in multiple common languages (samples below) including 5 Pacific Island languages being added within the coming months. These posters are accessible, and downloadable for free through the Epilepsy Foundation’s national resource repository (<https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/seizure-first-aid-and-safety/first-aid-resources>) where all materials are reviewed and vetted by the Epilepsy Foundation’s Professional Advisory Board comprised of epilepsy experts across a wide range of medical disciplines. In addition, more resources are available directly through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Epilepsy Program (<https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/index.html>). The publications below were made possible with funding from the CDC.



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.



The Seizure First Aid Certification training, developed by the Epilepsy Foundation and the CDC, is available through the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii. This training also comes at **no cost** to employers, businesses, organizations, or individuals which goes over 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. We truly thank the legislature for the discussion and the opportunity to testify on this very important topic.

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.**

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

LATE

Aloha,

My name is Kristina L. Hulama, a current intern with The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i and a current graduate student at The University of Hawai'i at Manoa, School of Social Work. I am in FULL SUPPORT of S.B. No. 936, Relating to Seizure First Aid.

Within the United States of America, there are at least 3.4 million individuals with epilepsy and seizures, approximately 1 in 26 individuals will develop epilepsy, and approximately 1 in 10 individuals will experience a seizure.

In Hawai'i, there are almost 14,000 individuals living with epilepsy and every single one of them has a right to be safe within their own community. This bill would help create a safer environment for all of these individuals and their families as well.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i provides Seizure Recognition, First Aid Certification Training, and public education materials at no cost. The public education materials are also translated into many languages including Hawaiian and Samoan so there are no language barriers. So there is no reason why this bill should not be passed.

Sincerely,

Kristina L. Hulama

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:12:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this to be passed through legislature.

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 5:29:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen DeMay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's address a crutch excuse - the elephant in the room - right off the bat; funding. Passing this bill has minuscule costs associated to it. The information has already been compiled and vetted. Dissemination is through email or uploaded to a universal site, like capital.hawaii.gov for immediate download. We're not talking rail costs here. If you need a ream of paper, I'll proudly donate it. Enforcement of the displayed one-pager would be the same way any other state poster required to be displayed is handled. The support of turning this bill into law far outweighs any ad hominem cons someone can present. The first life that's saved because of this information sheet will substantiate any costs associated to it.

I have personal interest in the passing of this bill. 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

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 9:20:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Sasano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi,

My name is Christy Sasano, and I am a mother of 6. At the young age of 5, one of my sons suffered a seizure on our plane ride to Disneyland. At the time, I have never witnessed anyone having a seizure, let alone one of my own children. Everything happened so fast. I had no idea what was going on or what to do to help my son. All I remember was frantically running down the aisle to the front of the aircraft for help. It was one of the scariest moments of my life. We were so fortunate to have the flight attendants and a couple of fellow passengers come to his aide. They knew exactly what to do and monitored him until the plane was diverted back to Honolulu. I will always be grateful to those "heroes" that came forward and helped our son that day. He is now a happy and healthy 14 year old.

Epilepsy and seizure awareness is great for all to know. It could save lives. My family and I support Brennan Yamaguchi and Bill SB936.

Brennan Yamaguchi

State of Hawaii Student (Age 12)

Date: April 1, 2021

Support for SB 936 (and amendments)

Regarding Public Health

TO: LABOR & TOURISM COMMITTEE

Rep. Chair Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty JK Cullen, Vice Chair

As a student and citizen in the State of Hawaii, I want to make sure Hawaii workplaces especially my friends who work in or visit state offices and buildings have access to first aid posters. 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 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. IT IS AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES TOO such as Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese (see photo at end) and is being translated now in Micronesian, Ilocano, and Hawaiian and other Pacific island languages. 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> and <https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/seizure-first-aid-and-safety/first-aid-resources>

It should be able to be monitored just like other mandated posters are. It can also be inspected virtual or with an electronic signature. I'm sure the Department of Health has a check list of things a business needs to do or post. Can this be added to this check list as one more item? It does not cost anything if your health inspectors are already going to those establishments. And again this is a free download the department can provide, or the business can download upon inspection.

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 Coronavirus.

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 they 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

癫痫发作时的急救

如何帮助癫痫发作的人

1

留在 患者身边,直到他们在癫痫发作后醒来并恢复意识。

- ✓ 记录癫痫发作的**时长**
- ✓ 保持**冷静**
- ✓ 查找患者的**医疗证件**



2

保证患者的**人身安全**。

- ✓ 移动或引导患者**远离危害**



3

如果他们**没有苏醒也无意识**,翻转患者的体位到**侧位**。

- ✓ 保持**气道通畅**
- ✓ 将脖子周围的**紧身服饰松开**
- ✓ 在头下部放置**小而柔软的东西**



如果发生以下情况,请拨打 911

- ▶ 如果癫痫发作持续时间超过5分钟
- ▶ 反复发作
- ▶ 患者无法恢复到正常状态
- ▶ 第一次发作
- ▶ 患者受伤、怀孕或生病
- ▶ 呼吸困难
- ▶ 在水中时癫痫发作

请勿

- ✗ **请勿抑制他/她的发作。**
- ✗ **请勿将任何物品放在患者嘴里。**
- ✓ **可以赠送抢救药物**,如果该药物是专业医疗人士开具的处方药

如欲了解更多和注册参加培训: epilepsy.com/firstaid



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Chinese - Simplified

Epilepsy First Aid in Standard Chinese characters



Wonderful senators showing by example how the poster would be displayed.

SB936 SD2 HD1

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB936. Having such information posted at businesses, would help in the event someone unexpectedly has a seizure due to Epilepsy or another cause.

When I was 8 years old, my mom had a seizure – the first of her life. Since my dad, younger siblings and I did not ever encounter anyone having a seizure before we were unsure what to do. Unbeknownst to us, she had stopped breathing and we did not realize we should call 911 if the seizure lasts longer than a few minutes. Because of this, she went into a coma. When she woke up, it was discovered she has partial amnesia.

As the years went on, I forgot some of the tips that the doctors gave our family since my mom's later seizures were few and far between. Then about 5 years ago, while living in Southern California, my youngest daughter started having febrile seizures. The first one occurred in our moving car, a few months after the death of my husband. Had this occurred when he was alive, he would have known what to do since he was a Registered Nurse. But in my grief and shock of seeing my child in my rear-view mirror having a seizure, I forgot everything I learned after my mom's situation, except to call 911.

For people who have never experienced this situation, having the information posted prominently in businesses could save a life. As our family has experienced, someone does not have to have a history of seizures to have a seizure the first time. It could happen anywhere and at any time.

Sincerely,

Lisa-Anne Mitsuka Chan

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:12:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Sham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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 epileptic seizure awareness baseball game. We applaud Brennan and his ohana for coming up with this bill to help with epileptic seizure awareness. Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing a positive outcome.

Aloha,

Jared Sham

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.

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:11:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andee Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,
Organization
Individual
Testifier Position
Support
Present at Hearing
No

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. And enforcement would be the same as if they didn't have any of the other state required information posted such as minimum wage, Workman's comp, etc.

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

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:18:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noah Sham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Noah Sham. I am 12 years old. I am in support of this bill because it can help to save lives. People may be against it because it's too much work but if you think about what if one of your family members has a seizure in a store, wouldn't you want the store employees to know first aid for your loved one? If it can help to save lives, why wouldn't we pass this bill? I am in support of this bill and I humbly ask for your support as well. Thank you.

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:57:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Arakaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a GREAT thing. There is a lot of misinformation about the proper way to respond to a seizure in progress, this is educates the public with simple, easy to follow instructions.

I have been there before as the initial and only responder when my firend had a seizer and I cannot explain the PANIC I felt. I thought my friend was going to die in my arms and I didn't know how to help him. This bill will not only ensure employers provide access to seizure first aid information, it is a simple way to educate the general public on PROPER seizure first aid which will hopefully eliminate existing misinformation. Knowing seizure first aid will ease panic in initial responders, start discussions about proper seizure first aid and it may even save lives.

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:45:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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.

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

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

March 22 2021

Aloha Chair Lukle and Vice Chair Cullen,

My name is Alexa Ortiz. I am a Bachelor's of Social Work student at UH Manoa. I am also a field intern at the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i. 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.

In regards to the seizure first aid educational posters, the National Epilepsy Foundation has them available for **free** on their website (<https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/seizure-first-aid-and-safety/first-aid-resources>); they are available in English, Spanish, and Korean. In addition, the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i is translating the educational posters into at least five Pacific Islander languages. The National Epilepsy Foundation has a professional advisory board which has vetted said educational materials, as well as the Seizure Recognition and First Aid Certification course (also offered for **free**). In relation to the epilepsy community as a whole, Congress gave 10 million dollars to the CDC's epilepsy program, demonstrating federal support for epilepsy-related programs.

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 out of 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

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 1, 2021, in House conference room 308

Support for Senate Bill 936 SD2 HD1

March 31, 2021,

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen. My name is Jahanavi Priya, and I am a social work student at UH Manoa's Thompson School. I am also a field intern at the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii. 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 as simple as having flyers and other information displayed in their workplace.

The National Epilepsy Foundation has a professional advisory board that has created all educational materials on seizure recognition and first aid certification. The website has simplified and free downloadable resources for posters in English, Spanish, and Korean. The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii is translating educational posters to make them available in at least five Pacific Islander languages.

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 Hawaii 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.

The federal government funds the CDC Epilepsy Program, displaying that Congress is in support of epilepsy-related programs. I strongly urge you to pass this bill because it can help in the workplace and the overall community if individuals are aware 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: 3/31/2021 12:32:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Mae Respicio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. By passing this bill, it will better equip DOH and our community to provide help and care to those who suffer from seizures, and potentially save lives. Mahalo for allowing me to testify in favor of this bill.

Senate Committee on Finance

Thursday, April 1, 2021

2:30 p.m. Via Videoconference , Room 308

RE: SB 936, SD 2, HD 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Chair Onishi, Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Shyla-Ann Keaunui. I am a student intern at the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i, a Bachelor of Social Work student currently attending University of Hawai'i at Manoa, School of Social Work, and a healthcare worker. I testify in SUPPORT of SB936, which would require the Department of Health (DOH) to disseminate information regarding seizure first aid and employers to post materials provided by the DOH to educate employees with respect to seizure first aid.

Public awareness regarding epilepsy is necessary. I have had the opportunity over the last few months to learn about epilepsy. There are about 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. Of those people, about 14,000 are living with epilepsy throughout Hawai'i. One in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy and 1 in 10 will experience a seizure at some point in their lifetime.

A seizure can happen to anyone, at anytime, anywhere. Based the statistics above, I strongly believe this bill needs to be passed to raise public awareness. I applaud this young activist for speaking up and being an advocate for those who are directly and indirectly affected by epilepsy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 936

SD2 HD1.

Shyla-Ann Keaunui
BSW Candidate
School of Social Work
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
shylaann@hawaii.edu

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: 3/31/2021 2:29:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffany Mina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a special education teacher who has worked with students who have seizures, it was a steep learning curve to learn and understand seizure protocol and action plans. As a school we were fortunate to receive video training on how to identify the different ways that seizures may present themselves as well as when to call for emergency help, etc. Even with training and action plans, in the moment a child is having a seizure you still are wondering if you missed a step, are following procedure, are doing the right thing, etc. I can't imagine what an untrained person would go through if they were to witness a seizure. Far to many times I have heard "put a spoon in their mouth" which is one of the worst things that you should do. Therefore, I support SB 936 and believe it would truly help to make our State a safer place. Signage exists for CPR, hand washing, vaping, etc. shouldn't there be signage for seizures as well?

LATE

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 3:52:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ariel Colburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ariel Colburn and Hawai'i has been my home since the day I was born. I am currently working to get my Masters in Social Work. I also work in the prevention field and I am fully in support of this bill. Having access to first aid seizure charts would be for those in need would help save lives and prevent people from further damage to their health and/or safety. The health and safety is always number 1 when dealing with any community and I believe this bill will help us to better the public health and safety.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

LATE

SB-936-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 4:12:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I highly encourage those in leadership positions in our state to support Bill SB936 and allow our community to be stronger and safer for those with Epilepsy/seizures and to support their family and friends as well. Knowledge is always the most powerful thing you can share.

From 2011 – 2013, I worked as a CPR Instructor for AED Institute and Hawaii Heart Foundation (HHF). HHF was founded after a local teacher collapsed during a school meeting and passed away from cardiac arrest. HHF provided free hands only CPR/AED training at local schools, teaching students and anyone willing to learn, what to do if someone has a cardiac arrest. Community education & awareness is the key when it comes to saving a life during a medical emergency. The same applies to Epilepsy and seizure first aid and awareness.

Becoming familiar with Epilepsy and seizures also removes the stigma and fear that may come with dealing with an episode. I strongly believe that teaching seizure first aid at any level not only puts a safety net in place for those who may have this medical condition, but empowers our community and our keiki.