



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1344 SD1  
RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing Date: February 21, 2023

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SB 1344 SD1. This bill  
3 expands administration of medications by school health assistants (SHAs) at school with the  
4 approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education (DOE), DOH, or  
5 health care service per a written agreement with the DOE. This bill also amends statutes to match  
6 the existing DOE practice for administration of medication at schools. SB 1344 SD1 also updates  
7 the term “school health aides” to “school health assistants” to reflect updated job titles at the  
8 DOE.

9 All SHAs have first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification. The approval of  
10 medications by a licensed health care professional assures the student is provided medication in a  
11 safe manner by the SHA. The current process for medication approval entail 1) the parent or  
12 legal guardian requesting medication in school on a DOE form, 2) the SHA submitting the form  
13 to the DOH public health nurse for approval, and 3) the DOH public health nurse reviewing the  
14 request for approval. The DOH public health nurse works with the student, family and health  
15 care provider to assure the medication is necessary in the school setting and is complete with  
16 clear information. The DOH public health nurse also determines if an emergency action action  
17 plan or informational session to school staff is needed. The DOE coordinates annual training to  
18 the SHAs on medication administration.

1 The DOE has expanded access to health care on campus. Many schools currently have a  
2 registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, or other specialized health care provider on  
3 campus through written agreements with the DOE such as school-based health centers from  
4 federally qualified health centers and the University of Hawai`i at Manoa School of Nursing.  
5 This bill would also enable school-based, licensed health care staff through a written agreement  
6 with DOE to approve medication requests provided by clinicians outside the school system that  
7 would be administered by SHAs. Without the amendments proposed by this bill, only DOH can  
8 approve medications that would be administered by SHAs.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None.



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

**Date:** 02/21/2023  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference  
**Committee:** Senate Commerce and  
Consumer Protection

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 1344, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Allows the administration of medication to public school students by health assistants with the approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education, Department of Health, or a health care service per a written agreement with the Department of Education. Replaces the term "school health aides" with "school health assistants" to reflect recent changes to the job title. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 1344, SD 1. This bill would update the position title of school health aide to school health assistant and allow the position to administer student medication with approval by a healthcare professional within the Department, Department of Health, or a health care service provider per a written agreement with the Department.

All medication requests in a public school setting are currently reviewed and must be approved by the Department of Health. Student care would be more efficient, accessible, and safe if the administration of the medication could be performed with the approval of a health care professional within the Department, Department of Health, or a health care service per a written agreement with the Department.

The current law prevents health care professionals who are already on campus from

performing the function of medication administration approval.

Should this measure pass, the Department acknowledges that new protocols would need to be developed and implemented in coordination with the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1344, SD1.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

by

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

and

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 1344 SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support** of this measure, SB 1344 SD1, which aims to allow the administration of medication to public school students by health assistants with the approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education, Department of Health, or a health care service per a written agreement with the Department of Education.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) partnered with the Department of Education in 2014 to instill the school nursing program by placing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in each complex area. The Legislature, recognizing the great importance of ensuring children are healthy and ready to learn, supported this program by allocating state funds to ensure that children enrolled in Hawai'i's public school system may access school nursing care. Today, the program, Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn, has 51 nurses, including APRNs and registered nurses, serving each complex, and school health technicians who support the Hawai'i Keiki program in 171 schools. In quarters 1 and 2 of this school year (fall semester 2022), Hawai'i Keiki RNs and APRNs conducted 9,112 in person visits and 272 virtual visits for illness or injury. The Hawai'i Keiki nurses are well positioned throughout the state to support review of medications requests to assess the appropriateness to be administered school grounds.

The Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program is nearing a decade of established school nursing care within the department's public education system and is confident that this law change, as well as resulting modifications to existing departmental processes and protocols will lead to an improvement in access to healthcare and quality of care for Hawai'i's children. Secondly, NAWSON is confident in Hawai'i Keiki's ability to support these new processes and protocols related to approvals of medication administration on school grounds.

It is with great pleasure that NAWSON partners with the department in the delivery of school nursing care so that teachers, staff, and principals can focus on their exemplary education.

NAWSON respectfully requests favorable consideration of this measure, SB 1344 SD1.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 229 or via Videoconference**

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

**Testimony in Strong Support for S.B. 1344, S.D. 1**

**RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support** of this measure, S.B. 1344, S.D. 1, which aims to allow the administration of medication to public school students by health assistants with the approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education, Department of Health, or a health care service per a written agreement with the Department of Education.

Section 3 proposes to expand the qualified workforce authorized to approve medication administration on school grounds to include health care professionals within the department of education, department of health, or health care service as defined in section 323D-2 per a written agreement with the department of education. In this section, health care professionals include Registered Nurses (RNs). Registered Nurses have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform this duty and are present in school environments. In 2021, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) found in the nursing workforce supply survey that approximately 270 RNs (11%) and 60 APRNs (9%) reported working in a school health room/clinic.

HSCN reviewed section 5, which appears to ensure alignment with Chapter 457 relative to terminology changes for DOE personnel proposed in sections 2 and 4.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing urges you to pass this measure through your committee. Thank you for the dedication and care for healthcare workers and the people in Hawai'i.

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

## **Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 21, 2023; 10:00 AM; Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

### **Support** for Senate Bill 1344, SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jahanavi Priya, and I am a graduate Social Work student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health. I am testifying as an individual.

I am in **support** of SB 1344 SD1 related to educational health services. I am certified in seizure recognition and first aid training. Although that does not include administering medications for someone having a seizure, it did help me understand how to respond until help arrives and the importance of having a professional be there to administer medication in emergencies. The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai‘i says 2,000 keiki live with epilepsy, and many children have other conditions requiring life-saving medications. Should they not have someone on campus to help them in these situations?

Prior to being certified in seizure recognition, I remember hearing panic outside my high school classroom. When all of us curious classmates peeked out of the room, we saw a student lying on the cold concrete floor before our teacher pulled us in. We did not know what to do, and seeing our normally calm teacher stressed made us more worried. Emergency services came quickly enough in that situation, but it gets me to think about what would have happened if that was not the case. Sometimes seconds matter.

This bill would allow school health assistants to dispense medications with the approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Health (DOH), or health care service per a written agreement with the DOE. It is vital to have support for students needing seizure, anaphylaxis, or any other life-saving medication, to have a professional there for them, their peers, teachers, and parents. In addition, it would add to schools being safer and reassuring keiki and parents that someone would be there for them if that situation were to arrive while they were on school grounds. Please consider supporting SB 1344 SD1.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Jahanavi Priya





February 20, 2023

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Tuesday, February 21, 2023; 10:00 am. State Capitol, Conf. Room 229 or Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 1344 SD1– RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii (EFH), we urge your **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1344 SD1, RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES. This bill supports a critical priority for the epilepsy community – safety and continuity of care in the event of a seizure. This legislation would allow school health assistants to dispense medications at school with the approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Health (DOH), or health care service per a written agreement with the DOE.

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. Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, advocates and provides services for the almost 14,000 individuals living with epilepsy throughout Hawaii. Collectively, we foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. 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, and it is vital that members of the public, including school personnel, are prepared to appropriately and effectively respond in this very unpredictable event. 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. With that said, EFH humbly supports an amendment as follows:

SECTION 3. Section 302A-853, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

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](http://epilepsy.com/advocacy).**



**"§302A-853 Administration of**

**medication.** (a) School health [~~aides~~] assistants may assist students by administering oral, nasal, and topical medication, and in emergency situations, other premeasured medication, including but not limited to auto-injectable epinephrine for anaphylaxis, bronchodilators for asthma, and seizure rescue medication for seizure disorders; provided that:

(1) If the student receiving the medication is a minor, a parent or guardian requests and authorizes the administration of medication;

(2) The medication has been prescribed by a licensed physician, as defined in section 334-1, or by a practitioner with prescriptive authority;

(3) The administration of the medication is with the approval of [~~the department of health; and~~] a health care professional within the department of education, department of health, or health care service as defined in section 323D-2 per a written agreement with the department of education; and

(4) The administration of the medication is necessary for the health of the student and for the student's attendance at school.

(b) For purposes of this section, "health care professional" means physicians, surgeons, and others licensed pursuant to chapter 453 and nurses licensed pursuant to chapter 457."

[Proposed language highlighted.]



Approximately 2,000 children and teens live with active epilepsy in Hawaii. Passing Senate Bill 1344 SD1 with suggested ammendmens would greatly improve the care and safety of students with epilepsy and seizures in schools.

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii and our Board of Directors, we humbly thank you for the opportunity to testify, offer suggested ammendments, and urge your **support for Senate Bill 1344 SD1**.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi Manuel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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](http://epilepsy.com/advocacy).**

**LATE**

**SB-1344-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:57:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/21/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Scharnhorst	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 229 or via Videoconference**

**by  
Anne Scharnhorst, DNP, RN, CNE**

**Testimony in Strong Support for S.B. 1344, S.D. 1**

**RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support** of this measure, S.B. 1344, S.D. 1, which aims to allow the administration of medication to public school students by health assistants with the approval of a health care professional within the Department of Education, Department of Health, or a health care service per a written agreement with the Department of Education.

Section 3 proposes to expand the qualified workforce authorized to approve medication administration on school grounds to include health care professionals within the department of education, department of health, or health care service as defined in section 323D-2 per a written agreement with the department of education. In this section, health care professionals include Registered Nurses (RNs). Registered Nurses have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform this duty and are present in school environments. In 2021, the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) found in the nursing workforce supply survey that approximately 270 RNs (11%) and 60 APRNs (9%) reported working in a school health room/clinic.

HSCN reviewed section 5, which appears to ensure alignment with Chapter 457 relative to terminology changes for DOE personnel proposed in sections 2 and 4.

**Anne Scharnhorst** urges you to pass this measure through your committee. Thank you for the dedication and care for healthcare workers and the people in Hawai'i.