



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1799, H.D. 1
RELATING TO ASTHMA**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: February 10, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on House Bill
3 1799 (H.B. 1799), House Draft (H.D. 1), authorizing the Department of Education (DOE) to
4 offer optional asthma self-management instruction to students and provide mandatory asthma
5 training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students. The DOH
6 concurs the importance of school-based asthma self-management education (AS-ME) for
7 students, parents, and school staff.

8 Asthma is one of the leading causes of chronic disease-related school absenteeism.
9 Absenteeism due to poorly controlled asthma may negatively affect educational outcomes and
10 limit students with asthma the ability to fully participate in school activities. Addressing asthma
11 effectively requires a coordinated effort among school staff, home/family members, and the
12 primary care physician in order to improve self-management and health outcomes. The
13 coordination is acutely important since moderate to severe asthma increases risk for
14 hospitalization from COVID-19.

15 H.B. 1799, H.D. 1 aligns with the prioritized objectives in the Hawaii Asthma Plan 2030
16 developed with stakeholders to increase AS-ME program implementation in school and
17 community sites.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

19 **Offered Amendments:** None



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

Date: 02/10/2022

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 329 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Health, Human
Services, & Homelessness

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1799, HD1 RELATING TO ASTHMA.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the department of education to offer optional asthma self-management instruction to students. Requires the department of education to provide mandatory asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 1799, HD1. This bill would authorize the Department to offer asthma self-management instruction to students with asthma; require asthma training be provided to teachers and other employees who interact with students; and allow parents, guardians of students, and any other Department employees to attend asthma training at no cost.

The Department is committed to supporting students' well-being and is striving to reduce health-related absenteeism. The Department has been collaborating with the American Lung Association Hawaii to develop opportunities for students with asthma to participate in self-management instruction and for employees to receive training on asthma symptoms and management. Parents and guardians will also be provided access to training at no cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS**Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair****Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair****February 10, 2022 – 9:00 am****TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1799, HD1, RELATING TO ASTHMA**

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education, and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association in Hawaii and across the nation is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Lung Association strongly supports House Bill 2822, House Draft 1, relating to asthma. The bill would provide training to all Hawai‘i teachers within the Department of Education on asthma and optional trainings for students with asthma and their parents.

Asthma is a serious public health concern in Hawai‘i. In 2018, 10.2% of Hawai‘i children were estimated to have asthma compared to 7.5% of children in the U.S. as a whole.¹ In Hawai‘i, disparities in asthma prevalence are seen in race/ethnicity and region, with Native Hawaiians being disproportionately affected by asthma and experiencing the greatest burden. Native Hawaiians have the highest asthma prevalence at 28.3% compared to Caucasians (17.1%), Chinese (16.4%), Filipino (20.5%), Japanese (17.7%), or other races/ethnicities (19.8%).² Areas with high asthma prevalence include Hawai‘i and Maui counties and the Nānākuli/Wai‘anae sub-county areas on O‘ahu. Asthma disparities can be further exacerbated by geographic isolation, lack of transportation to and from doctor’s appointments, lower socioeconomic status, and limited access to healthcare specialists and subspecialists.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that schools provide asthma education for students, parents, and school staff as part of creating [Asthma Friendly Schools](#). It further states that “asthma is a leading chronic illness among children and adolescents in the United States. It is also one of the leading causes of school absenteeism. On average, on in ten children are likely to have asthma. Low-income populations, minorities, and children living in inner cities experience more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population.”

Absenteeism due to poorly controlled asthma may negatively affect educational outcomes and limit students with asthma’s ability to fully participate in school activities, and when children miss school, a parent or guardian often misses work to care for them. Addressing asthma effectively requires a coordinated effort among school staff, home/family members, and the primary care physician in order to improve health outcomes for children with asthma.

Several studies have been published demonstrating that school-based interventions for teachers, students, and parents help reduce the negative outcomes of asthma. A 2008 study funded by the CDC and published in the *Journal of School Health* revealed that school-based asthma curriculum helped to reduce symptoms, activity limitations, and health care utilization for intervention participants.³

¹ CDC, Risk Youth Behavioral Survey, Hawaii, 2019

² Uchima O, Taira DA, Ahn HJ, Choi SY, Okihiro M, Sentell T. Disparities in Potentially Preventable Emergency Department Visits for Children with Asthma among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Whites in Hawai‘i. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2021

³ Herman, E.J., Garbe, P.L. & McGeehin, M.A. Assessing Community-Based Approaches to Asthma Control: The Controlling Asthma in American Cities Project. *J Urban Health* 88, 1–6 (2011).

We have the opportunity to help children with asthma, their families, and the teachers that are responsible for their wellbeing. Because of the lack of healthcare personnel in schools, it's imperative that DOE teachers receive adequate training on one of the most common childhood diseases.

We ask you to please support HB 1799, House Draft 1, and help create a net of safety for our most vulnerable keiki.



Pedro Haro
Executive Director
American Lung Association in Hawaii
pedro.haro@lung.org



To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health

From: Peggy Mierzwa, AlohaCare

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:00 AM

RE: **HB1799 HD1 Relating to Asthma -Support**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB1799 HD1**. This measure will allow the Department of Education to provide optional asthma self-management instruction to students. It will also require teachers and others who work with students to be trained in recognizing asthma and learning about asthma management.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. We are the only health plan in Hawaii that exclusively serves Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Asthma affects Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander children at higher proportions than other groups. Furthermore, Hawaii Island and Maui, where there is less access to the care of specialists, have the highest rates of childhood asthma. The west side of Oahu also sees disproportionate rates of childhood asthma as well.

Schools can serve as a community support site by helping parents and guardians learn more about asthma, helping kids to understand asthma, and giving teachers and other direct support staff the tools they need to adequately address the physical and emotional needs of students. In other places, such programs have been successful with increasing education and knowledge, increasing the health of the students and decreasing the number of absences.¹

Healthy communities are achieved when we take preventative action in addition to administering the appropriate treatment to individuals. Implementation of this bill will help the state to uplift public health. Being proactive instead of reactive is the key to overall health.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB1799 HD1**

¹ [Cost-effectiveness of the School-Based Asthma Therapy \(SBAT\) program - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • www.AlohaCare.org

HB-1799-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:15:57 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Ching, MD, MPH	American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter supports House Bill 1799, relating to asthma. This bill provides the needed support that children with asthma need by having all Department of Education teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawaii. It would also provide for optional asthma education for students with asthma.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average, in a classroom of 30 children, about 3 are likely to have asthma. Low-income populations, Native Hawaiians, and children living near traffic intersections experience more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population. The CDC also recommends that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and education programs for students, school staff, parents, and families. This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

We ask you to please support this bill to ensure that our children with asthma have the best chance to thrive in all environments.

Sincerely,

Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP
President
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Date: February 10, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

Re: HB 1799 HD 1 Asthma; DOE; Training; Teachers; Courses

Position: Support

Hawaii physicians recognize well the significant public health challenges of asthma in our pediatric population. Each year, 4 million children nationwide have an asthma exacerbation event, often requiring immediate medical care. Here in Hawaii, racial and ethnic disparities exist in these potentially preventable pediatric emergency department (PPPED) visits. According to analyses by the UH Office of Public Health Studies of the acute care hospitals in our state for 2016 (3230 visits), the largest proportion of total potentially preventable pediatric ED visits for asthma came from Native Hawaiians (36.5%), followed by Filipino (19.4%), White (13.3%), other Pacific Islander (13.0%), other race (11.1%), Japanese (5.30%), and Chinese (1.5%)¹.

It is clear that health inequities exist for the keiki of our minority citizens, and coordinated community based asthma education programs for Hawaii teachers, students and parents will reduce the negative outcomes². Hawaii will need additional research on the details of asthma hospitalization and outpatient data to quantify direct and indirect burdens of cost. This legislation is a move in the right direction. Our Hawaii legislature must attend to these critical healthcare disparities that impact our most vulnerable communities.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify on this measure.

REFERENCES

1. Uchima, O et al. Disparities in Potentially Preventable Emergency Department Visits for Children with Asthma among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Whites in Hawai'i. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2021, 18, 7096. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18137096>.
2. Herman, E.J., Garbe, P.L. & McGeehin, M.A. Assessing Community-Based Approaches to Asthma Control: The Controlling Asthma in American Cities Project. *J Urban Health* 88, 1–6 2011.

HMA OFFICERS

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Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: **HB 1799, HD1 – Relating to Asthma**

Hawai'i State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference, Room 329

February 10, 2022, 9:00 AM

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 1799 HD1, relating to asthma. This bill would require the Department of Education to offer optional asthma education courses to students and provide mandatory asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average, in a classroom of 30 children, about 3 are likely to have asthma. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average, in a classroom of 30 children, about 3 are likely to have asthma.¹

In Hawai'i, disparities in asthma prevalence are seen in race/ethnicity and region with Native Hawaiians being disproportionately affected by asthma and experiencing the greatest burden. Native Hawaiians have the highest asthma prevalence at 28.3% compared to Caucasians (17.1%), Chinese (16.4%), Filipino (20.5%), Japanese (17.7%), or other races/ethnicities (19.8%).² Areas with high asthma prevalence include Hawai'i and Maui counties and the Nānākuli/Wai'anae sub-county areas on O'ahu.

This bill would to ensure that our children with asthma have the best fighting chance to thrive in all environments. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo, Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/asthma/index.htm>

² Uchima O, Taira DA, Ahn HJ, Choi SY, Okihiro M, Sentell T. Disparities in Potentially Preventable Emergency Department Visits for Children with Asthma among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Whites in Hawai'i. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2021



HIPHI Board

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Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: February 8, 2022

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

Re: Support HB 1799, HD 1, Relating to Asthma

Hrg: February 10, 2022 at 9:00 AM via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **support of HB 1799, HD 1**, which authorizes the Department of Education to offer optional asthma education courses to students and provide mandatory asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students.

Asthma is a serious health concern in Hawai'i, with 10.2% of Hawai'i children estimated to have asthma in 2018 (compared to 7.5% of children nationally.ⁱⁱ Asthma is also one of the leading causes of absenteeism due to chronic disease, and may negatively affect educational outcomes, limit students with asthma's ability to fully participate in school activities, and when children miss school, a parent or guardian often misses work to care for them.

Certain physical activities in schools, such as that in PE classes or recess playtime, may be a trigger for children with asthma, so it is important for all people in charge of the care of children understand what asthma is, how to react in an emergency, and what may trigger asthma attacks. The CDC recommends that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and education programs for school staff, parents, and families. This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1799, HD 1.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Fernandes', written in a cursive style.

Amanda Fernandes, JD
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

ⁱⁱ 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). Available at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs. Accessed on 02/02/22.



DATE 8 Feb 2022

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Committee of Health, Human Services and Homeslessness

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1799 RELATING TO ASTHMA

Hrg: 10 Feb 2022, 9:00 AM House conference room 329 via Videoconference

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. As stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

HPHA strongly supports HB1799, relating to asthma. This bill provides the needed support that children with asthma require by having all Department of Education teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawai'i. While we understand that the Department of Education is taxed with a variety of roles, because of the nature of asthma, it's important that all people that work with children understand what asthma is, how to react in an emergency, and what may trigger asthma attacks. This is particularly important for young children, who make up most asthma-related emergency room visits. While many older children may carry inhalers and need little help when they have an asthma attack because they can identify triggers and use their inhalers themselves, younger children may need the help of a teacher to get through an asthma attack.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average, in a classroom of 30 children, about 3 are likely to have asthma. CDC also recommend that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and education programs for school staff, parents, and families. This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.



This bill also has significant impact on promoting health equity. Low-income populations, Native Hawaiians, and children living near traffic intersections experience more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population. Schools are an important part of a child's life by providing a safe and healthy environment for all children to learn and thrive.

We strongly support HB1799, House Draft 1, and respectfully ask that you pass this measure to ensure that our keiki with asthma have the best chance to thrive in all environments. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Leocadia Conlon, PhD, MPH, PA-C
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Thursday, February 10, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1799, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO ASTHMA.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the 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. 1799, House Draft 1, RELATING TO ASTHMA.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would allow the Department of Education (DOE) to offer optional asthma self-management instruction to students and require teachers and other DOE employees to obtain asthma training. This bill would also take effect on July 1, 2050.

According to recent data, it is estimated that 11.6% of children (<18 years) and 7.8% of adults in Hawaii currently have asthma. This corresponds to 36,000 children and 76,000 adults, or 112,000 people with asthma in our State.

As a partner of the Department of Health's Hawaii Asthma Control Program (**See**, <https://health.hawaii.gov/asthma/>), the HPCA supports any and all efforts to promote a broader understanding of this disease among our citizens. It is our hope that everyone will one day know how to best manage this malady, and understand what they can do when someone experiences an acute asthma attack.

Try to imagine how scary it would be for a child to experience an asthma attack in a classroom. Imagine how scary it would be for the other students in the classroom who watch while this occurs. . . And also try to imagine how helpless the teacher will feel if he or she sees a student under his or her care in distress and not knowing what to do when this happens?

If you were that teacher, would you be able to sleep that night and would you be hesitant to go back to school the next day?

We recognize that much in this bill pertains to the "conditions of employment" that should more appropriately be addressed through collective bargaining. But if this bill can start the conversation between the DOE, the Hawaii State Teachers Association, and the Hawaii Government Employees Association, this bill would have accomplished much to improve the situation.

The HPCA stands ready to assist in this discussion and offer our expertise and reach across all islands to coordinate and collaborate on future activities.

For these reasons, we urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

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

Chair: Ryan Yamane
Vice Chair: Adrian Tam
Members of the Committee Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1799, HD 1, RELATING TO ASTHMA

My name is Julian Lipsher, a member of the American Lung Association of Hawaii's Local Leadership Board testifying in Support of HB 1799, HD 1, Relating to Asthma.

This bill provides needed support that children with asthma need through the provision of training for Department of Education teachers along with optional education for children with asthma on management of the disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 10.2 % of Hawaii's children were estimated to have asthma compared to 7.5% of children in the US. Asthma can be managed through early identification with primary care health professionals, support to parents and families and proper accessible medications.

In school situations, critical training for school personnel would support early intervention which can prevent needless and expensive calls to 911 resulting in hospital transports or to working parents needing to come and pick up the child. It is estimated that in an average classroom of 30 students, there are about 3 children with either diagnosed or undiagnosed asthma

In Hawaii, cases of asthma are more often found in low income populations, particularly those without primary care involvement and disproportionately among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. Further, environment plays a role with susceptibility occurring among children living in or near high traffic areas.

CDC recommends that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and for school staff, parents and families. This bill would align Hawaii with CDC recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

TO: House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2022
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1799 HD1, RELATING TO ASTHMA

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia J. Goto, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1799 HD1, relating to asthma. This bill provides the support that children with asthma need by having all Department of Education teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawaii.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average, in a classroom of 30 children, about 3 are likely to have asthma. Low-income populations, Native Hawaiians, and children living near traffic intersections experience more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population.

It is possible to live well with this chronic disease. The National Institutes of Health Expert Panel Report 3 Guidelines include evidence that comprehensive school-based educational interventions can be effective in improving the health and quality of life for students with asthma.¹ The CDC Coordinated School Health model emphasizes a school-wide approach that includes asthma-friendly policies such as the provision of asthma education and awareness programs for students and staff.² This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

Please support House Bill 1799 HD1 to ensure that our children with asthma have the best chance to thrive in all environments.

Thank you,

Cynthia J. Goto

¹ National Institutes of Health Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR 3). Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. Publication No. 08-5846, July 2007.

²Strategies for Addressing Asthma in Schools. National Center for Environmental Health, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects. January 2017.
https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/strategies_for_addressing_asthma_in_schools_508.pdf

HB-1799-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:46:00 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Angela Petersons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1799, HD 1, RELATING TO ASTHMA

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Angela Petersons, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1799, House Draft 1, relating to asthma. This bill provides the needed support that children with asthma need by having all Department of Education teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawaii.

While we understand that the Department of Education is taxed with a variety of roles, because of the nature of asthma, it's important that all people that work with children understand what asthma is, how to react in an emergency, and what may trigger asthma attacks. This is particularly important for young children, who make up most asthma-related emergency room visits. While many older children may carry inhalers and need little help when they have an asthma attack because they can identify triggers and use their inhalers themselves, younger children may need the help of a teacher to get through an asthma attack.

My son has childhood asthma and so did my daughter, but she grew out of it. With every sickness, asthma affected their ability to breathe and they often times ended up in the emergency room for breathing treatments. Allowing the DOE to provide training to all teachers and students is of utmost importance especially to younger children who may need quick assistance administering rescue inhalers. When your children can't breathe, nothing else matters.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average, in a classroom of 30 children, about 3 are likely to have asthma. Low-income populations, Native Hawaiians, and children living near traffic intersections experience more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population. CDC also recommend that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and education programs for school staff, parents, and families. This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

It takes a village to raise a child, and schools are part of the village that helps foster the learning and healthy environment that our keiki need to thrive. We ask you to please support House Bill 1799, House Draft 1, to ensure that our children with asthma have the best fighting chance to thrive in all environments.

Thank you,

Angela Petersons

petersonsohana@gmail.com

808.778.2807

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

February 10, 2022 – 9:00am

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1799, HD 1, RELATING TO ASTHMA

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Troy Siruno and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1799, House Draft 1, relating to asthma. This bill provides the needed support that children with asthma need by having all Department of Education teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most chronic childhood diseases in Hawaii.

While we understand that the Department of Education is taxed with a variety of roles, because of the nature of asthma, it's important that all people that work with children understand what asthma is, how to react during an asthma emergency, and what may trigger asthma attacks. This is particularly important for young children who make up the majority of asthma-related emergency room visits. While many older children may carry inhalers and need little help when they have an asthma attack because they can identify triggers and use their inhalers themselves, younger children may need the help of a teacher to get through an asthma attack.

I had mild asthma as a young child, and many of my nieces and nephews also had asthma growing up. It would provide incredible peace of mind to know that teachers in the DOE were trained to recognize and react appropriately if a child has an asthma attack at school.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on average, in a classroom of 30 children, about 3 are likely to have asthma. Low-income populations, Native Hawaiians, and children living near traffic intersections experience more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population. CDC also recommends that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and education programs for students, school staff, parents, and families. This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

It takes a village to raise a child, and schools are part of the village that helps foster the learning and healthy environment that our keiki need to thrive. We ask you to please support House Bill 1799, House Draft 1, to ensure that our children with asthma have the best fighting chance to thrive in all environments.

Mahalo,

Troy Siruno
Honolulu, HI
(808) 216-7807
tsiruno@gmail.com