



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

Date: 02/15/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2482, HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Beginning 1/1/2024, requires public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure disorder rescue medication, with certain exemptions. Requires all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to perform an annual self-review of seizure disorder materials. Requires a seizure action plan for every diagnosed student to be established and distributed to employees charged with supervising the student. Appropriates funds. Effective 1/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HB 2482 HD1.

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

To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, every Department school has a School Health Assistant who has been trained in first aid, CPR, and medication administration. State policies support the safe and effective administration of medication to students by School Health Assistants. These include Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §302A-851 and §302A-853. The Nurse Practice Act allows and covers School Health Assistants with regards to medication

administration.

Per HRS §302A-1164, the Department allows for the self-administration of medication by a student for asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, or other potentially life-threatening illness. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a student with a seizure disorder may be eligible to receive additional services. An Individualized Education Program may be developed in collaboration with the legal guardian, school staff, and Hawaii State Department of Health Public Health Nurse to determine how to best meet the student's needs at school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

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

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

FOR: HB 2482 HD1 Relating to Education
DATE: February 15, 2022
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB2482 HD1, but has concerns with the implementation of the requirements in our public charter schools, as the bill requires that beginning 1/1/2024, public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure disorder rescue medication, with certain exemptions. Requires all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to perform an annual self-review of seizure disorder materials. Requires a seizure action plan for every diagnosed student to be established and distributed to employees charged with supervising the student. Appropriates funds.

The Commission must note that our public charter schools do not have sufficient funding to provide for the requirements of the bill as many of our public charter schools do not have Health Aides or at times access to the Department of Health, Public Health Nurses as do our Hawaii Department of Education public schools. Additionally, our public charter schools do not have access to a Keiki Nurse program in the way that our Department public schools have established.

The Commission has been working directly with the Hawaii Department of Health and the Department of Education to establish a similar “Keiki Nurse” program for our public charter schools. In fact, the Hawaii Department of Health has provided foundational funding through a recent grant given through the Hawaii Department of Education to assist with setting up a similar program for our public charter schools.

Due to the way funding is distributed between the Hawaii Department of Education and our public charter schools this requirement along with any additional mandated training or administration of health related medicine or procedures are often financially and operationally difficult to meet. The ability of the Department of Education to centralize these types of requirements cannot be found in the public charter school model. The Commission asks for consideration of these operational and capacity issues to be addressed for our public charter schools so that the intent of this bill can be met.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 8:49:56 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Keith Hayashi | Hawaii Department of Education | Comments | Yes |

Comments:

Comments

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2482, H.D. 1

February 15, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO EDUCATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 2482, H.D. 1.

H.B. No. 2482, H.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapter 302A, HRS, and Chapter 302D, HRS, to require: 1) public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication; 2) a seizure action plan for every diagnosed student and distribution of the plan to employees charged with supervising the student; and 3) all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to perform self-review of seizure disorder materials annually. The measure exempts schools that do not have a student with a seizure disorder. Lastly, the measure appropriates an undetermined sum of general funds for FY 23 to train employees to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure rescue medication at each public school and public charter school.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that

states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

House Representative Justin Woodson, Chair – House Committee on Education
House Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair – House Committee on Education
Public Hearing: February 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm
415 South Beretania Street, House Conference Room 309
Honolulu, HI 96813
Via Videoconference

RE: House Bill 2482 HD1

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela and Members of the House Committee on Education:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and the Epilepsy Foundation of America, we urge your support of House Bill 2482 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 school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are not only prepared but can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to a student experiencing a seizure. Seizure first aid training allows for standardized information and response protocols to be reliable and consistent at any school where potential seizure could occur.

Also importantly, the legislation safeguards physician-directed care in the school setting, allowing students to access necessary and potentially life-saving medication. The legislation would also mandate the use of a Seizure Action Plan, to be distributed to all personnel charged with the care of a student, to ensure that they have access to information that may be specific or unique to that student. Taken together, provisions in this bill represent important protections necessary to ensure the safety of students living with epilepsy while they are attending school or a school-related function.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, advocates and provides services for the 14,000 individuals living with active 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. Much like diabetic emergencies and anaphylaxis, seizures do not occur every single day in schools. However, 1:26 children may have epilepsy and, for them, the risk of a life threatening seizure is present every single day of their lives. This is why it is vital that school personnel are prepared to appropriately and efficiently respond.

Compared to students with other health concerns, one Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study showed that students aged 6-17 years old living with epilepsy were more likely to miss 11 or more days of school in the past year. For these students, proper seizure first aid and consistency of care while they are at school is crucial to ensuring they can reach their full potential with as minimal disruption to their learning environment as possible.

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](https://www.epilepsy.com/advocacy).**



House Bill 2482 HD1 would require school personnel, including school nurses, to undergo a short training to learn how to recognize a seizure and how to properly provide seizure first aid. The seizure recognition and first aid training, developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control already exists. They are available online, on demand, or in-person provided by the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii. Training would come at no additional cost to schools, school personnel, or the state. It would educate personnel on different seizure types, general seizure first aid, how to recognize a seizure emergency, and how to best socially and academically support students living with epilepsy.

House Bill 2482 HD1, if passed, would also facilitate continuity of care while a student is at school by providing school personnel with a Seizure Action Plan, containing information specific to the student's unique disorder. While seizure first aid is largely consistent no matter who the student is, there are times when a particular student may have specific triggers or treatment protocols that are individual to them. The Seizure Action Plan, which would be filled out in consultation with the child's physician, provides school personnel with important considerations, precautions, and contact information to help ensure aid is timely, tailored to the student's needs, and properly administered. Further, House Bill 2482 HD1 ensures that children have access to their anti-seizure medications while on school grounds, and in the case of seizure rescue medication, necessary to stop a seizure emergency.

We understand the pressures and concerns that this committee may have with this bill in its current form. It is based on model legislation utilized in a nation-wide effort to make every school in every state seizure safe. As of July 2021, there are 12 states that have seizure safe schools legislation enacted and many more actively pursuing similar bills this year. I am extremely hopeful that Hawaii can be added to that list. With the successful passing of Brennan's Bill last session, SB936 SD2 HD2 CD1, and working with the Hawaii Department of Health to be able to offer businesses credible and reliable seizure first aid information for the work place, we know we are moving in the right direction creating a seizure-safe Hawaii.

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and our Board of Directors, we humbly thank you for the opportunity to testify and urge your support for House Bill 2482 HD1.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi Manuel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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](https://www.epilepsy.com/advocacy).**

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 6:36:36 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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

808.371.5620

Brennan Yamaguchi

State of Hawaii Student (Age 13)

My name is Brennan Yamaguchi, I am a 7th grade student at Maryknoll School. HB2482 is important to me because it will require schools in Hawaii to have first aid seizure placement of information and training for teachers. Seizures can happen to a great part of the population, 1 in 26 people will be diagnosed with Epilepsy in their life. 1 in 10 will have a seizure whether from a fever, car accident, a fall, or even COVID. As of 2019, over 15,000 people in the State of Hawaii and over 3 million in the United States were living with Epilepsy.

It's not enough to say we have a plan for a student we know has Epilepsy or a critical illness. Often the first onset of Epilepsy is during childhood or while they're a teen so if a teacher or staff is not prepared in seizure first aid there can be dire circumstances. Also although I'm here to advocate on behalf of those with Epilepsy I think its key we remember those with fevers can have a seizure. Work place injuries or chemical exposure or car accidents. We have too many teachers and staff as well as students in the education system to take this lightly or only consider those cases we are aware of. This affects all of us.

I know this because I co-wrote and passed Senate Bill 936 with Senator Glenn Wakai during the last 2 sessions (one closed due COVID) regarding Seizure Safe Workplaces. Businesses are now safer for owners, employees, and customers because of that bill and I want the same for our keiki and educators. I've done the research and testified in person and in writing several times about how it can affect people in the community. We need to take care of each other just as I take care of my best friend who has Epilepsy.

Students should have a safe class room. Teachers should be know how to provide basic first aid for seizures as they are so common. But they also should feel safe their fellow staff members and they too will be ok if a seizure ever happens to them.

I ask our senate and house leaders to please do the right thing for our students and for our health. Please support House Bill 2482. Thank you for your time.

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 9:18:43 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alan Garcia | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2482, HD1

HB2482 is required to provide seizure safe schools. You will hear testimony from a very respectfull DOE representative that will say they already have trained personnel at schools to address seizures of students. That is not true, as you will hear testimony of actual student(s) who suffered a seizure at school and the school and bus failed to have any trained personnel to safely assist and support this student.

What happens if this student who suffered a seizure at school and while on the bus died. A major lawsuit would have been filed against the DOE, and if a court found the school and/or bus personnel failed to properly assist that student, judgment will be against the DOE and the state will have to pay the settlement or judgment which could amount to millions of taxpayer dollars.

This could all be avoided if the school has at least one employee who is the teacher, nurse and/or personnel trained to understand the signs of a seizure and to be able to administer seizure medication if needed.

Please pass this bill to protect our students with seizure disorders. You will hear from people that confirm students had seizures at school and on a bus and the DOE failed to have trained personnel to support and assist that student.

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 9:45:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Julie Matsumoto | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I fully support HB2482 for Seizure Safe Schools. As a mom to a Hawaii public school student with epilepsy, this bill is near and dear to my heart. This is my daughter's first year at the school and has already had several seizures during the school day. I am grateful every day that her support team has been absolutely AMAZING and we couldn't have asked for a better environment. But no matter how good the environment is, as a mom, I always have some worry in the back of my head. HB2482 enables for greater education about seizures for teachers, administrators and students, all with the greater goal of making school a safer place for a child like mine - and potentially all students. Please pass this bill to show support for a safer school environment and to provide critical resources to the wonderful educators that support students with epilepsy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Matsumoto

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 2:26:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Debbie Dickson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha my name is Debbie Dickson I am the Maternal Grandma to Akayla. The reason why this bill is so NEEDED is because of the countless kid's like my Akayla who has seizures and because there ISN'T enough help at the school's. Let me give you an example...

YOUR child has seizures and there's no one in the health room because they didn't come in this particular day because they were sick. So your child and Akayla both have a seizure at the same time. Keep in mind there's NO ONE working in the health room and there's no substitute to cover for them. Now what whose going to help both of these children. Then on top of it all the counselor's are off campus and the principal is in a meeting with parents and the teachers have no idea how or what to do for these children. Now who's going to help these children so they don't get hurt.

They call 911 but emergency help can't get there to help the children who is having a seizures. Plus there isn't enough emergency personnel to help both children. So please don't let this happen to any child who has seizures and there's no one there for them. This bill is extremely important and extremely NEEDED in the school's. Please PASS this bill. Keep in mind that when you make your decision to NOT pass this bill these children could be YOURS.

February 14, 2022

To: The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Representative: Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

The Honorable Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
The Honorable Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Housing

From: Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., LMFT

Re: **Strong Support of HB2482, HD1 RELATED TO EDUCATION**

Hrg: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm, Conference Room 309 via Videoconference

Position: Support

Good afternoon, Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Kapela, and members of the House Committee on Education and Chair Nakamura, Vice-Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the House Committee on Housing. My name is Ann Yabusaki from Kaneohe, Hawaii. Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB2482.

I strongly support the training of an employee to assist students with seizure disorders at the schools. Schools should develop seizure action plans for every diagnosed student or student who appear to have a seizure whether or not they have been diagnosed. For example, the incidence of seizures for youth with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is greater than the general population, and some may have their first seizure during the school day.

Furthermore, with the incidence of FASD increasing (2019 study cites one in 20 first graders are affected by an FASD), we anticipate more students with seizures on campus.

I am a psychologist and work with families and individuals affected by FASD. It is important to be proactive on this issue of health for these children and give caretakers some peace of mind that their children will be cared for during the school day.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this life-threatening issue.

February 14, 2022

To: The Honorable Senator Justin Woodson, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Re: HB 2482, Relating to Education

Hrg: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Position: Support

Good afternoon, Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair, and members of the House Committee on Education:

1. The people of Hawaii entrust the Department of Education (DOE) by sending their children to its various public schools. It is imperative that Schools train their personnel in attending to situations involving conditions such as Seizures which include but are not limited to handling of a child's body and/or administering medication(s). To this end, there must be a level of confidence parents and caregivers of children in Hawaii's public schools have with the DOE so they know their children are in the hands of well-informed personnel when and if situations arise for the need to treat seizures. With one in twenty first grade children having the permanent brain condition, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and individuals affected by FASD having a significantly higher risk for seizures, it's incumbent that Hawaii's DOE reduce its risks for liabilities and tragedies from not being competently trained to administer treatment to its children.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,
Kenichi K. Yabusaki, Ph.D.

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 9:28:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lisa Smith | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to have proper seizure protocol and at least one trained employee of the school that is available for that student with seizure disorder.

The Department of Education will provide testimony that they have adequate school staff trained in seizure disorders, but that is not true as they have verified cases of students who had a seizure at school or on a bus and the school personnel failed to act.

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 12:53:07 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nani Fay Paglinawan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Knowing what to do during a seizure is life or death. I have three personal reasons why I wholeheartedly SUPPORT HB2482 HD1.

I was in the 5th grade (I'm 77 years old now) and my classmate had epilepsy. She would have the kind of seizures where she would space out. The nuns and teachers thought she was just daydreaming and the kids would tease her. Kids have a way of teasing that's really mean and hurtful. She ended up dying from a seizure. That was the first funeral that I attended that was for a child. My entire class attended and I remember feeling very sad and confused about what happened, wondering if I could have done something to help her.

My cousin that I grew up with had seizures every so often, but no one knew anything about it. I was raised that if he was having a shaking spell to shove a spoon in his mouth so that he wouldn't swallow his tongue. I know now that we should never do that. I still see him, in my mind, out in the yard shaking and everyone freaking out. I remember feeling extremely scared for him with others around me crying, not knowing what was going to happen to him – in the back of my mind thinking about my friend who passed away. Education and knowing what to do can reduce anxieties for everyone involved, answer difficult questions, and empower our community to respond safely with compassion and understanding.

When my nephew who has epilepsy was going to school, my sister had such a hard time dealing with his different schools because my nephew had different kinds of seizures. Some would be subtle. Some would be major. Different schools had different protocols with very little information about epilepsy. His access to the right care on the Big Island was sub-par in my opinion. It's a lot for a parent to deal with; worrying if your child is safe at school, knowing not everyone is on the same page or knows how to keep him safe.

With these three examples in mind, I strongly feel that teachers MUST be aware of seizures and to talk about it openly as educators with peers, in class with students, so that it can prevent teasing and bullying, and maybe save a life. This can only be achieved through mandated, standardized, and vetted education programs.

There's no excuse to have any form of ignorance or misinformation around epilepsy. That's something we simply cannot afford.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify and ask that you support House Bill 2482 HD1.

A resident of Kihei, Maui for 40+ years. 2-year current residence in Kahalu'u, Oahu.

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 6:46:28 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Maureen Ballard | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Maureen Ballard and I have lived in Hawaii since 2000, and lived with epilepsy for 36 years. I fully support HB2482 and urge you to as well.

HB2482 would help to bring about a health equality to our schools with regards to seizure first aid, and give children with epilepsy, and their families, confidence that should a seizure occur while at school, proper steps would be taken. It also provides the confidence to educators that they would know what to expect and how to properly respond if, and when, a seizure occurs in their presence.

I had my first seizure when I was 12. It was at home, about a month before the school year began. My younger sister and baby brother were in the room. They had no idea what to do, aside from getting our mother, who happens to be a registered nurse. There is no doubt that witnessing a seizure can be scary. Its even scarier when you don't know what to do. When my mother entered the room where I was having my seizure, my baby brother was under the table saying "I didn't do it".

Most of our school-aged children will change schools during their education. From elementary to middle to high school. Ensuring that every shool that has a child with epilepsy has undergone the seizure first aid training, we set up the entire education system for success. Success in what to do, and even more importantly what not to do, during a seizure, and how to respond afterwards. Being able to answer the questions of other students who witness a seizure can help to dispel the many myths that remain about seizures.

There have been many medical advancements with seizure in the 36 years since my first seizure. When I had my first one, there were no emergency seizure medications. Today there are. However like insulin for diabetic, inhalers for asthmatics, and epi-pens for allergic reactions, if people aren't aware how they work, that medical advancement is for naught. Again HB2482 would help to ensure our education community knows how to properly respond.

One in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime. One in 26 will develop epilepsy. Its only a matter of time before a child has a seizure during school. Let's be prepared before it happens.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, and I urge you to support HB2482.

HB-2482-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 1:34:39 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jenyse Ishii | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapla and members of Committee on Education,

My name is Jenyse Ishii, and I am a resident of Hawaii. I STRONGLY SUPPORT H.B. No. 2482, which will ensure that schools have the tools necessary to provide a safe and enriching environment for students living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

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. HB2482, will greatly improve the care and support of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders. Seizure First Aid training increases the knowledge, skills and confidence in recognizing seizures and appropriate response.

In closing, I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 2482. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jenyse Ishii