

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: SB 2071 SD1 Relating to Health
DATE: March 16, 2022 2:00 PM
COMMITTEE: Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
ROOM: Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in SUPPORT of SB2071 SD1. The bill requires: all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to perform self-reviews of seizure safety materials annually; a seizure action plan for every diagnosed student and distribution of the plan to employees charged with supervising the student; public schools, private schools, and public charter schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication; and exempts schools that do not have a student with a seizure disorder.

The Commission appreciates the inclusion of funding by the Senate Education and Health committees to increase health assistant and nurse services in state public charter schools which will allow charter schools to better meet 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.

The Commission hopes that the funding provided in this measure will begin to address the operational and capacity issues that public charter schools face so that the intent of this bill can be met.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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 CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2071, S.D. 1

March 16, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2071, S.D. 1.

S.B. No. 2071, S.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapters 302A, 302C, and 302D, HRS, to require: 1) public schools, private 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.



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

Date: 03/16/2022
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: SB 2071, SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Requires all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to perform self-review of seizure safety materials annually. Requires a seizure action plan for every diagnosed student and distribution of the plan to employees charged with supervising the student. Requires public schools, private 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. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on SB 2071, SD1.

The Department currently has systems in place to support students with chronic health conditions such as seizure disorders. Upon notification of a student with a chronic health condition, a team is formed with the student's parent or legal guardian, a Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Nurse, and all appropriate school staff to develop an Emergency Action Plan individualized to the student's medical needs. 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, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and medication administration. Sections 302A-851 and 302A-853, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), 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.

Per Section 302A-1164, HRS, the Department allows 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 DOH Public Health Nurse to determine how to best meet the student's needs at school, before and after school, and during school-sponsored programs and co-curricular, extra-curricular, and non-academic school-sponsored events or activities.

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

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



**Testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Wednesday, March 16, 2022; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2071, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTH.

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** Senate Bill No. 2071, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO HEALTH.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2071, Senate Draft 1
Wednesday, March 16, 2022; 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

The bill also appropriates unspecified amounts of general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to:

- (1) Train employees to administer or assist with the self-administration of seizure rescue medication at each public school and public charter school; and
- (2) Increase health assistant and nurse services in state public charter schools.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2050.

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.

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@hawaiipca.net.

TESTIMONY OF EVAN OUE ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) SUPPORTING WITH COMMENTS ON SB 2071 SD1

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

My name is Evan Oue and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) **SUPPORTING THE INTENT OF THE MEASURE WITH COMMENTS** on SB 2071 SD1, Relating to Health. While HAJ appreciates the intent of the measure, we have concerns with **SB 2071 SD1** in its current form as it grants immunity from any civil damages arising from administration of seizure medication by school employees.

Specifically, on page 6, line 5-10 states “Any employee of the private school shall not be held liable for any civil damages arising out of any act or omission relating to administering or assisting with the self— administration of seizure rescue medication, vagus nerve stimulator magnet, or any other medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms pursuant to this section.” Further, this same limitation of liability provision applies for public charter schools.

HAJ understands the need for requiring private and public schools to have an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication to ensure student safety. However, designated private and public charter school employees should not be granted complete immunity from civil liability for administration of seizure medication. The standard of care for our vulnerable students should be upheld. When a school employee is rendering aid, the applicable standard would be similar to Hawai’i’s good Samaritan statutes which provides for immunity “unless the person's acts constitute gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.” HRS § 663-1.6.

Further, “any person who in good faith renders emergency care, without remuneration or expectation of remuneration, at the scene of an accident or emergency to a victim of the accident or emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from the person's acts or omissions,

except for such damages as may result from the person's gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.” HRS. § 663-1.5.

Therefore, at the very least school employees who render aid under this bill should be immune from liability unless their acts constitute gross negligence or wanton acts. Furthermore, schools owe their students a duty of reasonable care in ensuring each student’s safety. *See Doe Parents No. 1 v. State, Dep't of Educ.* Courts have held that the DOE shares a “special relationship”—*i.e.*, a quasi-parental or *in loco parentis* custodial relationship—with its students, which obligates the DOE to exert reasonable care in ensuring each student's safety and welfare, as would a reasonably prudent parent. In other words, the DOE owes its students the duty to take whatever precautions are reasonable to prevent harms that it anticipates, or reasonably should anticipate. While this case discusses the DOE’s relationship with its students, the same reasoning applies to private schools and public charter schools. Private schools and public charter schools owe their students a duty of reasonable care in ensuring each student’s safety, this should include when rendering aid. Exempting private and public charter schools from all liability in connection with rendering aid for seizure disorders is not in line with Hawai’i Supreme Court precedent nor Hawai’i’s current Good Samaritan law.

Accordingly, HAJ respectfully requests that subsection (5) on page 6, lines 5-10 and subsection (g) page 9, lines 11-16 be deleted to remove the civil liability limitations for private and public charter school employees to preserve the rights of our students.

Thank you for allowing us to testify regarding this measure. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or desire additional information.

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 12:04:12 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

RE: SB2071 (In Support)

Dear Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice-Chair, Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee

I am an RN who supports SB2071 because I believe that Hawaii's schools should be prepared to help a student who is having a seizure. Action plans are essential as are trained staff. The Epilepsy Foundation already has such programs in place in other States and has created educational materials.

I support SB2071 because it:

- Requires all **principals, guidance counselors, and teachers** to perform self-review of seizure safety materials annually.
- Requires a **seizure action plan** for every diagnosed student and distribution of the plan to employees charged with supervising the student.
- Requires public schools, private schools, and public charter schools to have **an employee trained to administer seizure disorder rescue medication and** electrical stimulation using a vagus nerve stimulator magnet
- Exempts schools that do not have a student with a seizure disorder.
- Provides funding.

Please support SB2071 to make Hawaii's schools safer environments for students with seizure disorders.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

(Oahu Resident for 29 years)

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 12:17:31 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
donn viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB7021. follows the guidance for schools of the Epilepsy Foundation. See <https://www.epilepsy.com/living-epilepsy/schools-and-seizure-preparedness>

Mahalo

Donn Viviani, Kailua

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair – House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair – House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Public Hearing: March 16, 2022 at 2:00 pm
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill 2071 SD1

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and the Epilepsy Foundation of America, we urge your support of Senate Bill 2071 SD1 and offer comments. 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. 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.

Senate Bill 2071 SD1 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.

This bill 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 and becoming a more seizure safe community. 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.

Comments:

The Hawaii State Department of Education has offered comments in prior testimony in response to sections of the bill that (1) 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, and (2) mandates the use of a Seizure Action Plan. We acknowledge their use of an Emergency Action Plan and would encourage the distribution of that plan and that all personnel charged with the care of that student has access to the information about that student's condition as well as their unique and specific instructions on what to do in the event of a seizure.

However, EFH feels strongly that the seizure recognition and response training mandated within this bill fills a gap in need and is critical to the care and safety of students and school personnel who may have a seizure while at school or a school-related function. 1 in 10 will have a seizure in their lifetime and the unpredictability of seizures make it vital for all school personnel be armed with information and tools to recognize a potential seizure (there are many types and they present themselves in various ways) and importantly, know how to safely respond.

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.

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 Senate Bill 2071 SD1.

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.**

LATE

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:05:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Johanson and Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Members of the CPC Committee:

I strongly support SB2071 as it relates to Seizure rescue where school officials must be trained to handle individuals experiencing seizures. This Bill concerns potential life and death situations and personally, should not be a Bill, but required training. I know of a grandmother whose child is affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and experienced a seizure on a school bus with no person knowing how to assist the child. Individuals affected by FASD are more prone to have seizures. With one in twenty first-grade children affected by an FASD (based on a national study in 2018) the passage of SB2071 becomes critical. Our children's lives are in the hands of the DOE when in school. It is the responsibility that all officials be trained and train others in Seizure Rescue. Please pass SB 2071. Any life is too precious to lose especially when death can be prevented.

Sincerely,

Kenichi K. Yabusaki, Ph.D.

LATE

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:10:05 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

Please support SB 2071 SD1 for Seizure Safe Schools.

My name is Karin Kimura. As a resident of Hawaii, I strongly support SB 2071 SD1 for Seizure Safe Schools and ask for your support of this important bill that will safe and enriching environment for students, like my daughter, 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 know 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 safety 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.

Please PASS SB 2071 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure for Seizure Safe Schools.

Brennan Yamaguchi

State of Hawaii Student (Age 13)

LATE

My name is Brennan Yamaguchi, I am a 7th grade student at Maryknoll School. SB2071 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 Senate Bill 2071. Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 6:25:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rena Arquinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Rena Arquinez. I'm born & raised in Hawai'i. I've lived with epilepsy for over 20 years. I strongly support Senate Bill SB2071 SD1. This bill will ensure that schools are able to provide a safe environment for students living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

Epilepsy is a brain disorder that affects many people including children. 1 in 26 people live with epilepsy. 14,000 people in Hawai'i live with active epilepsy & 2,000 of them are children. Living with epilepsy & seizure disorders can be dangerous for a students health & well being. Our schools need to be equipped with the proper tools & training to provide a safe & enriching environment. When a student has a seizure in school, does a teacher or school staff member know what is happening? Do they know how to assist a student during & after a seizure? Epilepsy awareness is very important, especially in our schools.

As an adult living with epilepsy I always need a safe environment to ensure my safety. When I have a seizure I blank out, have staring spells & am unaware of my surroundings. I do need assistance when that happens. I was diagnosed at the age of 20. I didn't experience having seizures while in school. I would definitely want to feel comfortable & safe with teachers & staff members who knew about my seizures & how to assist me. Having that great support helps a students education.

This Bill allows students with epilepsy an opportunity to make the most of their educational experience. Please PASS this Bill for all EPILEPSY WARRIORS!

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify!

LATE

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 10:50:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jenyse ishii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of Committee of Consumer Protection & Commerce,

My name is Jenyse Ishii, and I am a resident of Hawaii. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB. No. 2071, which will ensure that schools are equipped with the tools necessary to provide a safe, supportive, and enriching environment for students living with epilepsy and seizure disorders. I've been aware of epilepsy, because I have a family member who has it.

SB2071, 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. This law will also help destigmatize epilepsy and save lives. In closing, I urge the committee to pass SB2071. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jenyse Ishii

LATE

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:56:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sela Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was diagnosed with epilepsy in 2017 when I was 13 years old. I support this bill because due to the lack of knowledge about seizures and epilepsy my school nurses were trying to limit what I could do and were trying to make me go to extreme measures, despite all of my doctors saying I could continue all of my normal activities. Having this bill in place would have made it easier for me to deal with my diagnosis. Epilepsy is extremely common and due to the lack of knowledge and the negative stigma people may refrain from informing their child has epilepsy. This bill can help to get rid of the negative stigma and can make sure all kids with epilepsy are safe at school.

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:29:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Fay Paglinawan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Knowing what to do during a seizure is life or death. I have three personal reasons why I wholeheartedly support SB2071 SD1.

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 know 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 SB2071 SD1.

LATE

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:32:41 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eloy Paglinawan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm from Maui and writing to SUPPORT that schools be safe for children who have seizures. There are many different types of seizures and seizures are so common that they can often be overlooked. Educating adult eyes who work in schools can serve as a protective factor from negative outcomes that result from the mishandling of a seizure is not in the best interest of the child.

I fully support SB2071 SD1 because it will educate school employees, who are responsible for children, on what seizures are and how to safely help them. SB2071 SD1 also asks that children who have seizures have a seizure action plan. PLAN PLAN PLAN. Seizures are unique to each person so an individualized seizure action plan is critical to the health and safety of that child especially if they are prescribed seizure rescue medication to be used in the case of a seizure emergency. This can literally save a life.

One in 10 will experience a seizure in their lifetime. One in 26 will develop epilepsy.

Please support SB2071 SD1 to increase awareness of seizures and epilepsy and to ensure a safe, supportive and enriching learning environment for students who live with seizures.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Our keiki need this to be enacted.

LATE

SB-2071-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:34:46 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/16/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Piilani Pareisa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

My family and I strongly SUPPORT SB2071 SD1. My adult brother has lived with different seizures types his entire life. Therefore, my family has lived with the effects and challenges of seizures for over 40 years. We were raised between Hilo and very rural Puna with minimal medical resources. I don't even know at what age my brother was actually able to be treated by a neurologist, much less an epilepsy specialist. When we were younger, we knew very little about epilepsy and seizures with limited information available to us. We relied heavily on ourselves and our community to keep him as safe as possible with what little we had.

He faced discrimination and bullying at school due to his seizures and I strongly believe that if our teachers and school community had known basic seizure recognition and had a seizure action plan to know how to respond and best support him, my brother would have had an entirely different educational experience that included compassion, support, realistic information, and inclusion. My family would have felt more at ease with less anxiety and stress while he was at school and we would have saved a lot of money on unnecessary ambulance rides, hospital visits, and having to take leave without pay from work to tend to what may or may not have been seizure emergencies.

I humbly ask that you support SB2071 SD1 in supporting students living with seizure disorders and their families.