



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

Date: 03/23/2023

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 0206 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF STOCKING SHORT-ACTING BRONCHODILATORS IN SCHOOLS FOR EMERGENCY USE.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 206, requesting the Department to report on the feasibility of stocking bronchodilators for emergency use during respiratory distress and authorizing Department employees to volunteer to administer bronchodilators.

The Department currently has systems in place to support students with chronic health conditions, such as asthma, including School Health Assistants (SHAs) trained in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and medication administration. Collaborating with the American Lung Association, Hawaii State Center for Nursing, Hawaii Medical Association, and other community partners to create a report summarizing implementation methods from the fifteen states that have passed legislation, and the feasibility of stocking bronchodilators in Department schools, is an important step to ensure students experiencing respiratory distress in the absence of a prescribed bronchodilator have access to emergency rescue medication.

Should this move forward, the Department respectfully requests the following revision:

Page 2, Line 32: "American Lung Association, Hawaii State Center ~~on~~ for Nursing, and"

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 206.



HIPHI Board

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COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: March 21, 2023

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

Re: Support for HR210/HCR206
Requesting The Department Of Education To Report On The
Feasibility Of Stocking Short-Acting Bronchodilators In Schools For
Emergency Use

Hrg: Thursday, March 223 2023, at 2:00 PM

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **support of HR210/HCR206**, which requests for the Department of Education to report on the feasibility of stocking short-acting bronchodilators in schools for emergency use.

Asthma impacts millions of lives and tremendously affects our nation's healthcare system and economy. In the US, over 25 million Americans, including 5.1 million children, have asthma.ⁱⁱ In Hawaii, 21,411 children have asthmaⁱⁱⁱ, which can be made worse due to our environmental factors, such as cockroaches, vog, and allergies.

An asthma episode can be brought on at any moment and can often quickly escalate. Short-acting bronchodilators, often referred to as "inhalers," are inexpensive, extremely safe, and most importantly, easy to use. This medication will save a person's life by quickly opening up the lungs' passages and enabling oxygen to flow freely.

There are many reasons that children do not always have access to an "inhaler". Sometimes kids forget it, leave it in a classroom or locker, or simply can't afford the medication. Once the attack begins, it can quickly escalate, and if the inhaler is inaccessible or can't be found, the child can go into respiratory distress. An ambulance must be called, which leads to expensive transport costs and an emergency department visit costing thousands more. Such events also take children out of the classroom for days at a time and further impede their learning.

By stocking schools with low-cost bronchodilators and inexpensive disposable spacers, students can quickly receive lifesaving medication. At the first sign of an asthmatic episode, a trained school representative will be able to help administer this rescue medication.

All students should have rapid access to this medication. The medication is proven safe and effective. More importantly, it is a way to ensure that we keep all of our keiki safe and healthy.

This resolution is a strong first step for the Department of Education to adopt policies already adopted in 15 other states across the nation.

Thank you for considering HR201/HRC206, which puts the health of our keiki first.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa
Advocacy & Policy Director

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

ⁱⁱ CDC. 2019 National Health Interview Survey.

ⁱⁱⁱ CDC. 2019 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.



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

To: House Committee on Education

Re: **HCR 206 / HR 210 – Requesting the Department of Education to Report on the Feasibility of Stocking Short-Acting Bronchodilators in Schools for Emergency Use**

Hawai'i State Capitol and Via Videoconference

March 23, 2023, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing **in SUPPORT of HCR 206 / HR 210**. These resolutions request the department of education to report on the feasibility of stocking short-acting bronchodilators in schools for emergency use.

**HCAN Speaks! Board
of Directors**

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According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in a classroom of 30 children, on average about 3 are likely to have asthma.¹ In Hawai'i, there are disparities in asthma prevalence: Native Hawaiians are disproportionately affected by asthma and experience the greatest burden, with the highest prevalence of 28.3%.²

Asthma attacks can strike at any time, including at school, and often without warning. These episodes may result in hospitalization, and can even be fatal. Quick-relief bronchodilators are a safe and effective treatment for asthma. Ensuring access to rescue medication is part of guidelines-based response to asthma emergencies.³

Best practices recommend that schools be allowed to stock this lifesaving medication and have trained adults ready to administer it in an emergency. Seventeen states have laws or policies allowing schools to stock quick-relief medications for students with asthma.⁴

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass these resolutions.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

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

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8296946/>

³ https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/resources/lung/NACI_ManagingAsthma-508%20FINAL.pdf

⁴ <https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/asthma/health-professionals-educators/asthma-in-schools/asthma-medication-in-schools>



Hawaii Medical Association

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Representative Justin H Woodhouse, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Date: March 23, 2023
From: Hawaii Medical Association
Bernard Robinson MD, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: HCR 206 - Requesting the Department of Education to report on the feasibility of stocking short acting bronchodilators in schools for emergency use.
Position: Support

The purpose of this resolution is to request a feasibility report from Hawaii Department of Education to stock bronchodilators for emergency use during respiratory distress and authorize department employees to volunteer to administer bronchodilators.

Asthma is a serious chronic lung disease that affects approximately 104,000 adults and 30,000 children in Hawaii. During an asthma episode or attack, the patient needs immediate access to a rescue bronchodilator inhaler. These bronchodilator medications are safe, highly effective, and inexpensive. HMA supports onsite access of rescue inhalers at schools as well as development of an education training protocol for designated authorized school staff.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

References and Quick Links:

CDC Healthy Schools – Asthma. [Center for Disease Control and Prevention accessed 2/1/2023.](#)

Asthma Trends and Burden. [American Lung Association accessed 2/1/2023.](#)

Feldman WB, Avorn J, Kesselheim AS. Switching to Over-the-Counter Availability of Rescue Inhalers for Asthma. [JAMA. 2022;327\(11\):1021–1022. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.1160](#)

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Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



**Written Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Education
Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 309 and via Videoconference
by
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Comments on H.C.R. 206 / H.R. 210

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.C.R. 206 / H.R. 210.

This resolution requests that the Department of Education report on the feasibility of stocking bronchodilators for emergency use during respiratory distress and authorizing Department of Education employees to volunteer to administer bronchodilators and resolves that the Department should work with community organizations, including the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing was established by state law to support the state's nursing workforce, including to conduct research on best practice and quality outcomes (HRS 304A-1406). This work is done largely in part by cultivating expertise in evidence-based practice.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is a longstanding collaborator with the Department of Education to support nursing workforce expansion in the school nursing setting. It would be with pleasure to serve on this committee convened by the department.

Thank you for the consideration of this testimony as it relates to H.C.R. 206 / H.R. 210.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development, promotes a diverse workforce, and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

HCR-206

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 9:43:16 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pedro Haro	American Lung Association in Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support attached.

TO: House Committee on Education
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 23, 2023
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 210/HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 206**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Cynthia J. Goto, and I am writing to express my support for House Resolution 210/House Concurrent Resolution 206 which requests the Department of Education to report on the feasibility of stocking short-acting bronchodilators in schools for emergency use.

Asthma is one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawaii. In Hawaii, 21,411 children have asthma¹ and allowing schools in Hawai'i to provide more immediate access to medications for students with asthma or suffering from respiratory distress has the potential to save lives and keep kids safe in schools.

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

Because asthma attacks can occur anytime and often without warning, children with asthma should always have access to medication that can quickly reverse the blockages in their lungs. This life-saving medication, called a short-acting bronchodilator, is easy to administer, inexpensive, and very safe.

Unfortunately, when children do not have asthma medication, which can occur for a variety of reasons such as forgetting it or not being able to afford it, schools have few options. A parent may not be immediately accessible or close enough to respond promptly. Even if they can, there is a delay during which the asthma attack often gets worse. In such cases, the school must call 911. Doing so is likely to lead to an ambulance transport cost and an emergency department visit costing thousands more. Such events also take children out of the classroom for days at a time and further impede their learning.

These adverse events are largely avoidable with a simple low-cost solution: stock medication or inhalers. Schools can use a single inhaler containing a short-acting bronchodilator along with inexpensive disposable spacers that can be used for anyone who experiences the sudden onset of cough, shortness-of-breath, and chest tightness that signals an asthma attack.

This resolution is a strong first step for the Department of Education to adopt policies already adopted in 15 other states across the nation. Please support the passage of House resolution 210/House Concurrent Resolution 206 to ensure that our children with asthma have access to safe and effective medication which could potentially save a student's life.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cynthia J. Goto, M.D.

¹ CDC. 2019 National Health Interview Survey.

HCR-206

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 5:21:31 AM

Testimony for EDN on 3/23/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong support of this resolution in absence of the original bill.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise