



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

**Date:** 02/09/2022

**Time:** 03:30 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education  
Senate Health

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 2822 RELATING TO ASTHMA.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires 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.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on SB 2822. This bill would require the Department to offer optional asthma education courses to students; develop and provide required asthma training to teachers and other Department employees who interact with students; and allow parents, guardians of students, and any other Department employees to attend asthma training at no cost.

The Department currently has systems in place to support students with chronic health conditions. Upon notification of a student with a chronic health condition, such as asthma, 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. Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §302A-851 and §302A-853 support the safe and effective administration of medication to students by School Health Assistants and the Nurse Practice Act allows and covers medication administration by School Health Assistants.

Per HRS §302A-1164, 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 asthma may be eligible to receive additional services. An Individualized Education Plan 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.

Should the measure move forward, the Department respectfully requests the following revisions to better align with the intent of offering an intervention to support students with asthma:

- Page 2, Line 19: “shall offer optional asthma self-management ~~education courses~~ instruction to students with asthma.”
- Page 2, Line 20: “~~courses~~ instruction shall be age-appropriate and the topics shall include:”
- Page 3, Line 4: “private entity to provide the ~~courses~~ instruction required under this”
- Page 3, Line 8: “when developing the ~~courses~~ instruction required under this section.”

The Department has been collaborating with the American Lung Association Hawaii to offer instruction for any interested employees on asthma basics during this school year and will work with the American Lung Association to continue this practice.

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

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

**Chair Michelle Kidani**  
**Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim**  
**Senate Committee on Education**

**Chair Jarrett Keohokalole**  
**Vice Chair Roz Baker**  
**Senate Committee on Health**

**February 9, 2022 – 3:30pm**

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2822, RELATING TO ASTHMA**

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 Senate Bill 2822, relating to asthma. The 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. 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.<sup>1</sup> 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%).<sup>2</sup> 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 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."

Absenteeism due to poorly controlled asthma may negatively affect educational outcomes and 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. Addressing asthma effectively requires a coordinated effort among school staff, home/family members, and the primary care physician in order to improve health outcomes for children with asthma.

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

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<sup>1</sup> CDC, Risk Youth Behavioral Survey, Hawaii, 2019

<sup>2</sup> 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

revealed that school-based asthma curriculum helped to reduce symptoms, activity limitations, and health care utilization for intervention participants.<sup>3</sup>

We have the opportunity to 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 support SB 2822 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

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<sup>3</sup> 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).



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: Senate Committees on Education and on Health

Re: **SB 2822 – Relating to Asthma**  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
February 9, 2022, 3:30 PM

Dear Chairs Kidani and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Kim and Baker, and committee members,

**On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 2822, relating to asthma.** This bill 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.

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. 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.<sup>1</sup>

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%).<sup>2</sup> Areas with high asthma prevalence include Hawai'i and Maui counties and the Nānākuli/Wai'anae sub-county areas on O'ahu.

This bill would to ensure that our children with asthma have the best fighting chance to thrive in all environments. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

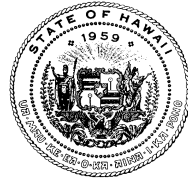
Thank you,

Nicole Woo  
Director of Research and Economic Policy

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

<sup>2</sup> 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



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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2822  
RELATING TO ASTHMA**

SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

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

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

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

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

2 **Offered Amendments:** None



DATE 8 Feb 2022

To: Chair Michelle Kidani  
Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim  
Senate Committee on Education

Chair Jarrett Keohokalole  
Vice Chair Roz Baker  
Senate Committee on Health

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2822 RELATING TO ASTHMA

Hrg: 9 Feb 2022, 3:30PM Conference room 229 & Videoconference

Dear Chairs Chairs Kidani and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. As stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

HPHA strongly supports SB 2822, relating to asthma. This bill provides the needed support that children with asthma require by having all Department of Education teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most common chronic childhood diseases in Hawai'i. 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. 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.

This bill also has significant impact on promoting health equity. 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. Schools are an important part of a child's life by providing a safe and healthy environment for all children to learn and thrive.

We strongly support SB2822, House Draft 1, and respectfully ask that you pass this measure to ensure that our keiki with asthma have the best chance to thrive in all environments. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Leocadia Conlon, PhD, MPH, PA-C  
Legislative Committee Chair  
Hawai'i Public Health Association



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Education and Health  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022; 3:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2822, RELATING TO ASTHMA.**

Chair Kidani, Chair Keohokalole, 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, 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 require 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.

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

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2822**  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2022; 3:30 p.m.**  
**Page 2**

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](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).

**SB-2822**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:18:25 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>       | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Michael Ching, MD,<br>MPH | Testifying for American<br>Academy of Pediatrics,<br>Hawaii Chapter | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee on Education and Committee on Health:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter supports SB2822, relating to asthma. This bill provides the needed 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. It would also provide for optional asthma education for students with asthma.

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

We ask you to please support this bill to ensure that our children with asthma have the best chance to thrive in all environments.

Sincerely,

Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP  
President  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter



To: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

From: Peggy Mierzwa, Government Affairs, AlohaCare

Hearing: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 3:30 PM

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

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB2822**. This measure will require the Department of Education to provide optional asthma education courses to students. It will also require teachers and others who work with students to be trained in recognizing asthma and learning about asthma management.

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.<sup>1</sup>

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**

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



## HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376

[www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org](http://www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org)

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Date: February 9, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

**Re: SB 2822 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 (PPED) 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%)<sup>1</sup>.

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 outcomes<sup>2</sup>. 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 on 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

President – Angela Pratt, MD President-Elect – Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD  
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Chairs: Michelle N Kidani, Jarrett Keohokalole  
Vice Chairs: Donna Mercado Kim, Rosalyn Baker  
Members of the Committees on Education & Health

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 621, RELATING TO ASTHMA

My name is Julian Lipsher, a member of the American Lung Association of Hawaii's Local Leadership Board testifying in Support of SB 621, Relating to Asthma.

This bill provides needed support that children with asthma need through the provision of training for Department of Education teachers along with optional education for children with asthma on management of the disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 10.2 % of Hawaii's children were estimated to have asthma compared to 7.5% of children in the US. Asthma can be managed through early identification with primary care health professionals, support to parents and families and proper accessible medications.

In school situations, critical training for school personnel would support early intervention which can prevent needless and expensive calls to 911 resulting in hospital transports or to working parents needing to come and pick up the child. It is estimated that in an average classroom of 30 students, there are about 3 children with either diagnosed or undiagnosed asthma

In Hawaii, cases of asthma are more often found in low income populations, particularly those without primary care involvement and disproportionately among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. Further, environment plays a role with susceptibility occurring among children living in or near high traffic areas.

CDC recommends that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and for school staff, parents and families. This bill would align Hawaii with CDC recommendations.

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

TO: Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2022  
TIME: 3:30 PM  
PLACE: Via Videoconference

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2822, RELATING TO ASTHMA**

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committees,

My name is Cynthia J. Goto, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2822, relating to asthma. This bill provides 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.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

Please support Senate Bill 2822 to ensure that our children with asthma have the best chance to thrive in all environments.

Thank you,

Cynthia J. Goto



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

<sup>2</sup>Strategies 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](https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/strategies_for_addressing_asthma_in_schools_508.pdf)

**SB-2822**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 3:48:08 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alec Marentic       | Testifying for Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists (HASP) | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

HASP supports this intent of this bill.

**SB-2822**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:41:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Angela Petersons    | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2822, RELATING TO ASTHMA**

Dear Chairs Kidani and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Angela Petersons, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2822, relating to asthma. This bill provides the needed 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.

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.

My son has childhood asthma and so did my daughter, but she grew out of it. With every sickness, asthma affected their ability to breathe and they often times ended up in the emergency room for breathing treatments. Allowing the DOE to provide training to all teachers and students is of utmost importance especially to younger children who may need quick assistance administering rescue inhalers. When your children can't breathe, nothing else matters.

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 support Senate Bill 2822 to ensure that our children with asthma have the best fighting chance to thrive in all environments.

Thank you,

Angela Petersons

[petersonsohana@gmail.com](mailto:petersonsohana@gmail.com)

808.778.2807

**LATE**

**Chair Michelle Kidani  
Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim  
Senate Committee on Education**

**Chair Jarrett Keohokalole  
Vice Chair Roz Baker  
Senate Committee on Health**

**February 9, 2022 – 3:30pm**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2822, RELATING TO ASTHMA**

Dear Chairs Kidani and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Kim and Baker, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Troy Siruno and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2822, relating to asthma. This bill provides the needed support that children with asthma need by having all Department of Education teachers trained on asthma education, one of the most chronic childhood diseases in Hawaii.

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 during an asthma emergency, and what may trigger asthma attacks. This is particularly important for young children who make up the majority of 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.

I had mild asthma as a young child, and many of my nieces and nephews also had asthma growing up. It would provide incredible peace of mind to know that teachers in the DOE were trained to recognize and react appropriately if a child has an asthma attack at school.

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 recommends that schools provide asthma education for students with asthma and education programs for students, 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 support Senate Bill 2822 to ensure that our children with asthma have the best fighting chance to thrive in all environments.

Mahalo,

Troy Siruno  
Honolulu, HI  
(808) 216-7807  
tsiruno@gmail.com



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## 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: February 8, 2022

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Education

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Health

Re: Support SB 2822, Relating to Asthma

Hrg: February 9, 2022 at 3:30 PM via Videoconference

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The Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> is in **support of SB 2822**, which requires 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.

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.<sup>ii</sup> 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. This bill would allow our state to be in-line with CDC recommendations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2822.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Fernandes', is written over a white background.

Amanda Fernandes, JD  
Policy and Advocacy Director

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<sup>i</sup> 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.

<sup>ii</sup> 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS). Available at: [www.cdc.gov/yrbs](http://www.cdc.gov/yrbs). Accessed on 02/02/22.