



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/01/2024

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2759 RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to maintain seventy-five health technician positions within the Department of Education for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 2759 which appropriates funds to maintain 75 health technician positions within the Department for the Hawaii Keiki program.

The Department has collaborated with the Hawaii Keiki program since its establishment in 2014 to ensure students are healthy and ready to learn. In Spring 2022, the Health Technician (formerly known as School Health Support Staff) position was created to aid in the Department's COVID-19 response efforts. Since that time, as attention shifted away from COVID-19, the Health Technician position was transformed to further enhance their support of the Hawaii Keiki program's nursing staff.

The Department supports the work of the Hawaii Keiki program which provides supplemental school-based health services for public school students. The program provides auxiliary direct services and collaborates with primary and tertiary care providers to address various needs to support all 258 Department schools across the state. However, the funding for this program request is not within the Department's Board of Education approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2759.



‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII’

Legislative Testimony
Hō’ike Mana’o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha’ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
February 1, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Dr. Clementina Ceria-Ulep, Dean
Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing
and

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai’i at Mānoa

LATE

HB 2759 – RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support** of this measure, which aims to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to fund school health technicians. This will sustain the Hawai’i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn (Hawai’i Keiki) program as it currently functions. The Hawai’i Keiki program employs 75 Health Technicians (HT); this appropriation request is to continue the services to the state by ensuring the continuation of funding by state funds once the federal funding expires.

During the initial years of the COVID pandemic, Hawai’i Keiki received federal funds to support the health and well-being of enrolled students at the Department of Education to the Hawai’i Keiki Program with a particular focus on preventing the transmission of and responding to the impact of COVID. The impact of the HT’s role within the Hawai’i Keiki school nursing program has grown considerably. From school year (SY) 2019-2020 to school year 2022-2023 (see slide graphic at end of testimony):

- Hawai’i Keiki program visits increased from 8,188 to 126,994 (1,451%), due to services provided by HTs.
- Student and staff education encounters increased from 3,911 to 17,339 (343%).
- Health screenings increased from 3,962 to 11,027 (178%).

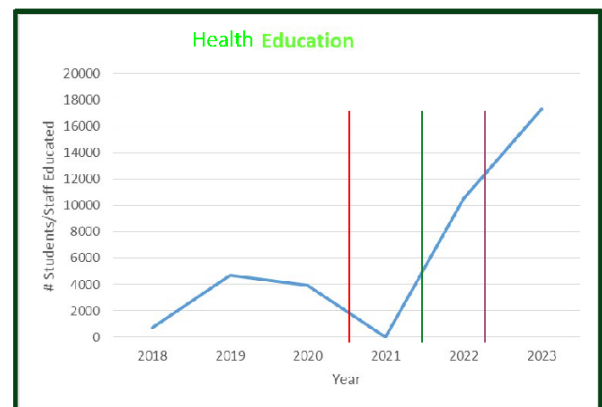
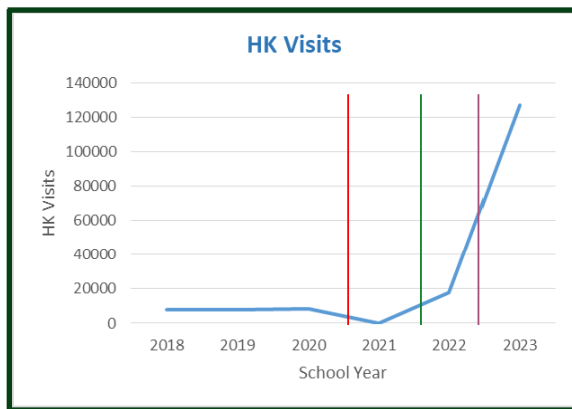
Today, Hawai’i Keiki serves all 258 public schools statewide with approximately 160 registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners, health technicians (i.e., community health workers, nurse aides, medical assistants), dental hygienists, and dentists who extend the clinical reach of the Hawai’i Keiki program. The Hawai’i Keiki program’s HTs impact in SY 2022-2023 is exemplary of the continued need for this role and workforce. Additionally, without these staff, the need for these services would remain. School staff, teachers, and principals are able to dedicate their time to their primary mission of education with

the confidence and knowledge that the physical health and well-being of students will be supported by the excellent Hawai'i Keiki HTs, in addition to APRNs and RNs.

It is with great pleasure that the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON partner with the Department of Education in the delivery of school nursing care so that teachers, staff, and principals may focus on delivering exemplary education. NAWSON respectfully requests favorable consideration of this measure.

Comparison of Program Impact SY19-20 Versus SY22-23

- 1451% increase in **HK Visits**
- 343% increase in students/staff **Health Education**
- 178% increase in keiki screened



Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn

COVID RNs ———
Complex RNs ———
SHSS/HTs ———

Note: The dip in 2021 is due to the change in school health practice related to COVID-19 protocols. All visits during this time were telehealth which is not included in the data for these graphs.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org



Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Lisa Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: **HB2759 - Relating to school-based health services**

Position: **Support**

Hearing: **February 1, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB2759 which appropriates funds to maintain seventy-five health technician positions within the Department of Education for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program.

“The legislature envisions a future with one nurse on site at every school...” HSTA could not agree more. Until such time comes, we appreciate the work being done by health technicians to ensure that our keiki are as healthy and ready to learn as they can be. Many families may not fully utilize (or be able to fully utilize) health services outside of the school setting. Having health technicians in our schools enables students to more fully attend and realize success in their classes.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.**

**By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2759
RELATING TO SCHOOL BASED HEALTH SERVICES**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support** of this measure, HB2759 which aims to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to fund school health technicians (HTs). This will sustain the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program as it currently functions. The Hawai'i Keiki program employs 75 HTs. This appropriation request is to continue the services to the state by committing funding by state funds once the federal funding expires at the end of the current school year.

The National Academies of Medicine's Future of Nursing 2030 report highlights school nursing in the Chapter "The Role of Nurses in Improving Healthcare Access and Quality". In this chapter, they note "Access to school nurses helps increase health care equity for students. For many children living in or near poverty, the school nurse may be the only health care professional they regularly access."¹ The NAM continues, "*Healthy children learn better; educated children grow to raise healthier families advancing a stronger, more productive nation for generations to come. School nurses work to assure that children have access to educational opportunities regardless of their state of health.*"

The services that the HTs provide extend the reach of school nurses to students who may otherwise have health needs that are affecting their wellbeing as well as their ability to learn. The HTs services are providing a considerable function to the school health environment and broadening the impact of the Hawai'i Keiki program. This team-based model is exemplary in that it maximizes staff and outcomes.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing thanks the Committee for considering this measure and for your longstanding advocacy and vision for children who are healthy and ready to learn.

¹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2021. The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
<https://doi.org/10.17226/25982>."

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.

HB-2759

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:40:02 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AMY ANDERSON	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I work in many of the Schools in Maui county, I am boots on the ground with many of the medically fragile students and I see the daily work loads of the health room employees. I feel that the DOE is not frugal or budget minded in keeping extra health technicians hired. The current heath aids can easily do the input that we are paying seventy-five health technicians to do. COVID is not causing huge amounts of data imput now and we need to use our money and resources wisely.

Thank you for your time.

Amy Anderson RN

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
February 1, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.**

By

Alison G. Kaneshiro, MS, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC
Hawaii American Nurses Association

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2759
RELATING TO SCHOOL BASED HEALTH SERVICES**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support** of this measure, HB2759 which aims to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to fund school health technicians (HTs). This will sustain the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program as it currently functions. The Hawai'i Keiki program employs 75 HTs. This appropriation request is to continue the services to the state by committing funding.

The National Academies of Medicine's Future of Nursing 2030 report highlights school nursing in the Chapter "The Role of Nurses in Improving Healthcare Access and Quality". In this chapter, they note "Access to school nurses helps increase health care equity for students. For many children living in or near poverty, the school nurse may be the only health care professional they regularly access." The NAM continues, "*Healthy children learn better; educated children grow to raise healthier families advancing a stronger, more productive nation for generations to come. School nurses work to assure that children have access to educational opportunities regardless of their state of health.*"

The services that the HTs provide extend the reach of school nurses to students who may otherwise have health needs that are affecting their wellbeing as well as their ability to learn. The HTs services are providing a considerable function to the school health environment and broadening the impact of the Hawai'i Keiki program. This team-based model is exemplary in that it maximizes staff and outcomes.

I, Alison Kaneshiro, and the **Hawaii American Nurses Association** thank the Committee for considering this measure and for your longstanding advocacy and vision for children who are healthy and ready to learn.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Thursday, February 1, 2024; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2759, RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES.

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, 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 **OFFERS COMMENTS** on House Bill No. 2759, RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES.

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 appropriate \$3,400,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2024-2025, to maintain seventy-five (75) health technician positions within the Department of Education for the Hawaii Keiki: Health and Ready to Learn Program.

While we welcome the intent of this measure, the HPCA is concerned that this measure may unintentionally and inadvertently conflict with efforts to establish school-based health clinics at certain public schools situated near existing community health center facilities. These school-based clinics provide broader and more intensive primary care services than what would be provided solely by an advance practice registered nurse or health technician assigned to a complex of schools as proposed under the Keiki Program. Furthermore, the students and faculty have access to many other departments and programs within the FQHC organizations. These include behavior health, wrap-around services, preventive pediatric care, oral health, and more.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2759

Thursday, February 1, 2024; 2:00 p.m.

Page 2

In your efforts to provide baseline primary health care services to all school-aged youths, we respectfully urge you not to take any steps that may duplicate existing services, diminish the level of services that are currently provided, or preclude the establishment of more intensive and comprehensive services at public schools.

Presently, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Hawaii Island Community Health Center, Wahiawa Health, and Hana Health have established school-based clinics at public schools situated near their facilities. Other community health centers have examined these models and are currently considering entering into similar agreements with the Department of Education (DOE) to provide comparable services at nearby schools. We are concerned that the expansion of the Keiki Program within the DOE may conflict with these efforts with community health centers and unfortunately reduce the level of services that are provided at certain schools.

In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), in conjunction with the DOE, partnered with the HPCA and FQHCs throughout the State to provide COVID-19 mitigation and other primary health care services at public schools and charter schools. The HPCA is currently working with both departments to continue these services and possibly expand them moving forward.

Be that as it may, it should also be noted that the Keiki Program is not established in statute. As such, its continued existence is solely at the discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

As mentioned earlier, HPCA is merely commenting on this measure and will continue to monitor this measure as it goes through the legislative process. We are partners with the entire community and want to work with all parties for what is best for our citizens.

To ensure that the Keiki Program not conflict with the efforts of Community Health Centers, we respectfully ask that:

- (1) The DOE be required to partner with the Public Health Nursing Branch of the DOH pursuant to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the DOE, DOH, the Keiki Program, **and each federally qualified health center and rural health clinic geographically situated within each participating complex of schools;** and
- (2) The Keiki Program be precluded from providing services at any school where a school-based clinic established pursuant to an MOU or contract between a federally qualified health center or rural health clinic and the DOE exists or may exist in the future. Further, the amendment would clarify that **precluded services would include any service that duplicates any service that is either provided or offered at a school-based clinic.**

Testimony on House Bill No. 2759

Thursday, February 1, 2024; 2:00 p.m.

Page 3

Lastly, we respectfully request that the following language be added to the committee report, should the Committee desire to report this measure out:

“It is the intent of your Committee that this bill not be construed in any way to preclude or limit the receipt of federal funds to establish any school-based clinic or any primary care health services at school-based facilities pursuant to a grant or other financial arrangement with a federally qualified health center or rural health clinic.”

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-2759

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:51:50 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this critical bill to appropriate funds to maintain seventy-five health technician positions within the Department of Education for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program.

LATE

HB-2759

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 5:26:15 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahina Anguay	Waimea High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Mahina Anguay and I'm the principal of Waimea High School on Kauai.

I am submitting testimony in support of [HB2759](#). Having the services and support of the Hawaii Keiki program at my school has been a game changer. Although the HK staff are no longer stationed out of my school, we utilize their services in a variety of ways. They are available as a resource for my school health aide; we call HK for advice on how to handle some of our high needs students. HK staff have done school and sport physicals for my students. This has been extremely helpful because parents often have to wait months to get an appointment for a physical and HK can conduct the physical right here on campus.

I believe HK provides a valuable service and serves an essential role in helping to ensure that all of our students are healthy and safe.

Thank you.

LATE

HB-2759

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 7:23:37 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Plyler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my testimony in support of HB2759 to provide funding for Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program. As a long time Emergency Department nurse and now full time Kaua'i Community College Nursing Faculty, I understand the importance of School Health Technicians in our Hawaiian schools. Additionally, I am an avid member of my Kaua'i community, working with various keiki groups, and feel responsible for the advocacy of their health.

Providing health technicians in our Hawaiian public schools is vital to the health of our community. Many Hawai'i Keiki lack access to basic healthcare and rely on school health technicians to ensure their health and subsequently the health of their ohana and surrounding community.

Additionally, healthy keiki are more "ready to learn", able to focus in the classroom and prepare for the school day while at home. Missing school due to sickness or inadvertently spreading illness cause keiki and their ohana to fall behind and possibly be forced to take sick days from work.

Lastly, school health technicians are able to provide trusted primary prevention health promotion, providing education and promoting illness prevention measures to stop the transmission of pathogens that cause illness. These important steps to break the chain of transmission is our greatest tool to maintain the health of our keiki, our ohanas, and our communities.

School Health Technicians in our Hawaiian schools is a vital tool that cannot be substituted and we cannot afford to do without. The cost of healthcare after illness is contracted far outweighs the cost of prevention. More importantly, the cost of illness to the overall physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of our keiki and communities cannot be calculated and should be prevented through the establishment of School Health Technicians.

Mahalo for your consideration of this matter and I maintain faith that you will make the right decision for the health of our future for Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Katherine Plyler, RN, MSN

- Kaua'i Community College, Nursing Faculty
- Westside Kaua'i Girls Basketball Coach
- Kaua'i Girl Scouts Health Fair Coordinator
- Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital Emergency Department

To: House Committee on Education
RE: HB2759 in strong support
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309
February 1, 2024; 2:00pm

LATE

LATE

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill 2759** relating to School-Based Health Services.

Exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling to sustain Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program (Hawai'i Keiki) health technician (HT) positions are essential to keep our keiki happy, healthy, and ready to learn. Hawai'i Keiki facilitates access to quality school-based health services by providing direct services and coordinating care with primary and tertiary care providers. Hawai'i Keiki provides access to primary prevention efforts (e.g., screenings) and identifies critical healthcare service gaps in oral and mental health. Further, HTs help families sign up for social services such as Medicaid and facilitate access to care by connecting families to their medical or dental home. School-based programs are unique in meeting children where they are, taking a whole-child approach toward education and care.

In three years, from 2019-2020 to the 2022-2023 school year, the Hawai'i Keiki program saw a surge in visits by public school students by 1,451%. This growth underscores the impactful services delivered by Hawai'i Keiki's HTs, significantly benefiting the well-being of Hawai'i's keiki in our public school system. Given the consistent and growing demand for the Hawai'i Keiki program's services, we must continue to provide the necessary resources to sustain their operations as HTs are an efficient and cost-effective approach to increasing access to healthcare services.

Hawai'i Keiki fills our communities' needs by bringing healthcare to public school students across the state. This school-based health service strengthens and streamlines collaborative health service delivery to improve learning and health in our schools. Children learn best when they are safe, healthy, and well. Let us continue to support our keiki. Please support HB2759

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Mai Hall, M.Ed.

Children's Health Coordinator