



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

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

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, Dean  
School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene

And

T. Samuel Shomaker, Dean  
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### HB 1499 HD1 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing this measure, which aims to expand the Department of Education's (DOE) authority to allow more trained staff to volunteer to assist students with the administration of medication. **The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (UH Mānoa SONDH) and the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) are in strong support of this measure.**

The UH Mānoa SONDH is a long-time contributor to school health initiatives with partnership of the DOE. Starting in 2014, The UH Mānoa SONDH launched with DOE the Hawai'i Keiki - Healthy and Ready to Learn (HK) program. This program placed advanced practice registered nurses into the schools and complexes with the greatest health disparities. Just over 10 years since its inception, HK now services all 258 DOE public schools and has 58 DOE public school-based clinics and 10 charter school-based clinics. In Academic Year 2023-2024, HK nurses and staff completed more than 75,000 visits in public schools and 6,700 visits in charter schools. HK nurses and staff see and care for the children enrolled in the public and charter education systems. This bill fulfills a crucial need that will significantly enhance the health and wellbeing of children across the islands. In addition to the existing authorization for School Health Assistants, it expands the ability to assist students by "making other employees and agents trained by a health care professional employed or contracted by the department, may assist students by administering oral, nasal, and topical medication, and in emergency situations, other premeasured medication."

Provided the proper training and procedures are in place, this measure would allow for improved care and, ultimately, improved learning for children with known health

conditions. Today, children with a known health condition and completed administrative processing are able to have medications at school to support chronic health conditions. This bill does not change the process of authorizing medications to be administered at school, but rather helps that process function to its enacted intent. HK supports the DOE schools in this function today - both providing medication administration support where HK staff is on-campus, as well as providing training to DOE employees. However, when a School Health Assistant is not available, and HK is not present on a campus, enrolled children may go without their needed and approved daily and or emergency medications.

Thank you for your long-standing support for school-aged children, both in their education and in their health and wellbeing. Your continued support, through the passage of this measure with amendments through your committee, is greatly appreciated.



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

**Date:** 02/19/2025

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Consumer Protection &  
Commerce

**Department:** Education

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

**Bill Title:** HB 1499, HD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Expands the Department of Education's authority to allow more trained staff to volunteer to assist students with the administration of medication. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

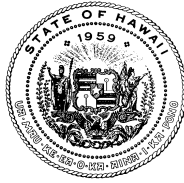
**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1499, HD1, which authorizes public school employees or agents who have completed appropriate training to administer medications for students consistent with the standards applicable to school health assistants (SHAs).

The Department recognizes that access to certain medications during school may be necessary for the attendance of students with a health condition. SHAs play a vital student support role by administering medications to students who need them. Under Hawaii Revised Statutes section 302A-853, only SHAs are authorized to administer routine medications. The reliance on a single person naturally creates challenges to consistent and efficient service delivery. The SHAs cannot be in multiple locations at once, such as on field trips, emergencies, or while assisting other students.

This bill would allow the Department to train designated staff as SHA substitutes, ensuring students receive necessary medical support without disruption to their learning. By expanding the pool of trained personnel, the bill would help maintain the continuity of health services while upholding established safety and training standards.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1499 HD1  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

REPRESENTATIVE SCOT MATAYOSHI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025 @ 2 pm

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") SUPPORTS this measure  
3 offering comments and a proposed amendment.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Communicable Disease & Public Health Nursing Division  
5 (CDPHND) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department. The Department  
6 supports this bill as it will potentially increase the number of trained volunteers on DOE public  
7 school campuses who are able to administer daily and/or emergency medications during the  
8 school day. This bill will allow for students to have increased access to prescription and  
9 emergency medication in the event of a school health assistant vacancy. Public school staff  
10 who volunteer as substitutes to administer medications to students shall be trained on  
11 medication administration by a health care professional employed or contracted by the  
12 Department of Education. The other updates in the measure will aid in the ability for students  
13 to safely and timely receive prescribed and emergency medications, improving their overall  
14 health and ability to remain in school.

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1   **Offered Amendments:**

- 2   The Department offers one revision to this bill to add on Page 1 Line 12, identifying the correct  
3   student to receive the medication, to be aligned with rights of medication administration.
- 4   Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 2:00PM  
Conference Room 329 and videoconference**

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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on H.B. 1499, H.D. 1**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and members of the committee:

Thank you for hearing this measure which would expand the Department of Education's authority to permit additional trained staff to volunteer in assisting students with administering medication. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) is in strong support of this measure.

HSCN has a longstanding initiative to address barriers to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) care as a mechanism to improve access to high quality health care services. In 2022, HSCN started an interprofessional effort to review the Hawai'i Revised Statutes for laws that inform healthcare access that are outside of healthcare professionals' scope of practice laws (primarily in Title 25). The committee found that nearly half of the HRS had language that limited all qualified providers from engaging in certain healthcare activities as described in those statutes. This measure is a good example of including all eligible healthcare providers that may contribute to the process. The outcome is that local healthcare providers, whether it be the primary care provider, associated Hawai'i Keiki school APRN, or other provider can engage in the prescribing of this medication to the school. This is a strong health policy intervention that improves access to appropriate and safe health care in the community.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing commends the legislature for introducing this measure and for your commitment to the health and safety of children in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

*The mission of the Hawai'i State Center is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.*

**HB-1499-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 11:40:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hire more people. Don't cut corners

Mrs Ruth Love

**HB-1499-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 2:58:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:



**HB-1499-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:38:25 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This option allows children with medical problems to be well managed at school and avert emergency situations.

**HB-1499-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:36:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Buenconsejo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I support HB1499 allowing Department of Education employees to become trained volunteers to administer medications for students. The current law hinders the ability for students to receive medications during on and/or off campus activities. Currently, only the school health assistant or the substitute School health assistant can administer medications. The practice has been that the school's SHA would go on the field trip and the school would request a substitute SHA to man the health room.

This has become problematic as there are a limited number of substitute SHAs and if there are multiple field trips on one school day, the administration needs to find solutions for the medication to be administered so all the students can attend the field trips.

Allowing DOE staff to volunteer to carry and assist the students with taking their medications would alleviate the burden on the school health assistant, substitute school health assistants and parents and allow all students access to on and off campus activities.

Thank you for your consideration.