

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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 CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2482

February 2, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

H.B. No. 2482 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 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.



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

Date: 02/02/2022

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 329 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Consumer Protection
& Commerce

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 2482 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires public schools and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication. Exempts schools that do not have a student with a seizure disorder. Requires a seizure action plan for every diagnosed student and distribution of the plan to employees charged with supervising the student. Requires all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to perform self-review of seizure disorder materials annually. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on HB 2482. This bill would require all schools to have at least one employee on duty during the entire school day to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure medication or treatment, training for designated employees, and the development and distribution of the seizure action plan to employees charged with supervising the student. Principals, guidance counselors, and teachers would be required to perform an annual self-review of seizure disorder materials. All students would need to be provided with annual seizure education at schools with at least one student that has seizures.

The Department currently has systems in place to support students with chronic health conditions. Upon 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 trained in first aid, CPR, and medication administration. Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §302A-851 and §302A-853 support the safe and effective administration of medication to students by School Health Assistants and the Nurse Practice Act allows and covers medication administration by School Health Assistants. The Department is currently working on providing greater access to nursing services in schools.

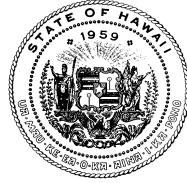
Per HRS §302A-1164, the Department allows for the self-administration of medication by a student for asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, or other potentially life-threatening illness.

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 Plan may be developed in collaboration with the legal guardian, school staff, and Department of Health Public Health Nurse to determine how to best meet the student's needs at school.

Given the above-mentioned systems in place to support students with chronic health conditions such as seizure disorders, the Department believes that this bill is not necessary at this time.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, MD
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2482
RELATING TO EDUCATION.**

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

Hearing Date: February 2, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund appropriation to the Department of Education.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the broad intent of this
- 3 measure, which is to assure students who are at risk of serious seizures have student-specific
- 4 supports and interventions available as quickly as possible.
- 5 However, DOH has serious concerns about the complexity of certain interventions that may not
- 6 be appropriately administered by a lay person. The department recommends that the Legislature
- 7 convene a meeting to discuss the risks and merits of the current draft, as well as amendments to
- 8 identify the safest and most realistic path forward.
- 9 DOH defers to the Department of Education on matters of budget, policy, and personnel.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
- 11

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 11:21:51 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alec Marentic	Hawaii Association of School Psychologists	Support	No

Comments:

HASP supports the intent of this bill. It is recommended language is included that clarifies the timeframe within which a staff member must complete training in the event a student with a seizure disorder is transferred to a school that has an exemption status.

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:42:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Comments	No

Comments:

While we think the bill implements a good policy to protect students with seizure disorders we would suggest that consideration be given to requiring it in all schools since it is certainly possible that a student might not be aware of the condition if it had not manifested previously. It would be prudent to assume that the potential for such an occurrence might always be present.



February 1, 2022

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Johanson and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and the Epilepsy Foundation of America, we urge your support of House Bill 2482. 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. Even more 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 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 school personnel are prepared to appropriately and effectively respond in this event. Compared to students with other health concerns, one Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study showed that students aged 6-17 years 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 continuity 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.

House Bill 2482 would require school personnel, including school nurses, to undergo a short training to learn how to recognize a seizure and how to properly administer 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, and available online, on demand, or through in-person training provided by the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, would come at no additional cost to schools, school personnel, or the state, and 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. Knowing what to do in the event of a seizure is just as

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.**



important as knowing what not to do. For instance, it is a fairly common misconception that you must put something in the person's mouth who is experiencing a seizure to prevent them from biting, or even swallowing, their tongue. This is false, dangerous and could cause more harm to the person experiencing a seizure – and the person administering first aid.

House Bill 2482, 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 and by preserving access to physician-prescribed medication while on school grounds. 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, HB 2482 would mandate that children have access to their anti-seizure medications or seizure rescue medications on school grounds which is critical to ensuring continuity of care, and in the case of seizure rescue medication, necessary to stop a seizure emergency.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and Epilepsy Foundation of America urge your support for HB 2482 which will ensure school personnel are equipped with the information and skills necessary to keep children safe at school.

Sincerely,

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

Naomi Manuel
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino Rep. Dee Morikawa
Rep. Sharon E. Har Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi
Rep. Mark J. Hashem Rep. David A. Tarnas
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong Rep. Lauren Matsumoto
Rep. John M. Mizuno

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 2, 2022
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
 Conference Room 329
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT HB2482**

My name is Darlyn Chen Scovell, a volunteer advocate for families and children with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and the Hawaii FASD Action Group. Being the voice of children who have none and individuals with FASD who have been marginalized, unrecognized, and without help, attention, and services for many years. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2482**

Seizures are observed with a frequency of 3-21% in children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). They retrospectively identified children with FASD and epilepsy or seizures from the databases of seven Italian pediatric neurology divisions. EEG and clinical follow-up are recommended in children with FASD and epilepsy since severe conditions require aggressive treatment. Neuroradiological evaluation is warranted because it could associate several brain anomalies with maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy. (Nicita et al., 2014). EEG showed diffuse or focal epileptic activity; two children developed electric status epilepticus during sleep (ESES). Structural brain anomalies, including polymicrogyria, nodular heterotopia, atrophy, and Arnold-Chiari type 1 malformation, were discovered in 50% of children with FASD. (Nicita et al., 2014).

Critical Health, Safety Training and Education for all who work with children with FASD.

Administration of emergency seizure rescue medication; training. (a) Beginning January 1, 2024, each school shall have at least one school employee on duty during the entire school day to administer or assist with:

(1) The self-administration of seizure rescue medication or medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

(2) A manual dose of prescribed electrical stimulation using a vagus nerve simulator magnet as approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

(b) The department shall ensure that all school employees assigned to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure rescue medication, vagus nerve stimulator magnet, or any other medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms are either trained:

(1) Through a training program adopted by rule in accordance with chapter 91 for the training of school personnel in the health care needs of students diagnosed with a seizure disorder; or

(2) By a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant consistent with best practice guidelines on seizure treatment and the recognition of the signs and symptoms of seizures and the appropriate steps for seizure first aid.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is associated with secrecy and shame, possibly due to its preventable nature and the stigma attached to it CAUSED by ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION during pregnancy. Alcohol is legally accessible in community stores, often left in unlocked cabinets in many homes. Therefore, it is not surprising that the research stated that **1 in 20 first graders do have FASD**. According to the research study questions, "Is this shame the reason for the marginalization of the children and families with FASD? Or access to alcohol and low cost of alcohol? (Barker, Kulyk, Knorr, & Brenna, 2011). FASD diagnosis is neurological damage caused by alcohol, a processing disorder, learning disability, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorders, almost the same as Autism Spectrum Disorders (Astley, 2010; Kodituwakku & Kodituwakku, 2014). **Somewhere between 1% and 4% of all children worldwide have FASD. The NEURODEVELOPMENTAL IMPAIRMENTS associated with FASD came WITH SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL COST ACROSS THE LIFESPAN in increased medical, educational, and vocational support lost productivity** (Lupton, Burd, & Harwood, 2004; Popova, Lange, Burd, & Rehm, 2015). I have worked with children with Autism as a Registered Behavioral Therapist under ABA Guidelines. In my observations, FASD is a Developmental Disability that is equally severe as Autism.

If the national data states that 1 in 20 first graders have FASD, we can make it 1 in 1,000 - 1 in 10,000, 100,000 even in 1 in a million because FASD is COMPLETELY PREVENTABLE BY CEASING ALCOHOL USE during pregnancy. HB2482 is one of many solutions to this predicament. Please let us work together for our Tomorrow Today. Let us help these innocent children born in an impossible world impacted by alcohol. We must make their life and world possible for them as we made alcohol legal for public consumption. In hindsight, we will be able to save our children, women, and families of Hawaii and our tax dollars when HB1618 passes into law. The children with FASD are seen as children only with behavioral issues in our school system. They get kicked out, and eventually, these children without no support will join into

crime committing and delinquent groups who end up in our prison systems as juveniles and eventually as adult offenders. This cost our State \$55,000.00 a year per inmate in 2015, not to mention that our prison system is overpopulated, and we ship our State Inmates to other States, which cost us \$35,000.00 a year per inmate in 2015. This cost doesn't include property damages, medical, and other costs to our tax dollars.

Mental Health Problems - 60% of children with FASD have ADDH, and most individuals have clinical depression as adults; 23% of the adults had attempted suicide, and 43% had threatened to commit suicide. • Disrupted School Experience - 43% experienced suspension or expulsion or drop out; • Trouble with the Law - 42% had involvement with police, charged or convicted of a crime; • Confinement - 60% of these children age 12 and over experienced inpatient treatment for mental health, alcohol/drug problems, or incarceration for a crime. • Inappropriate Sexual Behavior—Reported in 45% of those aged 12 and over and 65% of adult males with FAE. • Alcohol/Drug Problems—Of the adults with FAS, 53% of males and 70% of females experienced substance abuse problems. These children who can become adult offenders can cost Hawaii more than \$55,000.00 a year in incarceration cost and more economic challenges in societal, property damages, and tax dollars. **I beg you to support and consider passing HB2482 for safer and healthier children and the families of Hawaii.**

Taking Care of our Tomorrow Today

Mahalo Nui Loa, for your kind consideration and your unfailing support.

Always with Gratitude.

Respectfully yours,

Darlyn Chen Scovell MA, CSAC, CSACI, RBT

Reference

- Astley, S. J. (2010). Profile of the first 1,400 patients receiving diagnostic evaluations for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder at the Washington State Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Diagnostic & Prevention Network. *Canadian Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, 17(1), e132–e164.
- Barker, C., Kulyk, J., Knorr, L., & Brenna, B. (2011). Open Inclusion or Shameful Secret: A Comparison of Characters with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and Characters with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in a North American Sample of Books for Children and Young Adults. *International Journal of Special Education*, 26(3), 171–180. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com.libproxy.edmc.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=Eric&AN=EJ959010&site=eds-live>
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Thorne, J. C. 1. jct6@uw. ed. (2017). Accentuate the Negative: Grammatical Errors During Narrative Production as a Clinical Marker of Central Nervous System Abnormality in School-Aged Children With Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. *Journal of Speech, Language & Hearing Research*, 60(12), 3523–3537. [https://doi-org.libproxy.edmc.edu/10.1044/2017pass:\[\]JSLHR-L-17-0128](https://doi-org.libproxy.edmc.edu/10.1044/2017pass:[]JSLHR-L-17-0128)

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**Testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Wednesday, February 2, 2022; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2482, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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. 2482, RELATING TO EDUCATION.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's FQHCs. FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines 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 require the Department of Education (DOE) to:

- (1) Have at least one school employee on duty during the entire school day to administer or assist with seizure rescue medication;
- (2) Ensure that all school employees assigned to administer or assist with seizure-rescue medication be trained with the best practice guidelines on seizure treatment; and
- (3) Require principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to complete at least one hour of self-study review of seizure disorder materials;

at all public and public charter schools in Hawaii.

The HPCA notes that this bill is based on model legislation proposed by the national Epilepsy Foundation to increase the public's awareness of seizure disorders and to make our Nation safer for those afflicted. Under the leadership of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, the HPCA has been a partner in this effort.

House Bill No. 2482

Wednesday, February 2, 2022; 2:00 p.m.

Page 2

The HPCA is committed to this initiative and pledges to work with the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and all other stakeholders for this cause. As a network of fifteen (15) health centers situated throughout the State, the HPCA welcomes the opportunity to assist and participate in the discussion.

Because of the prevalence of this malady, this Committee may want to consider expanding its scope to include private schools, as well as institutions of higher education, such as the University of Hawaii System and private universities and colleges in our State.

With that said, we also recognize that much of 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 DOE, the Hawaii State Teachers' Association, the Hawaii Government Employees Association, the United Public Workers and the applicable stakeholders, this bill would have accomplished much to improve the situation.

In closing, we'd like to share this thought:

Try to imagine how scary it would be for a child to experience a seizure 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?

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.

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:20:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Representative Aaron Ling Johnson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair,
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Via Videoconference

Monday, January 31, 2022

Support for H.B. No. 2482, Relating to Education

Aloha Representatives and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce. My name is Jenyse Ishii, and I am a resident of Hawaii. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** H.B. No. 2482, which will ensure that schools are equipped with the tools necessary to provide a safe and enriching environment for students living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

According to the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, approximately 14,000 residents in Hawaii live with active epilepsy and seizure disorders – 2,000 are children. This statistic makes seizure-safe schools critical. Students with epilepsy shouldn't have to worry about receiving the needed healthcare at their schools.

Seizure Safe Schools legislation will significantly improve the care for students with epilepsy. It will help them feel safe by ensuring they receive the proper care and ongoing support they need at their schools, such as seizure recognition and first-aid response.

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

Sincerely,

Jenyse Ishii

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:23:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jari S.K. Sugano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 7:11:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sela Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 13 and I am now 18 years old. Being diagnosed at this age I had so many different things I was already struggling with. Having the school nurses not cooperate with us with trying to keep my life as "normal" as possible made my diagnosis even more difficult for me to deal with. The school nurses wanted me to do unnecessary things such as take the elevator and go to the elevator with someone all the time. These things would have made me feel even more isolated than I already felt. They were also trying to stop me from cheering despite the doctors all approving it. I thought that since they were school nurses they would understand and would be more accepting but they weren't and that made me extremely worried about how my classmates would see me. Passing this bill will help get rid of the negative stigma around epilepsy and can improve the lives countless children who have epilepsy. Them and their families already have so much to worry about they should be able to feel comfortable knowing their child is safe at school. Epilepsy is also extremely common and not all families will tell the school so it is important that all teachers know how to deal with the different types of seizures.

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 7:22:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melissa Yamaguchi on behalf of student Brennan Yamaguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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 form 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.

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 as 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.

I ask our senate and house leaders to please do the right thing for our students and for our health. Please support HB2482. Thank you for your time.

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 7:55:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jared Sham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill and feel it is important for our state.
I'm glad we are taking steps in the right direction to pass these bills.

Mahalo,

Jared Sham

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:22:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karin Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2482 for Seizure Safe Schools.

HB2482 will help spread epilepsy education and awareness in our schools to provide a safe and enriching environment for Hawaii students, like my daughter, who are living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

Seizure awareness and education are vital to empower educators, school staff, and students with knowledge and understanding of seizure disorders to provide a safe and enriching learning environment in which there are no barriers or stigma associated with epilepsy.

1 in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime; 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy. Thus, it is important for teachers, school staff and students to be aware of the different types of seizures and how to appropriately respond to seizures to provide a safe environment, both physically and mentally, to students living with epilepsy.

My daughter, Sela, who is now a senior in high school, has had to deal with the challenges and struggles of acceptance of her epilepsy with school staff, friends, and peers since being diagnosed with epilepsy in the 7th grade. She has had to advocate for herself and others living with epilepsy by spreading awareness and educating her teachers, coaches, friends, and peers about epilepsy and how to safely respond to seizures to help provide a safe environment for herself and others in addition to breaking down the barriers surrounding epilepsy. We have had to fight for her right to pursue opportunities as a student living with epilepsy, like cheerleading, which Sela has been able to happily, actively, and successfully participate in for six years safely...with epilepsy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2482 for Seizure Safe Schools.

HB-2482

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:17:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rena Arquinez	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

My name is Rena Arquinez and I'm an adult living with epilepsy. Epilepsy is a neurological disorder that many people know nothing about. Epilepsy awareness needs to be spread throughout schools to ensure the safety of children. If a child has a seizure in school, does a teacher know what to do? Is the teacher aware that it is a seizure? Children with seizures and other medical conditions do need care and assistance when needed. As an adult it is difficult to take medication and use my device during and after seizures. A child will need some assistance during and after they have a seizure. Teachers, counselors and school staff need to know about epilepsy and seizures. A child with epilepsy will feel much better knowing that there's people in school that can care for them. I didn't have epilepsy when I was a child. I would have definitely want my teacher to know what to do if I were to have a seizure. This Bill is very important and an absolute necessity for all children. Please pass this for all epilepsy warriors!

HB-2482

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:59:14 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As an adult with epilepsy living in Hawaii, I fully support H.B. 2482. While I moved to Hawaii as an adult, I was diagnosed with epilepsy when I was 12, and have many memories of coming to terms with my epilepsy diagnosis as a child.

At the time of my first seizure, we didn't know if I would have another; if medication would completely control my seizures; or what medication(s) might work for me. What my parents recognized, was the importance of me continuing with life as normal as possible. That meant continuing to go to school; participating in whatever activities I wanted to; and pursuing the career of my dreams. It meant telling my teachers about my condition and hoping they would respond appropriately should I have a seizure in their presence.

I was fortunate that my epilepsy was reasonably easy to get under control – something that is not the case for many with epilepsy. Emergency epilepsy medications did not exist when I was diagnosed, and I'm fortunate that my family and I were not faced with decisions about what to do if my seizures were not controlled with the medications available at that time. Without emergency epilepsy medications, had my seizures not been under control, I suspect many parts of my school and career path would be much different .

Emergency epilepsy medications have become a tool in the medical toolbox to help those with epilepsy lead more normal lives. But medical advancements like emergency epilepsy medications can't do anyone any good if people are not trained to use them when appropriate. Outside of the home, children spend the most time at school, making it the logical place to ensure that someone outside of the home is trained to use them.

Please pass H.B. 2482 to make living with epilepsy just a little bit easier.

HB-2482

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:41:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lacey Shimabukuro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of a child with epilepsy, I support HB2482 and efforts to increase epilepsy education and safety for our kids in schools. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2482

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:34:07 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Takahiko Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Takahiko Kimura and I am providing written testimony in support of HB2482.

My eldest daughter is a high school senior and was diagnosed with epilepsy in middle school. It was a tough diagnosis to accept and has been very stressful for my wife and me to ensure that her teachers and school staff are aware of her condition and know what to do in case my daughter suffers a seizure while at school. I was shocked that most school staff including the school nurses were not very knowledgeable about epilepsy. 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy at some point in their lives, so the chances are extremely high that school staff will deal with an epileptic seizure at some point in their careers. A little knowledge can go a long way toward providing comfort and safety for our keiki who are and will be affected by this condition. This is why I am advocating for HB2482. Please support this very important bill. Mahalo!

HB-2482

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 4:14:12 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representative Johanson and Kitagawa and Members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I strongly support the passage of HB2482 as related to Education and specifically related to informed and trained personnel for purposes of attending to those with any seizure-related disorders. I have personal experience knowing a child in Hawaii's Public Schools that suffered a seizure from having Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) on a school bus where the driver was unable to attend to the child's needs. Unfortunately, the Bus Company and the Department of Education blamed the other for not having trained personnel that could not attend to this child's needs. Fortunately, the child recovered, but not without trauma to her Grandmother. Individuals who are prone to seizures, especially in our public schools deserve competent care when faced with life-threatening conditions. I urge you to please pass HB2482 to protect our Keiki from potential tragedies. Respectfully,

Kenichi Yabusaki, Ph.D.

HB-2482

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 6:51:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB2482 to require public schools to have at least one employee trained to administer seizure disorder medication.

This will save lives of students who may have a disability.

This will also protect the Department of Ed., and it's employees from liability from lawsuits. Most importantly this will save the lives of students.

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

HB-2482

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:13:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann S. Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB2482 in which school personnel must be trained and prepared to address seizures in children with seizure disorders. Research suggests that 3-21% of children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) have seizure disorders. As an advocate for services for individuals with FASD, I am a psychologist and strongly urge the passage of this bill because my clients with FASD are often unattended and untreated because of the lack of understanding of FASDs. Training in seizure disorders and FASD will save children's lives.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., LMFT

HB-2482

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:58:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair and Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair,

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. They even let me put together a short video for class about what seizures are (and aren't).

But no matter how good the environment is, as a mom, I always have some worry in the back of my head.

I once read that "anyone with a brain can have a seizure." 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

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:23:50 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/2/2022 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Akayla's Grandma and I'm 100% in favor of this bill. We are very passionate about this bill. This bill is about more than just Akayla. Granted it was started because of her but I want you to close your eyes on instead of Akayla's face I want you to put YOUR child's face, or YOUR family members face in place of Akayla. Now this is YOUR child who is having a Seizure and there's NO ONE to help them through it and no one who is Trained to give YOUR child the medication to help them through their seizure. How would you feel. Wouldn't YOU do ANYTHING for them and ANYTHING to get this bill passed at all cost. Yes I'm extremely passionate about this but I'm even more passionate when it comes to me Akayla's safety. Please don't take my passion as sorrow but as protection for Akayla and children just like her. It's time to let these children know that "yes we do care about them and yes we WILL step up and protect them at all cost"...

let's get "Akayla's Bill" PASSED but let's NOT pass it ONLY for Akayla let's do this for ALL of the Rest of the Akayla's across the STATE of Hawaii...

let's show them that the ENTIRE STATE DOES CARE ABOUT THEM.