



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

**Date:** 02/08/2023

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** SB 0943 RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to fund school health support staff to sustain the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program.

**Department's Position:**

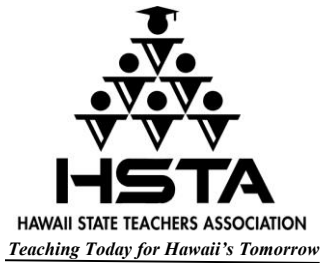
The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 943 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Hawaii State Board of Education approved budget.

The Hawaii Keiki school health support staff were initially funded through federal funds to assist schools to prevent transmission of and respond to the impact of COVID-19. Beyond providing COVID-19 support, the school health support staff continue to play a critical role in increasing equitable access to health services.

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

Page 4, Line 13: "year 2024-2025 for the funding of school health ~~support staff~~ services"

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 943.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
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Osa Tui, Jr.  
President  
Logan Okita.  
Vice President  
Lisa Morrison  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Ann Mahi  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 943 - RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

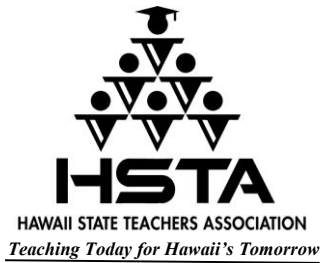
Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 943**, relating to school-based health services. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Education to fund school health support staff to sustain the Hawai‘i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program.

The Hawai‘i Keiki: Healthy Ready to Learn Program is designed to improve access to and increase the quality of school-based health services available to Hawaii's public school students by coordinating and expanding the existing efforts of community partners and resources. This partnership program with the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supports the Department of Education in achieving student, school, and system success by providing school health nursing and primary care services to public schools in five complex areas.

Student success demands a nourished body and mind. Too often, our children come to school hungry or without access to quality medical care, leaving them lurching through the school day, rather than learning instructional content.

In 2015, the legislature appropriated general funds to improve access to and increase the quality of health services available to Hawaii's public school students. This appropriation led to the expansion of the Hawai‘i Keiki program, with five advanced practice registered nurses and five registered nurses serving seven complex areas across three islands. During this time, the Hawai‘i Keiki program also established five school-based health centers. The program has been further expanded since then. The goal is to expand the Hawai‘i Keiki program to all fifteen Department of Education complex areas; expand the program to allow the state public charter school commission to launch the program in two public charter schools serving disadvantaged keiki; provide access to preventive oral health services and establish a pilot oral health screening and preventative services program on a neighbor island; enhance data collection, sharing, analysis, and reporting; and engage in interdepartmental school health coordination.



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Today, the majority Hawai'i public school students receive free or reduced price meals, meaning their families' income levels are too low to cover the full cost of their children's basic needs. Additionally, 187 of our state's public schools count as Title I schools, namely schools in which at least 40 percent of enrolled students come from low-income families. Research shows that socioeconomic status is the indicator that correlates most strongly with academic achievement. The more affluent a child's family and community, in general, the greater the likelihood that the child will succeed academically. Families of low SES students, on the other hand, lack the resources to meet fundamental child needs. They frequently cannot afford doctor visits or medicine to keep a child well. Sometimes, they can't afford to pay for meals.

Student success demands a healthy body and mind. If our students come to school hungry or without access to quality medical care, they are left struggling through the school day, rather than being able to focus on their learning.

The Hawai'i Keiki program provides nursing services that prevent communicable illness and improve treatable health conditions, which are especially important for economically disadvantaged youth, so they can not only be healthy, but they are able to focus on their learning.

For the sake of our students' wellness, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Executive Office on Early Learning**  
2759 South King Street  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 7, 2023

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

**FROM:** Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** S.B. No. 943 – RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES  
**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
**Time:** 3:00 pm  
**Location:** Conference Room 229

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support Intent**

EOEL supports the intention of S.B. No. 943 and defers to the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE).

EOEL is committed to increasing access to affordable and high-quality early learning opportunities and is working collaboratively across stakeholders, including the HIDOE, to expand options and availability of pre-kindergarten programs for all three-and four-year olds across the State. The Hawaii Keiki: health and ready to learn program could benefit children enrolled in an EOEL pre-kindergarten program.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Legislature to support the growth and development of keiki across the State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



# 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 Education  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.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 943 – RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support with proposed amendments** of this measure, SB 943, which aims to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to fund school health support staff. This will sustain the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program as it currently functions. The Hawai'i Keiki program employs 171 School Health Support Staff (SHSS); this appropriation request is to continue the services to the state by ensuring continuation of funding by state funds once the federal funding expires.

During the initial years of the COVID pandemic, Hawai'i Keiki received federal funds to support the health and wellbeing of enrolled children to the Hawai'i Keiki Program with particular focus on preventing the transmission of and responding to the impact of COVID. The impact of the SHSS role within the Hawai'i Keiki school nursing program has grown considerably:

- COVID Response for Quarters 1 and 2 of School Year (SY) 2022-2023
  - 3,389 COVID tests conducted
  - 5,443 responses to new COVID case
  - 10,805 students supported in safe return to school after isolation or quarantine
- Health Center Support for Quarters 1 and 2 of School Year (SY) 2022-2023
  - 48,699 visits documented by the 171 SHSS; 70% returned to classroom
  - 2,581 referrals to Hawai'i Keiki nurse for higher level of care
  - 14,800 students supported at 136 screening events (vision/hearing/dental)

Today, Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn, includes 51 nurses, including APRNs and registered nurses, serving each complex, and school health support staff (SHSS)

who extend the clinical reach of the Hawai'i Keiki program in 171 schools. The Hawai'i Keiki program's SHSS impact in SY 2022-2023 demonstrates the continued need for this role and workforce. Additionally, without these staff, the need for these services would remain. With SHSS, school staff, teachers, and principals are able to dedicate their time to their primary mission of education with the confidence and knowledge that the physical health and wellbeing of students will be supported by the excellent Hawai'i Keiki SHSS, in addition to APRNs and RNs.

It is with great pleasure that NAWSON partners with the department in the delivery of school nursing care so that teachers, staff, and principals may focus on delivering exemplary education. NAWSON respectfully requests favorable consideration of this measure, SB 943, with amendments as provided by the department of education.

Proposed amendment:

Page 4, Line 13: "year 2024-2025 for the funding of school health ~~support staff~~  
services"



## HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 8, 2023

### S.B. 943 — RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO would like to provide comments on S.B. 943 which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to fund school health support staff to sustain the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program.

HGEA currently represents 230 School Health Assistants (SHAs) employed at public schools statewide. During the pandemic, the Hawaii Keiki program provided much needed support for the SHAs who experienced an unprecedented number of students coming to the school health room for COVID-related and other serious health conditions.

While we appreciate the Hawaii Keiki program's goal to improve student attendance and prevent chronic absenteeism, SHAs provide exceptional care and service to enhance the health of all students to maximize their educational opportunities. As stated in their job classification, SHAs are the primary health resource at each school. If funds are appropriated through this measure, we ask that the Department of Education ensure a collaborative relationship between our SHAs and the school health support staff employed by the Hawaii Keiki program partnership.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. 943.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



*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: Senator Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kim, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

Re: SB943, relating to school-based health services  
3:00 p.m., Feb. 8, 2023

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and committee members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 943, relating to school-based health services.**

It is not just books or teachers or grades that came before that prepares a child to learn. For a student to reach their full potential, they must be healthy and well. School-based health services help ensure every child has access to the services needed to be healthy.

Students—from our youngest in elementary to our oldest in high schools—have faced significant physical and mental health challenges over the last three years of the pandemic. Hawai'i Keiki is a vital resource for us to address these challenges and help children be better able to learn and grow. The school health support staff and Hawai'i Keiki nurses are crucial to opening access for our children who need these services the most.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB943. **Please advance this important measure.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy





**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
Tuesday, February 08, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.**

**By**

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

**Comments on S.B. 943**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support with proposed amendments** of this measure, S.B. 943, which aims to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to fund school health support staff. This will sustain the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program as it currently functions. The Hawai'i Keiki program employs 171 School Health Support Staff (SHSS); this appropriation request is to continue the services to the state by ensuring continuation of funding by state funds once the federal funding expires.

The National Academies of Medicine's Future of Nursing 2030 report highlights school nursing in the Chapter "The Role of Nurses in Improving Healthcare Access and Quality". In this chapter, they note "Access to school nurses helps increase health care equity for students. For many children living in or near poverty, the school nurse may be the only health care professional they regularly access."<sup>1</sup> The NAM continues, "*Healthy children learn better; educated children grow to raise healthier families advancing a stronger, more productive nation for generations to come. School nurses work to assure that children have access to educational opportunities regardless of their state of health.*"

The services that the School Health Support Staff (SHSS) provide extend the reach of school nurses to students who may otherwise have health needs that are affecting their wellbeing as well as their ability to learn. The SHSS services are providing a considerable function to the school health environment and broadening the impact of the Hawai'i Keiki program. This team-based model is exemplary in that it maximizes staff and outcomes.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing thanks the Committee for considering this measure and for your longstanding advocacy and vision for children who are healthy and ready to learn.

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<sup>1</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2021. The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.17226/25982>."

*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.*



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023; 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0943, RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES.**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, 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 offers **COMMENTS** on Senate Bill No. 0943, RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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 appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2023-2024, and 2024-2025, for the funding of school health support staff within the Department of Education. The bill also asserts legislative findings that the Department of Education's Hawaii Keiki: Health and Ready to Learn Program (Keiki Program) provides supervisory services to school health support staff in the provision of telehealth visit, the implementation of nursing orders, health screening efforts and other campus-wide health support services.

While we welcome the intent of this measure, the HPCA is concerned that this measure may unintentionally and inadvertently conflict with efforts to establish school-based health clinics at certain public schools situated near existing Community Health Center facilities. These school-based clinics provide broader and more intensive primary care services than that which would be provided solely by an advance practice registered nurse assigned to a complex of schools as proposed under the Keiki Program.

**In your efforts to provide baseline primary health care services to all school-aged youths, we respectfully urge you not to take any steps that may duplicate existing services, diminish the level of services that are currently provided, or preclude the establishment of more intensive and comprehensive services at public schools.**

For example, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center has worked with the DOE to establish school-based clinics at public schools situated near their facilities. Other Community Health Centers have examined their models and are currently considering entering into agreements with the Department of Education to create similar programs at nearby schools. We are concerned that the establishment of specific programs may conflict with these efforts and unfortunately reduce the level of services that are currently being provided at certain schools, or might be provided to more schools in the future.

It should also be noted that the Keiki Program is not established in statute. As such, the Program's continued existence is solely at the discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

As mentioned earlier, HPCA is merely commenting on this measure and will continue to monitor this measure as it goes through the legislative process. We are partners with the entire community and want to work with all parties for what is best for our citizens.

To ensure that the Keiki Program not conflict with the efforts of Community Health Centers, we respectfully ask that:

- (1) The DOE be required to partner with the Public Health Nursing Branch of the Department of Health (DOH) pursuant to an MOU between the DOE, DOH, the Keiki Program, **and each federally qualified health center and rural health clinic geographically situated within each participating complex of schools;** and
- (2) The Keiki Program be precluded from providing services at any school where a school-based clinic established pursuant to a memorandum of understanding or contract between a federally qualified health center or rural health clinic and the Department of Education exists or may exist in the future. Further, the amendment would clarify that **precluded services would include any service that duplicates any service that is either provided or offered at a school-based clinic.**

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 0943**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023; 3:00 p.m.**  
**Page 3**

Lastly, we respectfully request that the following language be added to the committee report, should the Committee desire to report this measure out:

*“It is the intent of your Committee that this bill not be construed in any way to preclude or limit the receipt of federal funds to establish any school-based clinic pursuant to a grant or other financial arrangement with a federally qualified health center or rural health clinic.”*

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).