



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2822, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
RELATING TO ASTHMA**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: March 22, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference
Conference Room 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Education
2 (DOE) on potential fiscal implications of the proposed education courses.

3 **Department Testimony:** The DOH offers comments on Senate Bill 2822, Senate Draft 1,
4 House Draft 1 (S.B. 2822, S.D. 1, H.D. 1), requiring the DOE to offer optional asthma education
5 courses to students and provide mandatory asthma training to teachers and other department
6 employees who interact with students. The DOH concurs with the importance of school-based
7 asthma self-management education (AS-ME) for students, parents, and school staff.

8 Asthma is one of the leading causes of chronic disease-related school absenteeism.
9 Absenteeism due to poorly controlled asthma may negatively affect educational outcomes and
10 limit students with asthma the ability to fully participate in school activities. Addressing asthma
11 effectively requires a coordinated effort among school staff, home/family members, and the
12 primary care physician in order to improve self-management and health outcomes. The
13 coordination is acutely important since moderate to severe asthma increases risk for
14 hospitalization from COVID-19.

15 S.B. 2822, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 aligns with the prioritized objectives in the Hawaii Asthma
16 Plan 2030 developed with stakeholders to increase AS-ME program implementation in school
17 and community sites.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

19 **Offered Amendments:** None



To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice-Chair
House Committee Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

From: Peggy Mierzwa, Community and Government Relations

Hearing: Tuesday March 22, 2022

RE: **SB2822 SD1 HD1 Relating to Asthma -Support**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB2822 SD1 HD1**. This measure will allow the Department of Education to authorize asthma self-management instruction to students and provide asthma training teachers and others who work with students.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. We are the only health plan in Hawaii that exclusively serves Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Asthma affects Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander children at higher proportions than other groups. Furthermore, Hawaii Island and Maui, where there is less access to the care of specialists, have the highest rates of childhood asthma. The west side of Oahu also sees disproportionate rates of childhood asthma as well.

Schools can serve as a community support site by helping parents and guardians learn more about asthma, helping kids to understand asthma, and giving teachers and other direct support staff the tools they need to adequately address the physical and emotional needs of students. In other places, such programs have been successful with increasing education and knowledge, increasing the health of the students and decreasing the number of absences.¹

Healthy communities are achieved when we take preventative action in addition to administering the appropriate treatment to individuals. Implementation of this bill will help the state to uplift public health. Being proactive instead of reactive is the key to overall health.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB2822 SD1 HD1**.

¹ [Cost-effectiveness of the School-Based Asthma Therapy \(SBAT\) program - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Tuesday, March 22, 2022; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2822, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO ASTHMA.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, 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. 2822, House Draft 1, RELATING TO ASTHMA.

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 allow the Department of Education (DOE) to:

- (1) Offer optional asthma education courses to students; and
- (2) Develop and provide asthma training to teachers and other DOE employees who interact with students.

This bill would take effect on July 1, 2050.

According to recent data, it is estimated that 11.6% of children (<18 years) and 7.8% of adults in Hawaii currently have asthma. This corresponds to 36,000 children and 76,000 adults, or 112,000 people with asthma in our State.

As a partner of the Department of Health's Hawaii Asthma Control Program (See, <https://health.hawaii.gov/asthma/>), the HPCA supports any and all efforts to promote a broader understanding of this disease among our citizens. It is our hope that everyone will one day know how

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2822, House Draft 1
Tuesday, March 22, 2022; 9:30 a.m.
Page 2

to best manage this malady, and understand what they can do when someone experiences an acute asthma attack.

Try to imagine how scary it would be for a child to experience an asthma attack 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?

We recognize that much in 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 the DOE, the Hawaii State Teachers Association, and the Hawaii Government Employees Association, this bill would have accomplished much to improve the situation.

The HPCA stands ready to assist in this discussion and offer our expertise and reach across all islands to coordinate and collaborate on future activities.

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.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Date: March 22, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

Re: **SB 2822 SD1 HD1 Asthma; DOE; Training; Teachers; Courses**

Position: **Support**

Hawaii physicians recognize well the significant public health challenges of asthma in our pediatric population. Each year, 4 million children nationwide have an asthma exacerbation event, often requiring immediate medical care. Here in Hawaii, racial and ethnic disparities exist in these potentially preventable pediatric emergency department (PPPED) visits. According to analyses by the UH Office of Public Health Studies of the acute care hospitals in our state for 2016 (3230 visits), the largest proportion of total potentially preventable pediatric ED visits for asthma came from Native Hawaiians (36.5%), followed by Filipino (19.4%), White (13.3%), other Pacific Islander (13.0%), other race (11.1%), Japanese (5.30%), and Chinese (1.5%)¹.

It is clear that health inequities exist for the keiki of our minority citizens, and coordinated community based asthma education programs for Hawaii teachers, students and parents will reduce the negative outcomes². Hawaii will need additional research on the details of asthma hospitalization and outpatient data to quantify direct and indirect burdens of cost. This legislation is a move in the right direction. Our Hawaii legislature must attend to these critical healthcare disparities that impact our most vulnerable communities.

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

REFERENCES

1. Uchima, O et al. Disparities in Potentially Preventable Emergency Department Visits for Children with Asthma among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Whites in Hawai'i. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2021, 18, 7096. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18137096>.
2. Herman, E.J., Garbe, P.L. & McGeehin, M.A. Assessing Community-Based Approaches to Asthma Control: The Controlling Asthma in American Cities Project. *J Urban Health* 88, 1–6 2011.

HMA OFFICERS

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Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

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 Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: **SB 2822, SD1, HD1 – Relating to Asthma**
Hawai'i State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 329
March 22, 2022, 9:30 AM

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am submitting COMMENTS on SB 2822, SD1, HD1, relating to asthma. This bill would authorize the Department of Education to offer optional asthma education instruction to students and provide asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students.

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.¹

In Hawai'i, there are racial/ethnic and income disparities in asthma prevalence. Native Hawaiians are disproportionately affected by asthma and experience the greatest burden, with the highest prevalence of 28.3%.² In addition, the areas with high asthma prevalence include Hawai'i and Maui counties and the Nānākuli/Wai'anae sub-county areas on O'ahu.

The original version of this bill would ensure that our children with asthma have the best chance to thrive in their school environments. However, the amendments in the current version significantly undermine the bill's effectiveness.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you restore this bill's prior language, specifically by amending Section 3 to state, "the department *shall* develop and provide asthma training..." rather than "*may* develop and provide asthma training..."

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please strengthen this bill.

Thank you,
Nicole Woo, Director of Research and Economic Policy

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

² Uchima O, Taira DA, Ahn HJ, Choi SY, Okihiro M, Sentell T. Disparities in Potentially Preventable Emergency Department Visits for Children with Asthma among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Whites in Hawai'i. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2021



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

By
Nathan Murata, Dean
College of Education
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2822 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO ASTHMA

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the original intent of Senate Bill 2822 Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 and offers suggested amendments. This bill originally provided the needed support for children with asthma in our schools. However, by simply authorizing the Department of Education to create asthma trainings for teachers and not making them mandatory it does not meet the need to have all teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawaii.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Section 3 of the bill be amended to say that “the department SHALL develop and provide asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students” rather than MAY develop the mentioned training.

While we understand that the Department of Education is taxed with a variety of roles, because of the nature of asthma, it's important that all people that work with children understand what asthma is, how to react in an emergency, and what may trigger asthma attacks. This is particularly important for young children, who make up most asthma-related emergency room visits. While many older children may carry inhalers and need little help when they have an asthma attack because they can identify triggers and use their inhalers themselves, younger children may need the help of a teacher to get through an asthma attack.

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. CDC also recommend that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and education programs for school staff, parents, and families. This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

It takes a village to raise a child, and schools are part of the village that helps foster the learning and healthy environment that our keiki need to thrive. We ask you to please amend and pass Senate Bill 2822, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 to ensure that our children with asthma have the best fighting chance to thrive in all environments. With the suggested amendments, this bill has the possibility of doing that.



HIPHI Board

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Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
Pharmacare Hawai'i

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

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 Food Security Coalition

Date: March 21, 2022

To: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services and
Homelessness

Re: Comments for SB 2822, SD1, HD1, Relating to Asthma

Hrg: March 22, 2022 at 9:30 AM in House Conference Room 329 via
Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ provides **comments on SB 2822, SD1, HD1**, and offer suggested amendments. We support the original intent of the bill, which would *require* the Department of Education to offer optional asthma education courses to students and provide mandatory asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students.

However, the HD1 only authorizes the Department of Education to create asthma trainings for teachers. Not making them mandatory does not meet the need to have all teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawai'i.

We respectfully ask that Section 3 of the bill be amended to say that “the department SHALL develop and provide asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students” rather than MAY develop the mentioned training.

Asthma is a serious health concern in Hawai'i, with 10.2% of Hawai'i children estimated to have asthma in 2018 (compared to 7.5% of children nationally.ⁱⁱ Asthma is also one of the leading causes of absenteeism due to chronic disease, and may negatively affect educational outcomes, limit students with asthma's ability to fully participate in school activities, and when children miss school, a parent or guardian often misses work to care for them.

Certain physical activities in schools, such as that in PE classes or recess playtime, may be a trigger for children with asthma, so it is important for all people in charge of the care of children understand what asthma is, how to react in an emergency, and what may trigger asthma attacks. The CDC recommends that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and education programs for school staff, parents, and families. Amending this bill would allow our state to be in line with CDC recommendations.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Fernandes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amanda Fernandes, JD
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ 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 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). Available at: www.cdc.gov/yrbs. Accessed on 02/02/22.

SB-2822-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 9:04:11 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alec Marentic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HASP supports the intent of this bill.

TO: House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2022
TIME: 9:30 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Comments for SB 2822, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO ASTHMA, with suggested amendments

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia J. Goto, and I am writing to express my support for the original intent of Senate Bill 2822, SD1, HD1, relating to asthma and offer suggested amendments. This bill originally provided the support that children with asthma need by having all Department of Education teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawaii. To accomplish the original intent of the bill, mandatory asthma training for teachers is requested.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that the Section 3 of the bill be amended to say that “the department SHALL develop and provide asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students” rather than MAY develop the mentioned training.

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.

It is possible to live well with this chronic disease. The National Institutes of Health Expert Panel Report 3 Guidelines include evidence that comprehensive school-based educational interventions can be effective in improving the health and quality of life for students with asthma.¹ The CDC Coordinated School Health model emphasizes a school-wide approach that includes asthma-friendly policies such as the provision of asthma education and awareness programs for students and staff.² This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

Please amend and pass Senate Bill 2822, SD1, HD1 to ensure that our children with asthma have the best chance to thrive in all environments.

Thank you,

Cynthia J. Goto

¹ National Institutes of Health Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR 3). Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. Publication No. 08-5846, July 2007.

²Strategies for Addressing Asthma in Schools. National Center for Environmental Health, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects. January 2017.
https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/strategies_for_addressing_asthma_in_schools_508.pdf

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 03/22/2022

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: 329 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Health, Human
Services, & Homelessness

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2822, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO ASTHMA.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the department of education to offer optional asthma education instruction to students and provide asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2822, SD1, HD1, and appreciates amendments made that provide the authority to the Department to carry out this measure.

The Department currently has systems in place to support students with chronic health conditions, such as asthma. 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 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, 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 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 asthma 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, during school-sponsored programs, and during co-curricular, extra-curricular, and non-academic school-sponsored events or activities.

The Department has been collaborating with the American Lung Association in Hawaii to offer instruction for any interested employees on asthma basics and will work with the American Lung Association to continue this practice. Parents and guardians of students could be allowed to attend the training at no cost.

Given the above-mentioned systems in place to support students with chronic health conditions such as asthma, the Department believes that this bill may not be necessary at this time but appreciates being granted the authority to carry out this measure.

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



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 22, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS

Senate Bill 2822, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 – Relating to Asthma

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2822, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, Relating to Asthma. This bill would require the Department of Education to offer optional asthma education instruction to students and provide mandatory asthma training to teachers and other employees.

Asthma can lead to a serious disability or cause death. Education on how to recognize early warning signs of an asthma attack can prevent serious health complications. This bill will help to ensure that students who have asthma lead a long and productive life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirby L. Shaw".

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

March 22, 2022 – 9:30 am

COMMENTS FOR SB 2822, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO ASTHMA, WITH SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education, and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association in Hawaii and across the nation is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

The American Lung Association strongly supports the intent of Senate Bill 2822, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 relating to asthma. However, amendments are needed to provide training to all Hawai'i teachers within the Department of Education on asthma and optional trainings for students with asthma and their parents. We suggest modifying the wording to match the SB 2822, Senate Draft 1, which would have required, rather than authorized, the Department of Education to offer optional asthma education instruction to students and to require teachers and other department employees to obtain asthma training.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that schools provide asthma education for students, parents, and school staff as part of creating [Asthma Friendly Schools](#). It further states that “asthma is a leading chronic illness among children and adolescents in the United States. It is also one of the leading causes of school absenteeism. On average, on in ten children are likely to have asthma. Low-income populations, minorities, and children living in inner cities experience more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population.” **Without the suggested amendments, this bill would not be in-line with CDC's Asthma Friendly Schools initiatives.**

Asthma is a serious public health concern in Hawai'i. In 2018, 10.2% of Hawai'i children were estimated to have asthma compared to 7.5% of children in the U.S. as a whole.¹ In Hawai'i, disparities in asthma prevalence are seen in race/ethnicity and region, with Native Hawaiians being disproportionately affected by asthma and experiencing the greatest burden. Native Hawaiians have the highest asthma prevalence at 28.3% compared to Caucasians (17.1%), Chinese (16.4%), Filipino (20.5%), Japanese (17.7%), or other races/ethnicities (19.8%).² Areas with high asthma prevalence include Hawai'i and Maui counties and the Nānākuli/Wai'anae sub-county areas on O'ahu. Asthma disparities can be further exacerbated by geographic isolation, lack of transportation to and from doctor's appointments, lower socioeconomic status, and limited access to healthcare specialists and subspecialists.

Across the country, and the world, children's lives have been lost in schools because people working with children did not respond properly to an asthma emergency. Children, like 12-year old Laporshia Massey who died in Philadelphia from an asthma attack because the school personnel didn't know how to properly treat a child suffering from acute respiratory

¹ CDC, Risk Youth Behavioral Survey, Hawaii, 2019

² Uchima O, Taira DA, Ahn HJ, Choi SY, Okihiro M, Sentell T. Disparities in Potentially Preventable Emergency Department Visits for Children with Asthma among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Whites in Hawai'i. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2021

distress from her asthma³. Ryan Gibbons died after an asthma attack during recess at school⁴. Catrina Lewis' family in New Orleans won a \$1.6 Million lawsuit after the 18-year old died from an asthma attack and court found that school personnel hadn't responded properly to the emergency⁵. There are many cases around the country of these situations happening. In fact, Do we need to wait until our keiki suffer in this way to provide common-sense training?

Several studies have been published demonstrating that school-based interventions for teachers, students, and parents help reduce the negative outcomes of asthma. A 2008 study funded by the CDC and published in the Journal of School Health revealed that school-based asthma curriculum helped to reduce symptoms, activity limitations, and health care utilization for intervention participants.⁶

We can help children with asthma, their families, and the teachers that are responsible for their wellbeing. Because of the lack of healthcare personnel in schools, it's imperative that DOE teachers receive adequate training on one of the most common childhood diseases.

We ask you to please amend and pass SB 2822, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 and help create a net of safety for our most vulnerable keiki.



Pedro Haro
Executive Director
American Lung Association in Hawaii
pedro.haro@lung.org

³ Valerie Strauss, Washington Post, 2013. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2013/10/12/girl-dies-after-getting-sick-at-school-without-nurse/>

⁴ CBC News, 2022: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ontario-mom-urges-schools-to-let-asthmatic-kids-carry-puffers-1.2455861>

⁵ Jessica Portner, Education Week: <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/family-awarded-1-6-million-in-asthma-death-at-school/1996/05>

⁶ Herman, E.J., Garbe, P.L. & McGeehin, M.A. Assessing Community-Based Approaches to Asthma Control: The Controlling Asthma in American Cities Project. J Urban Health 88, 1–6 (2011).



Date: March 21, 2022
To: House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
And members of the Committee

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy
Re: **Support for SB 2822, Relating to Asthma**

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector partnership designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS supports passage of SB 2822: RELATING TO ASTHMA. This bill would provide training to all Hawai'i teachers within the Department of Education on asthma and optional trainings for students with asthma and their parents. Asthma is a serious public health concern in Hawai'i, affecting 10.2% of Hawai'i children (compared to 7.5% of children in the U.S. as a whole). In Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians have the highest asthma prevalence at 28.3%. Areas with high asthma prevalence include Hawai'i and Maui counties and the Nānākuli/Wai'anae sub-county areas on O'ahu. Asthma disparities can be further exacerbated by geographic isolation, lack of transportation to and from doctor's appointments, lower socioeconomic status, and limited access to healthcare specialists and subspecialists.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that schools provide asthma education for students, parents, and school. Asthma is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism. Low-income populations, minorities, and children living in inner cities experience more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths due to asthma than the general population, and when children miss school, a parent or guardian often misses work to care for them.

Addressing asthma requires a coordinated effort among school staff, family members, and the primary care physician in order to improve health outcomes for children with asthma. Because of the lack of healthcare personnel in schools, it is imperative that DOE teachers receive adequate training on one of the most common childhood diseases.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

SB-2822-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 3:48:57 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a mother of two children in our public schools, one of which has strong allergies, I can feel for families who have children with asthma and strongly support this legislation.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise