



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

**KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.**  
ADMINISTRATOR

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March 26, 2025

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and  
Honorable Members

From: John C (Jack) Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA and  
Senior Advisor to Governor Green MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: **SB1434, SD1, HD1 - RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUIZATION  
FUNDING PROGRAM**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2025 @ 2:00 pm, Conference Room 308

Position: SUPPORT

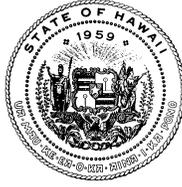
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Testimony:

SB 1434 SD1 HD1 establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Program as a universal funding model for immunization purchases by the Department of Health, to increase statewide access to immunizations for all persons under age sixty-five.

It also establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund, into which fees collected from assessed entities and other sources of funding will be deposited, for purposes of bulk purchasing immunizations and administering the program.

This program takes a huge burden off physician practices and community clinics from having to purchase vaccines for their patients "at risk" of financial losses if they aren't fully used or if they are not adequately reimbursed for them by insurers. This contributes to lower vaccination rates and statewide communicable disease risks. DOH get vaccines in bulk at lower rates to assist health care providers get vaccines efficiently to their patients, particularly on neighbor islands and in rural areas. It is a very good investment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1434, S.D. 1, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, March 28, 2025, 2:00 P.M., Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** One-time program start-up costs are estimated to be approximately  
2 \$934,000. Once implemented, the program will be self-sustaining. With the Department of  
3 Health able to purchase vaccine at a significant discount, health plans would be expected to pay  
4 less to the department than to a provider for vaccine. For instance, CDC vaccine contract pricing  
5 offers an average cost savings of 35% across all immunizations. Providers, often small  
6 businesses, would not need to invest in vaccine inventory or risk loss of expired vaccine, and  
7 could have lower cost for vaccine storage.

8

9 **Department Position:** The Department strongly **SUPPORTS** this measure and offers comments.  
10 The purpose of this measure is to establish a collaborative, self-sustaining, “universal” funding  
11 model for immunization purchases by the Department of Health Immunization Branch for all  
12 persons under the age of 65, regardless of insurance status (public/private).

13

14 The primary purpose of a universal purchasing program is to reduce a barrier for patients to  
15 receive vaccinations. By centralizing public and private sector immunization procurement and

1 leveraging bulk purchasing power through Federal or State consortium contracts, this initiative  
2 would lower private-sector costs and improve access to needed immunizations for all keiki,  
3 families, communities, and healthcare providers statewide. Through this program, the State  
4 would purchase vaccines at a significant discount, and the State can purchase any vaccine on  
5 the discounted pricelist that is requested by healthcare providers, although the State may  
6 determine it not efficient to purchase infrequently requested vaccines.

7

8 This program would reduce the financial and administrative burden to health care providers  
9 and create economies of scale that can reach more patients than the current uncoordinated  
10 model. Currently, providers take on considerable risk because of the need to pay for their  
11 private sector immunization supplies up front, as well as incurring other expenses such as  
12 secure and temperature-controlled storage, and doses that expire before use are wasted at the  
13 provider's expense. This program benefits providers, especially those that are small businesses.

14

15 Additionally, this initiative addresses increasing disparities between publicly and privately  
16 insured individual's access to immunizations and reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to preventive  
17 health care, cost-effective public-health infrastructure, and data-driven decision-making – key  
18 pillars of our nationally-recognized healthcare system. If necessary, the proposed program  
19 could be scaled should the federal Vaccines for Children program or other Federal  
20 immunization funding sources be disrupted.

21

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



**March 28, 2025 at 2:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 308**

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita  
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
AVP, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**SB 1434 SD 1 HD 1, Relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

We write today to **support** this measure, which proposes the establishment of the Universal Immunization Funding Program at the Hawaii Department of Health. Widespread vaccination is one of the most critical public health strategies for protecting communities from preventable diseases. By ensuring that all individuals have access to vaccines, we can strengthen community immunity, prevent outbreaks, and reduce the long-term strain on our healthcare system.

Establishing the Universal Immunization Funding Program would allow the Department of Health to help lower administrative costs for healthcare providers and ensure a steady supply of vaccines, especially during emergencies or shortages. Such a framework is particularly beneficial for independent and rural physicians and practices, who often face challenges in vaccine procurement and management. By alleviating these logistical and financial burdens, the bill supports these providers in delivering uninterrupted and quality care to their communities.

Vaccinations not only save lives but also reduce healthcare costs by preventing hospitalizations and complications from diseases that are otherwise avoidable. By implementing a universal immunization program, we can help ensure that all residents—regardless of insurance status or financial means—receive the vaccinations they need. Increased vaccination rates contribute to healthier communities, allowing individuals to stay productive, children to remain in school, and healthcare resources to be used more efficiently.

This measure is a proactive step towards safeguarding public health, optimizing healthcare expenditures, and bolstering the operations of healthcare providers across the state. Thank you for hearing this important measure and continued support of public health initiatives in the state.



The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in **strong opposition** to the proposed Universal Immunization Funding Program. We believe that this bill raises several concerns that contradict the fundamental principles of individual rights.

This bill paves the way for universal forced vaccinations, making them responsible for covering the costs of state-mandated vaccinations. Remember just a few years ago, they forced Hawaii's population to take part in illegal and inhumane experimental mRNA gene therapy which was mislabeled as a vaccine for the laboratory-engineered virus which triggered the state's overreaction. They forced us to show proof of vaccination or face total deprivation of human rights. The same irresponsible and unaccountable authoritarians in office now, unsurprisingly, want to pave the way for future abuses. This measure is falsely labeled as public health policy, while they simultaneously push to remove religious exemptions - another grave violation of human rights.

Mussolini defined Fascism as the merger of corporate and state interests. What is it when our government merges with Big Pharma interests and other distant, foreign governments - at our expense?

There are so many problems with the underlying concepts of this bill and the diseased thinking which created it, that its mere introduction should be considered an insult and an offense against Hawaii. However, we will constrain our critique from the bigger picture to the specific details of this bill:

- 1. Financial Strain on Assessors:** Imposing assessment fees on insurers and other entities could result in heightened operational costs, which can easily trickle down to the consumer.



2. **Privacy and Data Security:** The requirements for reporting “covered lives” and immunization data raise serious privacy concerns, jeopardizing the security and confidentiality of personal health information.
3. **Lack of Accountability and Oversight:** The centralized management of funds through the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund raises questions about accountability, transparency, and potential misuse of resources.
4. **Public Distrust:** Implementing a program that is mandatory risks further erosion of the already lacking public trust in healthcare institutions.
5. **Economic Distortions & Malinvestment:** government interventions into the free market always come with common unintended consequences, including persistent malinvestment, price distortions, consumer abuses, racketeering, interference with liability, and many other problems.

The only real solution for Hawaii to make medicine sustainably affordable is to get the government out of healthcare and insurance altogether, and in general to make the state government stop its constant usurpations of power from individual market participants.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii advocates for individual liberty, free markets, and limited government intervention. We believe that this bill is governmental overreach and threatens the core values of personal freedom. We urge the members of the Legislative Assembly to reject this bill to uphold the principles of liberty.

Thank you for considering our position,

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii



## HIPHI Board

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HMSA

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Hawaiian Research Office

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &  
Evaluation

Community Health  
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &  
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: March 25, 2025

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: Support for SB 1434 SD1 HD1, Relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program

Hrg: Friday, March 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM, Conference Room 308

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Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)<sup>1</sup> **supports SB 1434 SD1 HD1**, which establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund into which the fees will be deposited to finance the distribution of immunizations free of charge to qualifying healthcare providers.

Immunization is critical to public safety. Vaccines can prevent common diseases that seriously harm or cause the death of infants, children, and adults. The direct benefits of vaccination in reducing disease morbidity and mortality in a cost-effective manner have been well-established by medical research.

Creating a Universal Immunization Special Fund will allow providers access to immunizations at a reduced cost. This will increase access to immunizations, reduce providers' financial risk of estimating how many vaccines they will use, decrease administrative burden by provider offices, stabilize immunization funding sources, increase the efficiency of vaccine ordering, tracking, delivery, and monitoring, improve statewide data, and lower healthcare costs.

## Benefits of Immunization

According to a landmark study published by The Lancet in 2024, vaccination has likely averted 154 million deaths since 1974, including 146 million among children younger than 5 years old and 101 million infants.<sup>2</sup>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called immunization "one of modern medicine's greatest success stories." The WHO notes that immunization not only protects public health, but also advances broader gains in education and economic development worldwide.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)00850-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)00850-X/fulltext)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/immunization>



An analysis conducted by researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the Center for Disease Dynamics found that preventing vaccine-preventable infectious diseases helps avert associated out-of-pocket medical expenses, healthcare provider costs, and losses in wages of patients and caregivers, while improving cognition, school attainment, and long-term economic productivity.<sup>4</sup>

### **Immunization Is Safe**

Vaccines are safe for public use, including for our keiki. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), new vaccines are extensively lab-tested to ensure that they are medically secure. Once clinical trials involving people begin, it can often take years of additional testing before a vaccine is licensed. After a vaccine is licensed, the Food and Drug Administration, CDC, National Institutes of Health, and other federal agencies rigorously monitor potential safety concerns.<sup>5</sup>

Unfortunately, our state is currently experiencing an increase in respiratory viruses, which health officials believe may be attributable to declining vaccination rates across the islands, especially among students. According to the Department of Health (DOH), of 382 schools reporting for the 2023-2024 school year, 282 schools, or nearly 75%, have more than 5% of their students not up to date on vaccines, of which 36 schools reported that over half of their students are missing required immunizations.<sup>6</sup>

DOH officials have also stated that Hawai'i's 2022-2023 kindergarten MMR vaccine coverage rate is about 86%, which is nearly 10% lower than the 95% coverage recommended for community protection by the CDC. Hawai'i had the largest increase in exemptions in the U.S. for non-medical kindergarten vaccines from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year.<sup>7</sup> An uptick in unvaccinated students could lead to outbreaks of infectious diseases, including illnesses like measles.

To keep our state safe from preventable illness, we urge your committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate Hix".

Nate Hix  
Director of Policy and Advocacy

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<sup>4</sup><https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7482790/#:~:text=Childhood%20vaccines%20save%20an%20estimated,1990%20to%2029%20in%202018.>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/reasons/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.khon2.com/local-news/rising-illnesses-dropping-vaccines-hawaii-faces-a-winter-health-crisis>

<sup>7</sup> <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/hi/hawaii/news/2024/03/06/doh-warns-hawaii-measles>

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS; Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund

BILL NUMBER: SB 1434 SD 1 HD 1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Program as a universal funding model for immunization purchases by the Department of Health, to increase statewide access to immunizations for all persons under age sixty-five. Establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund, into which fees collected from assessed entities and other sources of funding will be deposited, for purposes of bulk purchasing immunizations and administering the program.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new part to chapter 325, HRS, relating to infectious and communicable diseases, for a Universal Immunization Funding Program (Program) to provide immunizations to individuals in the State. The Program is expected to lower private health care providers and systems financial and administrative costs and lower incidences of immunization-preventable diseases by increasing access to immunizations.

Defines “Assessed entity” as an insurer, that is not a medicare advantage health plan, a nonprofit mutual benefit society, fraternal benefit society, or health maintenance organization.

Defines “Assessment” as the association member liability with respect to immunization costs determined in accordance with this part.

Defines “Immunization” as any preparation of killed microorganisms, living attenuated organisms, living fully virulent organisms, or part thereof, or any other treatment intended to trigger an immune response that is authorized by the United States Food and Drug Administration, recommended by the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or has been authorized for purchase by the director for the purposes of producing or increasing immunity to particular diseases. "Immunization" includes any other substance designated as immunization by order of the director of health.

Defines “Provider” as a person licensed by the State to administer immunizations or provide health care services or a partnership, corporation, or other entity made up of those persons.

Establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund (Fund) into which shall be deposited:

- 1) Fees, fines and cost reimbursements collected from Assessed entities;
- 2) Legislature appropriations;
- 3) Grants, contracts, donations, and private contributions;

- 4) Moneys from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and other federal agencies;
- 5) Interest earned from investment of special fund moneys; and
- 6) Any other moneys made available to the special fund from other sources.

Expenditures from the Fund shall be used to purchase immunizations and administer the program.

The Fund will be administered and expended by the Department of Health. The Director shall determine regular immunization assessment rates and may make changes to the assessment collection mechanism.

Amends section 36-27(a), HRS, to exclude the Fund from central service expenses.

The measure provides an appropriation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ out of general revenues, or so much thereof as may be necessary, into the Fund for fiscal year 2025-2026. The House Committee on Health recommended a \$934,000 appropriation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 3000.

STAFF COMMENTS: This is an Administration bill sponsored by the Department of Health and designated HTH-18 (25).

The 1989 Tax Review Commission noted that use of special fund financing is a “departure from Hawaii’s sound fiscal policies and should be avoided.” It also noted that special funds are appropriate where the revenues to the funds maintain some direct connection between a public service and the beneficiary of that service. The Commission found that special funds which merely set aside general funds cannot be justified as such actions restrict budget flexibility, create inefficiencies, and lessen accountability. It recommended that such programs can be given priority under the normal budget process without having to resort to this type of financing.

This bill creates a special fund to administer a newly created Program to provide immunizations to *all* individuals in the State.

Special funds are pots of money that exist for a specific purpose and largely bypass the legislative appropriation process. The existence of hundreds of these special funds has often confounded those who seek answers to simple questions like “How much money does the State have?”

Our Legislature is supposed to be the steward of all state moneys, but special funds make it very easy to lose track of where the money is and how it is being spent. Departments are supposed to tell the Legislature if they have special funds and how much is in them, but let’s just say they don’t always. Recently, in Report No. 20-01, the State Auditor took DBEDT to task for failing to report \$6.5 million in non-general fund moneys. DBEDT’s response? Just that they’ll “take corrective action.” Not even a “Whoops! We screwed up and promise to do better next time!” This followed closely on the heels of Report No. 19-16, where the Auditor found that \$1.04

million in non-general fund moneys administered by the Attorney General wasn't reported. That department responded that they "shall establish procedures to assure required reports are issued." Is it any wonder that it's getting harder and harder to follow the money and rein in government spending?

Perhaps as a result of the foregoing concerns, the Legislature has itself established criteria for when a special fund may be maintained (HRS section 37-52.3). Those criteria are that the special fund:

(1) Serves a need, as demonstrated by:

(A) The purpose of the program to be supported by the fund;

(B) The scope of the program, including financial information on fees to be charged, sources of projected revenue, and costs; and

(C) An explanation of why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;

(2) Reflects a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the program users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue, as opposed to serving primarily as a means to provide the program or users with an automatic means of support that is removed from the normal budget and appropriation process;

(3) Provides an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity that is used only when essential to the successful operation of the program or activity; and

(4) Demonstrates the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

In this bill, the apparent plan is to impose a new charge on "assessed entities," namely health insurers and health plans, to fund a program to make bulk purchases of vaccines. The Health Department, in its justification sheet accompanying the measure, complains that private providers take on considerable risk because of the need to pay for immunization supplies up front, as well as incurring expenses such as secure and temperature-controlled storage. It believes that a universal purchasing program will reduce administrative burdens to the providers and create economies of scale that can reach more patients than the current uncoordinated model. "The Department's ability to leverage highly competitive federal immunization purchasing contracts may result in lower overall costs to Hawaii's health system," the justification sheet continues, "as well as increased rates of immunizations that will lower incidences of immunization-preventable diseases."

"By centralizing public and private sector immunization procurement and leveraging bulk purchasing power through Federal or State consortium contracts, this initiative would lower

private-sector costs and improve access to needed immunizations for all keiki, families, communities, and healthcare providers statewide,” the Department of Health also stated.

Even if all this is true, the new special fund, program, and fee basically constitute a new tax on health insurers and plans to fund bulk purchasing of vaccines along with reimbursing the Department of Health for its costs for things like secure and temperature-controlled storage. Although it sounds like a money saving program, a good part of the program is there to make vaccines available free of charge to certain populations.

The normal and proper process would be for a new tax to be enacted, and for the proceeds to be legislatively appropriated out to the Department of Health for this program. There is no need to subvert the normal appropriation process to service this, as opposed to any other, health program or, for that matter, any other program administered by any other department. Establishing this special fund is inappropriate, and we question the need for a new tax to finance the program.

If the real problem is inability of the existing tax system to reach some of the entities targeted by this bill, perhaps because of well-entrenched exemptions such as those for mutual benefit societies (section 432:1-403, HRS) and fraternal benefit societies (section 432:2-503, HRS), then those exemptions need to be reexamined.

Digested: 3/25/2025

**Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance**

**HEARING: Friday March 28, 2:00P.M.**

**PLACE: Room 308 State Capital and via videoconference**



**Hawai'i – American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA)**

**SB1434, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1314) – Relating to Universal Immunization  
Funding Program**

Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the House Committee on Finance thank you for providing this opportunity for Hawai'i - American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA) to provide testimony **in strong support of SB1434, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1314).**

Hawai'i-ANA is the state's premier professional nursing organization that fosters high standards of professional nursing practice, promotes safe and ethical work environments, and advocates on health care issues that affect nurses and the public.

**We stand in strong support of this bill** that seeks to establish the Universal Immunization Purchase Program as a universal funding model for immunization purchases by the Department of Health, to increase statewide access to immunizations for all persons under age sixty-five; and establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund, into which fees collected from assessed entities and other sources of funding will be deposited, for purposes of bulk purchasing immunizations and administering the program.

Hawai‘i-ANA agrees with the Department of Health in previous testimony that “this initiative would lower private-sector costs and improve access to needed immunizations for all keiki, families, communities, and healthcare providers statewide. This initiative addresses increasing disparities between publicly and privately insured individual’s access to immunizations and reinforces Hawai‘is commitment to preventive health care, cost effective public-health infrastructure, and data-driven decision-making – key pillars of our nationally-recognized healthcare system. In addition, the proposed program could be scaled should the federal Vaccines for Children program be disrupted.” In particular, this is a wise, anticipatory move on the part of the Dept of Health to protect our strong immunization record in Hawai‘i for preventing communicable disease across our population. Hawai‘i-ANA is seriously concerned with the withdrawal of federal funds for immunization programs, given the news today on 3/26/2025 that such presidential decrees have indeed begun to interrupt funding of existing immunization programs.

Our national organization the American Nurses Association (ANA) takes [the position](#) that “ANA believes that it is imperative for everyone to receive immunizations for vaccine-preventable diseases as vaccines are critical to infectious disease prevention and control. Moreover, nurses have a professional and ethical obligation to model the same health care standards they prescribe to their patients.” Hawai‘i-ANA supports this evidence-based position statement and its intent to champion community vaccination as a safe and effective way to prevent the spread of disease. We must protect the health of our community by ensuring effective funding at the state level.

Hawai'i-ANA respectfully asks the committee to pass **SB1434, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1314)**.

We thank your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i, in ensuring that we retain our ability to offer proven vaccinations to our population. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:

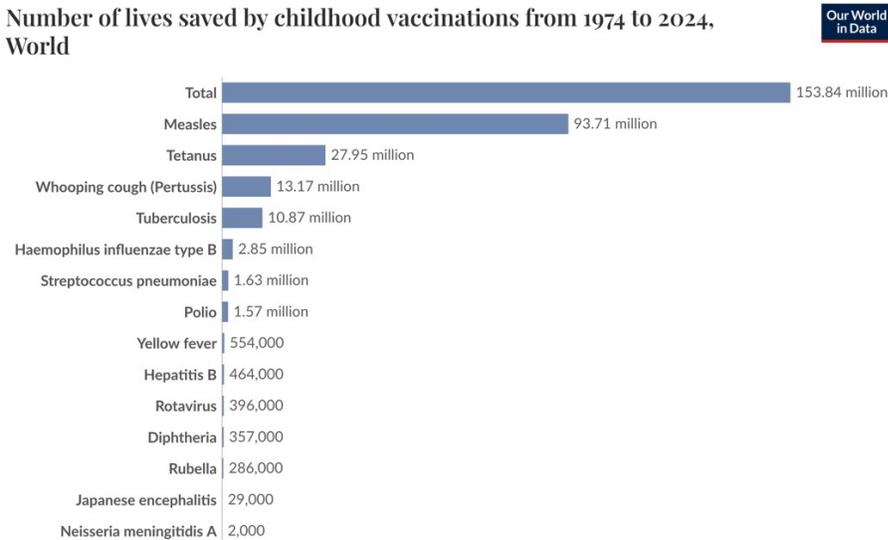
President: Dr. Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, [president@hawaii-ana.org](mailto:president@hawaii-ana.org)

Executive Director: Elizabeth M. Kahakua, BSN [executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org](mailto:executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org)  
phone (808) 779-3001 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai‘i Chapter, which represents more than 200 pediatricians across our islands, would like to express our strong support for SB1434 SD1 HD1, Relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program.

As depicted in the graph below, vaccines are one of the greatest public health advances of all time and have saved over 150 million lives around the world in just the past 50 years.



Data source: Shattock et al. (2024). Contribution of vaccination to improved survival and health: modelling 50 years of the Expanded Programme on Immunization  
OurWorldinData.org/vaccination | CC BY

Vaccines are also highly cost-effective. According to one study, the lifelong cost of measles or rubella disease is approximately 100x the cost of vaccination.<sup>1</sup> Our keiki rely on vaccines to protect them from devastating diseases such as measles, pertussis (whooping cough) and meningitis. Vaccine access is more important than ever today. In light of potentially devastating threats to Medicaid and public health funding, as well as the growing measles outbreak that has now affected over 400 patients in eighteen states, it is essential that we in Hawai‘i do everything in our power to maximize access to vaccines and to build cost savings into the healthcare system.

Despite the known benefits of vaccines, many community pediatricians in Hawai‘i struggle to stock vaccines due to high upfront costs and take significant losses if vaccines are not used by their expiration date. Additionally, community pediatricians caring for privately insured patients are not able to access the lower prices at which the Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccines are able to be bulk purchased. SB1434 would alleviate both these problems. By creating a state vaccine purchase program, Hawai‘i would be able to access lower pricing for all our keiki, not just those who receive vaccines through VFC. Additionally, pediatricians and family physicians

<sup>1</sup> Thompson KM, Odahowski CL. The Costs and Valuation of Health Impacts of Measles and Rubella Risk Management Policies. Risk Anal. 2016 Jul;36(7):1357-82. doi: 10.1111/risa.12459. Epub 2015 Aug 5. PMID: 26249331.

would be relieved of the burden of trying to estimate how many vaccines they will use in a given time period and the risk of wasting vaccines that are not used before their expiration date. This, in turn, would promote increased access to all recommended vaccines, reduce cost and disruptions to a families' schedules (for additional visits for vaccines if they are not in stock at the first visit), and help to protect our community from outbreaks of dangerous infectious diseases like measles and pertussis. It is imperative that we support SB1434 to help keep all of Hawai'i healthy. We thank you in advance for your support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Members of the Advocacy Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i Chapter



## Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Representative Kyle T Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Date: March 28, 2025  
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)  
Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

**Re: SB 1434 SD 1 HD 1 RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM-  
Universal Immunization Funding Program; Immunization Purchasing; Universal Immunization  
Purchase Special Fund; Appropriations.**

**Position: Support**

This measure would establish the Universal Immunization Funding Program for the purpose of administering immunizations to individuals in the State who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other programs and establish the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund into which fees will be deposited to finance the Universal Immunization Funding Program.

Vaccination is one of the most important public health interventions in modern medicine. It protects not only the individual but also the broader community from serious illnesses that may cause long-term health issues. Immunizations are a safe, effective way to protect Hawaii's people from disease, including some cancers, as well as hospitalization, disability, and death.

Additionally, protection through vaccination mitigates the social and financial burdens for Hawaii families and communities of otherwise preventable illness. By reducing the cost barriers of immunization, our healthcare teams can provide better and more equitable access to disease-preventing and life-saving vaccines for the communities they serve, particularly our keiki and kupuna. HMA supports this measure that bridges existing disparities in vaccine access and promotes a healthier future for Hawaii citizens.

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

### 2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President  
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

### 2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia, MD, Chair  
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

## REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

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[Vaccine Safety: Examine the Evidence. HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org). Accessed Mar 11 2025.

American Medical Association. Assuring Access to ACIP/AAFP/AAP-Recommended Vaccines , Rev 2022. Accessed Mar 11 2025.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Immunization Investments. <https://vaccines.cdc.gov/> Accessed Mar 11 2025.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Vaccines and Immunizations](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/). Accessed Mar 11 2025.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Measles Cases and Outbreaks](https://www.cdc.gov/measles/). Accessed Mar 11 2025.

### **2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers**

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President  
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### **2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team**

Jerald Garcia MD, Chair  
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 8:13:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Austin "Shiloh" Martin	The Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in opposition to this measure.



To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President  
Mike Nguyen, Director of Public Policy  
Sarielyn Curtis, External Affairs Specialist

Hearing: Friday, March 28, 2025, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 308

RE: **SB1434 SD1 HD1 Relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB1434 SD1 HD1**. This measure establishes the Universal Immunization Funding Program for the purpose of administering immunizations to individuals in the State who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other programs, and establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund into which fees will be deposited to finance the Universal Immunization Funding Program.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai‘i’s community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 37 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai‘i’s only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare is committed to improving access to care, including preventive care. This measure is an innovative approach with precedent in 14 other states<sup>1</sup> to improve access to immunizations for keiki and adults. AlohaCare has received feedback from our network providers regarding the burden of pre-purchasing costly vaccines and managing inventories. We support this important public health measure to increase immunization rates as well as removing financing and logistical challenges for our provider partners, particularly those serving safety-net populations, who are becoming increasingly burdened.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support** of **SB1434 SD1 HD1**.

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<sup>1</sup> [Rethinking Access To Immunizations After COVID-19: Assuring A Vaccine Safety Net For All Americans | Health Affairs](#)



TESTIMONY  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
SB1434 RELATED TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM  
Friday, March 28, 2025, at 2:00 PM State Capitol Conference Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Committee Members:

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

SB1434\_SD1\_HD1 is repugnant to our Constitution, lacks ethical practices, places a financial burden on taxpayers, and added costs to consumers through their health plans.

### **Government Overreach**

As a retired health care professional and a consumer of health care, we are entitled to Informed Consent and have the right to refuse any medical intervention including immunizations in any circumstances. Government shall NOT determine the need for immunizations. SB1434 gives too much power and authority to the State Department of Health Director, an unelected bureaucrat.

### **Big Pharma Profit Scheme**

Tax dollars should NOT be used to purchase immunizations. The only entities that will benefit from a Universal Purchase (UP) program are big pharmaceutical companies. Hawaii state taxpayers should NOT have the burden of funding a universal immunization program.

### **Burden on Health Insurers**

According to the Tax Foundation of Hawaii, “the apparent plan in SB1434 is to impose a new charge on “assessed entities,” namely health insurers and health plans, to fund a program to make bulk purchases of vaccines.” This added cost to insurers may be passed on to consumers.

### **Burden on Hawaii Taxpayers**

SB1434 creates a special fund to administer a newly created Program to manage the supply of immunizations to ensure immunizations can quickly be supplied to vulnerable patient groups during emergencies or shortages. In 2024, the Hawaii State Legislature and the Governor celebrated tax cuts for the people of Hawaii. This bill identifies the source to pay for this proposal to come from the “Special Funds”. We all know that the special funds pot of money are a black hole that lacks accountability AFTER the bill has passed into law.

### **U.S. Constitution**

SB1434 is a violation of our religious freedom. Our first amendment protection of religious liberty cannot be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, or procedure that violates their religious beliefs.

SB1434 assumes that adults and children will be participating in immunization programs. No one shall be mandated to participate. According to the fourteenth amendment, no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Please vote NO on SB1434\_SD1\_HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Respectfully submitted, Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 11:58:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa A. Aiona	Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill...for many reasons.. a few are

This is a totally unnessarry "special" fund.... with too little guidlines andit is way too vauge.

That the director would be "appointed " rather than elected is a HUGE red flag. We already have way too many people in office now that do NOT represent the people of Hawaii.. but rather their own agenda.. all of which have been "appointed" ..and NOT elected by the people of Hawaii. We are so DONE with Green and all of his gang that have continued to ignore the voices of the people of this beautiful state.



Hawai'i Christian Coalition  
150 Hamakua Drive #797  
Kailua, HI 96734  
<https://hichristian.org>

**To:** Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, & Members of the Finance Committee

**Re:** Testimony to strongly OPPOSE SB1434, Relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi & Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Margaret Mejia, and I represent *Hawai'i Christian Coalition*. *Hawaii Christian Coalition* has been around for many, many years, and we have over 35,000 members. We represent about 130,000 people (parents and their keiki) in all districts, including the neighbor Islands. I am submitting testimony today to ask you to **vote NO on SB1434**.

**First, it is NOT ethical to take Federal funds from Medicare and Federal & State funds from Medicaid to finance Governor Josh Green's Vaccination Drive, (in part) via SB1434.** Medicare funds are federal funds that are designated for the elderly 65 years and older. Medicare and Medicaid funds should NOT be raided and funneled into the Department of Health and/or the Department of Education for the purpose of vaccinating children and adults. **A Universal Immunization Program is NOT necessary since we already have *Vaccines for Children*, a federally funded program that provides free vaccines for eligible children in Hawai'i.**

**Second, just as the people spoke against HB1118, people should have a CHOICE as to whether they want to be vaccinated or not.** Parents should have a CHOICE as to whether they want their children to be vaccinated or not. Over the years, even decades, Democrats said, "My body, my choice," regarding abortion "rights." Now that people are saying, "My body, my choice," regarding vaccinations, suddenly, the Democrats are silent and no longer say, "My body, my choice." People should decide what they want to put into their bodies. **Vaccinations have ingredients like formaldehyde, Polysorbate 80 (that causes cancer), fetal tissue cells (like the ones in ALL the covid 19 vaccines), aluminum, mercury, animal blood, parts of animal organs, mRNA (that changes a person's DNA), and many other harmful ingredients. People should be able to choose whether or not they want these ingredients in their bodies.** Also, there are alternative ways people can boost their

immunity. Instead of forcing them to get vaccinated, why not educate people on healthy ways to boost their immune system?

**Third, Governor Green wants to turn Hawai'i schools into Health Clinics for vaccinations.** **IF** passed, SB1434 would fund Governor Green's Vaccination Drive by providing a "Provider" at Hawaii's schools that gives vaccinations to children. This is gross negligence by the Department of Education and the Department of Health. It is not ethical and there will be lawsuits galore! A child does not know the ingredients in these vaccines. A child does not know that it is more dangerous to receive vaccines in threes (such as MMR, or DPT), versus a single dose. A child does not know that people can have adverse reactions to a vaccine or even die from a vaccine. Where is the Informed Consent? Who will be liable in cases where vaccine injury or vaccine death occurs? I see lawsuits and LOTS of them, **IF** this bill were to pass.

**In addition, Taxpayer money designated for education via the public school system, would be used towards the public schools being used as a medical facility for vaccinations! Children go to school for education not for vaccination. If parents want their children to be vaccinated, they can take them to a medical doctor or a medical clinic.**

**Also, Taxpayers should not fund immunizations.** Just as the Hyde Amendment protects our federal taxpayer dollars from funding abortions, we should not have to use our state or federal (Medicare & Medicaid) taxpayer dollars to fund immunizations, since many people do not believe in immunizations and since people have a choice as to whether they want to vaccinate or not. Although the Hawai'i Department of Health gives an initial start-up cost of this program, SB1434 contains no spending cap and does not detail the ongoing cost of funding this program. This bill does not say how much money the "assessed entities" give towards this Funding Program.

**This bill gives the Department of Health way too much authority!** DOH would be able to decide what substance, including mRNA can be used in these vaccines. mRNA is a dangerous substance and according to Dr. Robert Malone, M.D., M.S, a biochemist/biologist and creator of mRNA technology, mRNA changes people's DNA. The people and not DOH should decide whether or not they want to be vaccinated.

**We find that SB1434 is a campaign to vaccinate, hosting the medical treatments on publicly funded school campuses across the Islands. These schools do NOT meet the standard of care required for children and adults, especially the children whom the public has entrusted in the Department of Education's care to educate, and not to medicate.** The Department of Education's trespass into the realm of medicine, medical treatment, medical device administration, faculties, and facility is unlawful, illegal, and dangerous. Schools should be prepared to be sued for lack of full informed transparency and destroying the quality of life to anyone who develops injuries, damages, and death as a result of vaccinations.

**“Providers” will be held personally accountable, responsible, liable for negligence, trespass, falsehood, complicit in coercive and propaganda tactics. Legislators will be held liable for breach of violation of your oaths of office, including not upholding the United States Constitution and the Hawai’i State Constitution.** The Department of Education and the Department of Health will be held liable for no Informed Consent and for breaching student physician care to “do no harm,” illegally and unlawfully interceding in the medical care of the student, exposing a tax-funded school campus to legal liability for conversion into a medical treatment facility making it vulnerable to plausible lawsuits filed by any damaged and injured recipients of immunizations.

Please vote NO to SB1434.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mejia, Vice President  
Hawai’i Christian Coalition

March 25, 2025

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita Chair,  
And Members of the Committee on Finance

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1434 SD1 HD1**

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As a public health professional and a concerned citizen, I strongly support efforts to ensure access to vaccination for all community members.

Vaccinations save lives, not only for the children and adults who receive them, but also for other vulnerable individuals in our communities. Vaccines protect those who, due to allergies or other medical conditions, cannot receive vaccinations. No one should be denied vaccination due to cost or access issues.

My great grandmother became deaf at the age of five from an illness that is preventable today. My grandmother had diphtheria as a child. She had lifelong lung damage and disability. I was a child in a time when measles, mumps, polio, and rubella vaccines did not yet exist. I did not enjoy my experiences with measles and mumps, and I had friends whose experiences with polio changed their lives forever.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judith F. Clark, MPH4  
48-218 Kamehameha Hwy.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
808-499-9966

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 3:43:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I fully support this bill. It's really hard to put into words why we should care about our neighbors, strangers, family members, and loved ones should have access to vaccinations. It's even harder to explain why Vaccinations are essential for our society and community to thrive. I don't know how to explain eloquently why we should care about other people or that Vaccines are overall a safe and viable source of protection and don't cause Autism. And even if they did so what? Autistic people are awesome. I don't think we remember or comprehend what living pre-vaccines were like, how many babies died before they were born, and how widespread and long-lasting these diseases were. How the reason that the average lifespan in the US before vaccines was 40 years is that the average was skewed by the sheer velocity of dead children dying from diseases that are now, or at least used to be, a memory. I don't think that we have wrapped our heads around the fact that one of the leading causes of child deaths in the world is not having access to a vaccine. Are we so cost-minded that we think it's alright to let a child die because, one, it's not their child and because it's a bit outside of our price range? Did we forget how diseases like measles and smallpox destroyed the native Hawaiian population because they did not have any natural immunization? Are we so self-centered to believe that not vaccinating yourself or your child, that decision only affects you? The vaccines not only prevent you from getting the disease 99 percent of the time but also stop carriers of the disease, who sometimes don't show symptoms, from passing it off to someone else. It's an utterly evil way of thinking, and paying it any credit is a disservice to those suffering today who are dying because they don't have access to the lifesaving medication we have taken for granted. Now, let's look at the other side of this problem: Besides the anti-vaxxers. Why aren't more people not getting vaccinated? Its not because they don't believe vaccines don't cause autism, that they think their immune system is strong enough, or they don't believe they are in an environment where they could be exposed to a disease like measles? It's because they can't afford it or don't trust their healthcare provider won't charge them for it when they're not looking. They have used every loophole in the book, from extending their copyright on their drugs to hiking up the med prices to pay their CEO bonuses. Just because an inhaler is being sold for 300 dollars doesn't mean that it takes \$300 to make. No, we take their word on face value that their sticker price is not inflated. Not to mention, everything is expensive here in Hawaii, and pharmaceutical companies often use this as an excuse to charge unnecessarily high prices for lifesaving medicines. And because many live paycheck to paycheck, they cannot afford insurance, or at least insurance that covers their vaccinations. So I am for this bill. Because I believe it's within our power to do so. That we, as a state, a community, and a country, have a duty to our neighbors and fellow citizens to make sure they have the opportunity to live life to its fullest.

# HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to S.B. No. 1434 – Universal Immunization Funding Program  
Submitted to the House Committee on Finance  
March 25, 2025

Aloha Members of the Committee,

As a proud American and resident of Hawaii, I urge you to vote NO on S.B. No. 1434, which establishes a Universal Immunization Funding Program. While I respect the intent to improve public health, this bill represents an overreach of government authority, a threat to individual liberty, and an unnecessary burden on Hawaii's families and businesses. From a perspective rooted in limited government and personal responsibility—values that resonate across party lines—I present the following objections to convince you, including my Democratic colleagues, that this bill is not in the best interest of our state or its people.

## **1. Government Overreach Undermines Personal Freedom**

This bill forces every insurer, health plan, and even small businesses with two or more employees to fund a state-controlled immunization program through mandatory assessments. This is a textbook example of government overstepping into personal healthcare decisions. Section 325 of the bill defines "immunization" broadly, allowing the Department of Health unchecked power to mandate coverage for virtually any treatment it deems necessary. For Republicans like myself, this echoes the intrusive mandates we've fought against nationally.

Even Democrats, who often champion individual choice in healthcare, should see the danger here. Forcing citizens and businesses to pay for a one-size-fits-all program strips away the right to opt out or choose alternative paths to wellness. Former President Donald Trump has repeatedly emphasized, "The government has no business telling you what to do with your body" (Speech at CPAC, February 2021). Defying this principle risks aligning Hawaii against the incoming Trump administration's agenda, which prioritizes deregulation and personal freedom—potentially costing us federal support at a time when our state's economy is still recovering.

## **2. Economic Burden on Hawaii's Families and Small Businesses**

The financial implications of S.B. 1434 are staggering. Section 325- Assessments outlines a complex formula where "assessed entities" (insurers, mutual benefit societies, and employers) must pay per-child and per-adult fees monthly, with interest penalties up to 1% per month for noncompliance. This will inevitably raise insurance premiums and operational costs, hitting working families and small businesses hardest. In a state where the cost of living is already astronomical, this is a regressive tax disguised as a public health measure.

Look at Vermont, which implemented a similar universal vaccine purchase program. A [2019 study by the Vermont Department of Health](#) found that administrative costs ballooned, and private insurers passed on an average premium increase of 3.2% to consumers—disproportionately affecting low-income households. Democrats, who often advocate for economic equity, should reject this bill to protect Hawaii's most vulnerable from yet another financial squeeze.

## **3. Conflict with the Trump Administration's Agenda Risks Federal Retribution**

The Trump administration has consistently opposed expansive government healthcare programs. Trump's 2020 campaign promise to "dismantle bureaucratic overreach in healthcare" (RNC Speech, August 2020)

signals a clear intent to roll back state-level programs that conflict with federal priorities. S.B. 1434's reliance on federal contracts (e.g., CDC pricing in Section 325- Available choices) could become a liability if the administration cuts funding or imposes penalties on states defying its deregulation goals.

For example, when California expanded its Medicaid program against federal guidance in 2018, the Trump administration threatened to withhold \$1 billion in federal healthcare funds (Politico, January 2018). Hawaii, heavily reliant on tourism and federal grants, cannot afford to gamble with such retaliation. Defiance here could mean slashed resources for schools, infrastructure, or disaster relief—outcomes no Democrat or Republican wants for our islands.

#### **4. Historical Failures of Similar Programs Prove Inefficiency**

Other states' experiments with universal immunization programs offer cautionary tales. Alaska's Universal Vaccine Program, launched in 1994, aimed to streamline immunization access but faced chronic shortages and provider dissatisfaction. A [2021 audit by the Alaska Division of Legislative Audit](#) revealed that 18% of providers dropped out due to bureaucratic delays, leaving rural communities underserved—precisely the opposite of the intended outcome. Hawaii's geographically isolated population could suffer even worse disruptions if this bill replicates such inefficiencies.

Similarly, Washington State's universal purchase system led to a [\\$12 million budget overrun in 2017](#), forcing taxpayers to foot the bill. Democrats who value fiscal responsibility and equitable outcomes should see that S.B. 1434 risks wasting public funds while failing to deliver promised benefits.

#### **5. Erosion of Parental Rights and Local Control**

Section 325- Assessments ties funding to "child covered lives," implying that every child under 18 will be swept into this program, regardless of parental consent or preference. This undermines the sacred right of parents to decide what's best for their kids—a principle Republicans hold dear and one Democrats often defend in debates over education and healthcare. Trump's Education Secretary nominee, Betsy DeVos, famously stated, "Parents, not government, should have the ultimate say in their children's lives" (Senate Confirmation Hearing, January 2017).

By centralizing control in the Department of Health, this bill also strips local communities of input. Hawaii's diverse cultural fabric—Native Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Islander traditions—deserves tailored solutions, not a top-down dictate from Honolulu. Democrats who champion local empowerment should join us in rejecting this erosion of community autonomy.

#### **Conclusion: Vote No for Freedom, Fairness, and Fiscal Sense**

S.B. No. 1434 is a deeply flawed proposal that threatens Hawaii's economic stability, personal liberties, and alignment with national priorities. It burdens our families with higher costs, risks federal backlash, and repeats the mistakes of other states. I implore you—Republicans and Democrats alike—to vote NO and protect the people of Hawaii from this unnecessary and dangerous overreach. Let's work together on solutions that respect individual choice, support our small businesses, and keep our state in step with a federal agenda that promises prosperity through freedom, not mandates.

Sincerely,

*Andrew Crossland*

Hawaii Patriot Republicans

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

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 7:50:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1434. I do not want my tax dollars funding a program that causes adverse affects to people and cannot be used by everyone. The drug companies can afford to fund these programs if you must have it.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 7:54:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacob Char	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose this bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:06:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Oppose this Bill SB1434 SD1 HD1

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:09:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jon-Louis Siracusa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Raised insurances cost, hard no on burdening Hawaii families

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:23:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1434.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:42:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Universal immunization funded by taxpayers has flaws: it ignores individual health differences, invites Big Pharma price gouging, centralizes control in government hands, and erodes personal responsibility. Coercion and costs outweigh the benefits of outbreak prevention and equity. Freedom trumps forced uniformity.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 9:43:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong opposition to SB1434, which seeks to establish a state-run Universal Immunization Funding Program. While I recognize the importance of public health, this bill represents an unnecessary expansion of government power, undermines individual medical freedom, distorts market competition, and imposes financial burdens on businesses and consumers.

This bill **grants the Hawai‘i Department of Health unchecked authority** to control vaccine procurement and distribution, setting a dangerous precedent for government intrusion into personal medical decisions. While proponents claim the bill merely facilitates vaccine availability, it **effectively mandates financial participation from private insurers and self-insured businesses, coercing them into funding a government-controlled program.** Medical decisions, including immunizations, should remain personal choices made between individuals and their healthcare providers—not dictated by bureaucratic mandates or financial penalties.

**The proposed assessment on insurers and self-insured businesses will inevitably increase healthcare costs, leading to higher insurance premiums for Hawai‘i’s working families and small businesses.** Proponents argue that centralized purchasing will reduce costs, but history shows that government-administered healthcare programs are often plagued by inefficiencies, cost overruns, and bureaucratic waste. A market-driven approach—allowing providers, insurers, and consumers to make independent choices—would foster competition, drive innovation, and ultimately keep costs lower.

**Centralized vaccine procurement creates a single point of failure,** making Hawai‘i’s healthcare system more vulnerable to shortages, logistical bottlenecks, and bureaucratic mismanagement. Private-sector supply chains are more agile and responsive in adapting to shortages or emergencies than a rigid, state-run system. By monopolizing vaccine distribution, this bill removes incentives for efficiency and flexibility in the private market.

This legislation opens the door for future government overreach. Today, it is about state-funded immunization procurement; tomorrow, it could lead to coercive mandates on individuals or businesses. The bill gives broad discretion to the Department of Health to expand the list of required vaccines without legislative oversight, eroding public trust and setting a dangerous precedent for unchecked government authority in medical decision-making.

Rather than expanding government control, the Legislature should consider market-based solutions to improve vaccine accessibility, such as:

- Encouraging private-sector cooperative purchasing programs to leverage competitive pricing.
- Providing tax incentives for healthcare providers that offer immunizations at reduced costs.
- Expanding education and outreach efforts to increase voluntary vaccination rates through informed choice rather than coercion.

Public health initiatives should not come at the cost of personal freedom, economic stability, and market competition. This bill is not a solution—it is an unnecessary government intervention that creates more problems than it solves. I urge the committee to reject SB1434 and instead support policies that uphold medical choice, promote economic freedom, and encourage market-driven solutions to public health challenges.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas Zehr

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 10:22:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chanara Casey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1434. Chanara Richmond. HD42

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 10:31:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 10:37:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 10:46:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not my tax dollaras. Insurance is going to go up because everyone has to be vaccinated. A lot of distrust will be around the public. A huge population deposes the DOH and Gov. Green. It is only growing. WE THE PEOPLE SAY NO.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 11:25:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Miles Kushima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose sb1434. D.o.h Is a failed department. It failed through the covid phase. From masks to vaccinations. Social distance was a joke.

Mahalo,

Miles k.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 11:32:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE this bill.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 2:16:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this for my community.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 2:42:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1434. Hawaii DIRS NOT NEED yet another agency to waste my tax dollars on. If somebody wants ro get immunization they should be paying for it themselves the same way us hard workers who get up everyday to go to work do.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 3:22:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sylvie Madison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose S.B. 1434 because it imposes an unnecessary layer of government control over healthcare, forcing insurers and taxpayers to fund a sprawling immunization program that could disrupt private markets and saddle Hawaii residents with hidden costs under the guise of access.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 5:24:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruben Ongos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!!

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:08:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1434.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:09:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly opposed.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:28:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Wing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I do not support expanding the department of health and funding universal immunizations

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 8:56:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Galoia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This funds, universal immunizations are you guys serious? It will raise the cost of insurance grow department of health burdening hawaii's families and businesses I do not know how you guys think. This will help anyone if you guys are wondering why people are leaving Hawaii because stupid bills like this. It's already expensive.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 9:33:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dyan Mullen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1434. This bill will only increase already too high expenses for healthcare in Hawaii. The people of Hawaii should choose if they want to immunize, it is not the governments choice. This bill furthers the Hawaiian people's distrust of the government.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:05:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Senate Bill No. 1434 because it imposes an undue financial burden on insurers, introduces excessive administrative complexity, rests on an unstable funding model, features an impractical effective date, and represents an unnecessary expansion of government oversight when administrative downsizing should be the priority. As an advocate for efficient, equitable, and streamlined public policy, I view this legislation as fundamentally misguided and counterproductive.

I find the financial implications of this bill particularly concerning. By levying assessments on insurers based on "covered lives," the program risks driving up insurance premiums, a cost that would inevitably be passed on to policyholders. The addition of penalties—such as 1% monthly interest and fines up to \$1,000 per violation—further exacerbates this burden. From my perspective, this approach unfairly shifts expenses onto consumers, undermining affordability in a state where healthcare costs are already a significant challenge.

The administrative demands of this legislation also strike me as excessive. Requiring insurers to self-report covered lives, comply with audits, and face potential fees for external auditors, while mandating providers to submit detailed immunization data to a state registry, creates a labyrinth of compliance obligations. In my view, this not only strains the capacity of smaller entities but also contradicts the need to reduce bureaucratic overhead. I believe we should be streamlining government functions, not enlarging them with such cumbersome requirements.

I am equally skeptical of the bill's funding sustainability. Relying on a patchwork of insurer assessments, discretionary appropriations, and grants—without a specified initial amount—leaves the program vulnerable to collapse if resources dwindle. As someone who values fiscal prudence, I see this as a precarious foundation that fails to guarantee long-term viability, potentially jeopardizing immunization access rather than securing it.

The effective date of July 1, 3000, further undermines my confidence in this proposal. While likely a drafting error, its inclusion as written renders the bill ineffective for the foreseeable future, casting doubt on its seriousness and readiness. Even if corrected, this oversight reflects a lack of precision that, in my assessment, weakens the legislation's credibility and delays any purported benefits.

Most critically, I object to the bill's overreach and its expansion of state authority. Assessing insurers uniformly regardless of actual immunization utilization strikes me as inequitable, while

prohibiting providers from using private vaccine stocks limits their operational flexibility. I contend that public policy should aim to reduce administrative sprawl, not amplify it with such prescriptive measures. Downsizing government involvement, rather than upsizing it, would better serve Hawaii's needs without compromising efficiency or choice.

In conclusion, I regard S.B. 1434 as an ill-conceived measure—financially burdensome, administratively unwieldy, fiscally uncertain, poorly executed, and contrary to the goal of lean governance. I recommend its rejection in favor of a more restrained approach that prioritizes simplification over expansion. This bill, as it stands, fails to deliver a balanced or sustainable solution and should be reconsidered entirely.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:17:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB1434.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 11:22:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill SB1434.

I am not in favor of any universal healthcare laws as all persons need to have decisions made between them and their personal physicians. Also this type of blanket issued system will increase my health insurance costs.

I am opposed.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 11:37:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Less Big Pharma & Less Big Government - This bill enables both so NO

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 1:00:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose this bill. This will most certainly raise insurance costs and this burden should NOT fall on taxpayers.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 1:02:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose SB1434,

Paul Giles

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 1:19:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcia M. Nagao, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the establishment of the Universal Immunization Purchase Program.

Thank you,

Marcia M. Nagao, MD, MPH

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 1:58:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1434 SD1 HD1.

The cost to living in Hawaii is already way too high. HELP US! dont hurt us...

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 2:35:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eileen M Gawrys	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a recently retired Nurse Practitioner and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for SB1434, which creates a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. Especially in light of the ongoing measles outbreaks in many other states, we know that vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy. It is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children have access to all recommended vaccines. The State Vaccine Purchase Program removes many administrative barriers and will enhance access to vaccinations for the majority of Hawai'i's residents. Mahalo.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 4:14:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terriann Mohideen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee- I am a mother and a resident of Hawai'i. Please support SB 1434. Vaccine availability is so important to keep all of us in Hawai'i safe and healthy. Mahalo for passing this bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 5:06:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tashya Whitehead, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

As a community pediatrician, I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community pediatricians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 5:34:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1434 and against funding universal immunizations.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 6:42:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katryana Hanley-Knutson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important to have access to vaccines. This bill will help w that.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 6:45:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose SB-1434.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 6:46:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

As an APRN midwife, I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine an FQHC or private community clinic will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for primary care provider offices. This bill would support community clinics with pediatricians by enabling them to pay only for the vaccines they use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

Additionally, as a concerned citizen, I would like to express my belief that vaccine availability is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community, and that children have access to all recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

Le‘a Minton, MSN, APRN, CNM, IBCLC

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 6:46:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Timothy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccine access is important for our community.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:10:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristyn Nishimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

As a primary care pediatrician, I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. Vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support pediatricians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times. This would allow us to keep our most vulnerable individuals -- young keiki and our kūpuna -- safe, and allow them to participate fully in the community.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:39:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB1434

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 9:06:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elna Nagasako	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

I urge you to support SB1434. Having vaccines available is essential for keeping Hawai'i's communities safe. This bill will help ensure vaccines are available as well as protect physicians in private practice from financial risk when purchasing vaccines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elna Nagasako, MD

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 9:09:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this vital health measure. Our keiki are depending on you!!

Thank you.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 9:32:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:33:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1434 SD1 HD1

RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Teri Kia Savaiinaea, and I am submitting this testimony in strong **opposition** to SB1434 SD1 HD1, relating to the Universal Immunization Funding Program. While I fully support ensuring that our keiki, kupuna, and vulnerable community members have access to safe and effective healthcare, I believe this measure raises significant concerns about parental rights, medical freedom, and informed consent.

This bill proposes a state-managed immunization funding program that risks overstepping the rights of parents to make informed medical decisions for their children. As a strong advocate for parental rights in education and healthcare, I firmly believe that parents are best equipped to determine what is appropriate for their child's medical care. While vaccinations are an important tool in disease prevention, they should never be mandated in a way that undermines informed consent or coerces families into compliance.

Our state must ensure that parents are provided with clear, transparent information about immunizations and their potential risks and benefits. SB1434 SD1 HD1 fails to address these critical concerns and may inadvertently pressure families who have valid medical, religious, or personal reasons to delay or forgo certain immunizations.

Furthermore, I am concerned about the financial burden this program may place on taxpayers. While public health is a priority, we must be mindful of the financial implications and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent in a way that supports individual choice and community well-being without infringing on personal freedoms.

I urge this committee to **reject** SB1434 SD1 HD1 and instead focus on promoting public health initiatives that emphasize education, outreach, and voluntary participation. By empowering parents with information and choice, we can foster trust in healthcare while respecting the diverse values and beliefs of Hawai'i's families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

Wai'anae resident, District 45

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:51:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melvin201181@live.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No Totally out of line and unconstitutional People have rights. To do this is subject to question? Why? when we have freedoms that our founding fathers created for all legal US citizens. Medical freedoms. I ask you elected officials the (Dems) are you implying that we obey You. Absolutely Not. We are the People we are the Gov. Not you Public servant. Serve or Step down. Immediately. This is very Personal.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:23:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
MARIO GARCIA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop this NONsense - OUR BODY OUR CHOICE

Key Concerns:

• Government Overreach & Loss of Personal Choice:

The bill centralizes vaccine procurement under state control. I argue that by removing the option for individual or provider-based decision-making, the state could be setting a dangerous precedent for forced immunizations, thereby eroding personal and medical autonomy.

• Fiscal Burden on Consumers:

SB1434 proposes funding the program by imposing assessments on non-federally funded health insurers. In practice, this cost is likely to be passed on to employers and, ultimately, to everyday consumers through higher premiums. I believe that using tax revenues through the normal appropriation process would be far more transparent and less regressive than a targeted new tax on health plans.

• Lack of Accountability & Liability Protections:

The bill provides broad immunity from liability for the Department of Health and its contractors. Should issues arise—such as adverse reactions or mismanagement—there would be no legal recourse for affected individuals.

• Transparency and Oversight Issues:

Creating a special funding mechanism outside the standard legislative appropriations process raises concerns about fiscal transparency and proper oversight. Without clear accountability measures, the risk of inefficient use of taxpayer dollars increases, leaving the public with less control over how our money is spent.

Conclusion:

For these reasons, I believe that SB1434 represents an unnecessary expansion of state power, an undue fiscal burden on consumers, and a threat to individual liberty. I urge lawmakers to reject

the bill to preserve personal freedom, ensure fiscal responsibility, and maintain accountability in public health policy.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 7:56:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Let our healthcare decisions be made with our personal physician and do not waste money on trying to dictate what should be done to our children. Parents can find better solutions than government for their children.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 8:40:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

I am in strong support of this bill to keep keiki and other vulnerable people in our communities safe from preventable disease and needless deaths.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise

3/27/2025

Dr. Casandra Simonson MD FAAP

Testimony for SB1434

In Support

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson. I'm a pediatrician in Maui, where I have worked with the underserved and Native Hawaiian keiki for over 10 years. I'm speaking today on my own behalf and not representing anyone else, in strong support of SB1434 to establish a state immunization funding program. I support it because I do not want to see any keiki sickened or worse die from a preventable infection.

- With the uncertainty at the federal level and the growing measles outbreak across the country, it is imperative that Hawaii must shore up our public health defense and secure our own supply of immunizations. We may not be able to rely on the federal government to supply or pay for them much longer. We have already seen whooping cough outbreaks in these last few months and we are facing a high risk of more outbreaks due to lower and lower rates of immunization. In many areas of Maui, only around 35% of keiki under 2 years are fully immunized. It lives for 2 hours in the air and infects 95% of time if unimmunized.
- Each infected person spreads the infection to 18 others on average.
- 1/20 Develop Pneumonia
- 1/5 Need hospitalization for encephalitis, dehydration, sepsis, pneumonia
- Measles' isolation period is 21 days- meaning no work and no school for anyone exposed, which would cripple working families and students. The economy would suffer from workers needing to isolate for so long.
- Immunization refusal is increasing: Currently only 36% of my 2 year old patients are fully immunized. 64% of keiki are unvaccinated/partially vaccinated/behind schedule. Herd immunity to prevent measles requires immunization rates >94
- On the neighbor islands according to the DOH data the school religious exemption rate is also high. There are 4200 students with religious exemptions on the neighbor islands. You can expect 840 hospitalizations and between 4 deaths with the best medical care and 631 deaths with poor medical care.
- The measles vaccine is extremely effective needing only 2 lifetime doses usually at age 1 and 4 years.
- While Oahu has very good rates of immunization, the neighbor islands have much higher rates of religious exemptions.
- We must have a good supply of vaccines at the ready, once we have cases of measles the demand for vaccines will jump immediately

Our state was nearly crippled by covid and would most certainly be crippled by a measles outbreak. Imagine the hit to tourism. Maui has no ICU beds for children and like all the neighbor islands, we rely on transport to Oahu for our critically ill keiki. We will not be able to mitigate an outbreak of measles easily. Our only hope is to increase our immunization rates. We must have a reliable immunization supply if we are going to prevent children from dying. I hope none you have ever watched a child die from meningitis. I, unfortunately, have and that is why I am submitting testimony today. Please consider how vulnerable our keiki are and how much power you have to protect them. That power is before you now and I hope you want your voting record to reflect that you acted to protect children by supporting SB1434.

Thank you to the chair, vice chair, and committee for your time and consideration.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 9:49:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to Oppose SB1434. I don't see why this should be funded with insurance payers dollars without a set and clear plan of what will be implemented. This just further gives the Dept of Health more reach into what they feel is right, not what the people necessary want or need. Please reconsider, when this allocation of funds could be a burden to the poeple of Hawaii just trying to make it by and for what real impact on health!?

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 10:27:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vince Yamashiroya, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

As a community pediatrician, I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. However, it can be extremely difficult to estimate how many of each vaccine our office will need in a given time period, and the cost and complexity of ordering vaccines that may expire before they are administered is a significant burden for us. This bill would support community pediatricians by enabling us to pay only for the vaccines we use. It would save money by allowing the state to bulk purchase vaccines and would enhance access to vaccines for all keiki by removing administrative and cost-related barriers to stocking all vaccines at all times.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:03:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Dieperink	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1434 SD1 HD1

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:27:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois J Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Committee Chairperson and Member, I strongly oppose the funding of immunization bill Hb1434. My concern is where is the money coming from is it taxpayer dollars. I'm also concerned that we're not teaching our community about how processed foods are injuring our children and adults with chemicals and also no Studies have been done on immunization aka vaccine safety. The agenda to advance immunization programs in Hawaii is as I see very aggressive. And we should caution ourselves on how we are spending our hard-earned Monies therefore I am opposed to this bill until we can address the undernourished malnourished communities where even a vaccine will not help them since their bodies are just compromised by poor eating habits and lack of exercise. Sincerely, Lois Young

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:47:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose of SB1434. If appropriates will come from private organizations, does that make our state beholden to the private organization like Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation? Are the state taxpayers funding this without our approval? Or the general fund of \$200 million going to be used for this program that isn't accepted by the constituency? Medicaid and Medicare? Why would you be using those two organizations to fund the UIP? Who gets paid kick backs from this UIP?

Who are the assessed entities? Universal immunization purchase special fund; established.

§325- Universal immunization purchase special fund;

10 established. (a) There is established in the state treasury

11 the universal immunization purchase special fund into which

12 shall be deposited:

13 (1) Fees, fines, and cost reimbursements collected from

14 assessed entities pursuant to this part;

15 (2) Appropriations made by the legislature;

16 (3) Grants, contracts, donations, and private

17 contributions;

18 (4) Moneys from the federal Centers for Medicare and

19 Medicaid Services and other federal agencies;

20 (5) All interest earned or accrued from the investment of

21 moneys in the special fund; and Any other moneys made available to the special fund

2 from other sources.

3 (b) The fund shall be administered and expended by the

4 department.

5 (c) Expenditures from the fund shall be used for the

6 purchase of immunizations and the administration of the program.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 12:41:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Austin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong oppositon. This bill hands over a lot of power to the unelected head of the Deaprtment of Health. Should he really beable to have so much power through rule making? Why are we focusing on just vaccines or immunizing agents, what has the department really done to ensure the people of Hawaii are improving their health? Where is the funding going to come from, could it be from organizations and companies that would have a financial incentive to see this move forward? Have arrangements already been made for kickbacks? This also looks like a logistical nightmare. We don't need a funding program...this smells like a setup for Covid 2.0 with our Governor/Doctor and head of DOH taking the lead. Green's biggest donors are pharma... no conflicts of interst here at all!

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 12:46:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jessica dias	Free Citizens of Maunalua	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't spend any money on anything else until you have made whole the residents of Maui who lost their homes and properties and businesses. I OPPOSE this bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 12:58:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexander Cezar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No more spending on vaccines that people may not want. The state should not be encouraging vaccines one way or another. Just fund those that vaccines for people who want them and stop trying to encourage others who don't to get them.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:01:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB1434 SD1 which would establish a “Universal Purchase” program to fund the distribution of vaccines.

Until there is genuine Informed Consent, and immunity from liability clauses for the distribution of these medical procedures such as SB1434 SD1's

"§325— Immunity. Apart from liabilities of assessed entities pursuant to this part, there shall be no liability on the part of and no cause of action against the department, its independent contractors, or its employees for any action or omission in the course of operating the universal immunization purchase program"

are removed, the flourishing groundswell of citizen voices and the demand for accountability of such programs will continue to expand.

Regardless of an individuals depth of knowledge regarding vaccine efficacy and safety, the Universal Immunization Funding Program model's use of public funds, lack of accountability and overall framework leaves much to be desired.

Mahalo in advance for opposing this highly flawed bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:17:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharon Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Finance, Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair, Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair,

I oppose this bill, SB1434: Relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program and urge you to vote in opposition.

Mahalo,

Sharon Martin

Windward resident

March 27, 2025

To: Hawaii's House Finance Committee

From: Cheryl Toyofuku

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1434 SB1 HD1 relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program  
Scheduled Finance Committee Hearing on Friday, March 28, 2025 at 2:00pm. Rm 308

I am in **strong opposition to SB1434** relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program for the following reasons:

1. Allowing the Department of Health to manage the purchase and distribution of immunizations without a projected budget and clear funding proposal is terrible fiscal policy.
  - a) DOH's written testimony in support of the companion bill HB1115 dated February 7, 2025 for the House Health Committee hearing states that the "Estimated annual administrative costs of a Universal Immunization Funding Program is anticipated to be \$2.8 - \$3.6 million"... with a start up cost "estimated to be approximately \$934,000".
  - b) The latest DOH testimonial of SB1434 for the recent House Health Committee dated March 14, 2025, omits the annual administrative costs amount of millions of dollars, stating only the fiscal implication of a one-time start up costs of approximately \$934,000. This omission is a clear indication of fiscal irresponsibility.
  - c) It is very apparent that this Funding Program will require a multitude of administrative tasks to manage the purchase, storage, distribution of vaccines to individuals in Hawaii with contracts to other entities to carry out the purposes of this funding program. Administrative tasks will also include the establishment, monitoring and responsibilities of this special fund with accurate records of reports and audits of "fees, fines, cost reimbursements, legislative appropriations, grants, contracts, donations and private contributions, moneys from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and other federal agencies, accrued interest accrued from the investment of moneys in this special fund. (Section 325 on pages 6-12).
2. The authority given to the DOH director is an overreach of power that may include experimental, unsafe and ineffective vaccines without any public or legislative oversight. "Immunization includes any other substance designated as such by order of the director" (page 5, lines 12-13). "The director may determine an interim assessment for new immunizations or public health emergencies and shall calculate a supplemental interim assessment..." (page 9, lines 13-15)
3. Funds should be allocated instead towards healthier programs and lifestyles **that build natural immunity** which truly benefit the people of Hawaii, such as healthier school lunches, exercise and sunshine, decreasing technological screen time and better health education from DOH. Funding and focusing of any immunization program should be avoided as we are aware of significant, scientifically documented research linking toxic vaccinations to neurological disorders, crippling diseases, and increasing chronic illnesses. The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System and Vaccine Death Reports verifies this claim.

For these reasons, I request that you oppose SB1434 and do not allow it out of your Finance Committee.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:37:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JEFFREY LIM, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no clearer evidence of the value of universal immunization as the current Texas outbreak of measles, already with the death of one child, as proof of what can result from sloppy enforcement and too many loopholes. In our pediatric office, we now recommend measles travel vaccination for underdeveloped nations and Texas. The fact that we are, at this very moment, not dealing with a national measles epidemic and widespread death and permanent brain damage is the fact that most people in the US are still immunized against the disease, the legacy from a more reasonable, science-driven era in our history.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:40:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

As a pediatric hospitalist who cares for children sick enough to be admitted to the hospital (and who has seen more than her share of severe outcomes from vaccine-preventable diseases), I strongly support SB1434, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. The State Vaccine Purchasing Program would increase access to vaccines for all of Hawai'i's keiki, decrease costs associated with buying and storing vaccines, and decrease administrative burdens for our primary care colleagues. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for this bill.

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:48:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maly Gella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Registered Nurse of 28 years I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL for the following reasons:

1. It creates an unnecessary "special fund" that will be ripe for waste, fraud, and abuse due to the VERY vague allotment of funding sources. Why fix a system that is not broken?
2. Grants our UNELECTED Director of DOH way too much power! Authorizes him to purchase ANYTHING he feels "produces or increases immunity to particular diseases".... even if FDA or ACIP have not approved or recommended. ( please see under definitions: Immunization")
3. This will create a new & massive administrative burden upon our DOH.  
Hawaii needs to stop being Completely Tunnel Visioned on infectious illness and initiate more programs aimed at improving overall health & resilience! How about decreasing diabetes, obesity especially amongst our keiki, drug addiction & homelessness, or creating healthy school lunches?

Please vote to OPPOSE THIS BILL!

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:55:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:57:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Haine	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

HFIC strongly OPPOSES SB1434 SD1 HD1

1. Creates an unnecessary "special fund" that will be ripe for waste, fraud and abuse. The funding sources need to be much more defined, and the legislature needs to retain more oversight.
2. Why are we fixing a system that isn't broken? People have no problems getting the vaccines they desire. We have VFC and Medicaid to help those in need.
3. This Act grants our unelected director of the DOH way too much power. Under the definition of "Immunization" it authorizes him to purchase ANYTHING he feels capable of "producing or increasing immunity to particular diseases. 'Immunization' includes any other substance designated as such by order of the director." The way this is currently written it appears he can do so even if FDA or ACIP have not approved or recommended.
4. This will create a new and massive administrative burden upon the DOH. Taxpayers would much rather see time and funds aimed at addressing issues that affect overall health...not myopically focusing on infectious illness. What is DOH doing about the epidemic of diabetes and obesity in Hawaii? How about improving our school lunches? There are much better places for "special funds".

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 2:07:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly appose SB1434!

This bill is very concerning bc of the lack of clarity of who will be the responsible party or parties to fund this? If the insurance companies are the one that is passed on to pay for these immunizations, then ultimately the carrier will end up paying as a result of raised rates! I for one do not want to pay for any VACCINES, therefore this is a violation of our constitutional rights.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 2:23:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose: SB1434 (universal vax fund)

for these reasons:

1. Creates an unnecessary "special fund" that will be ripe for waste fraud and abuse due to the VERY vague allotment of funding sources. Why fix a system that is not broken?
2. Grants our unelected Director of DOH way too much power! Authorizes him to purchase ANYTHING he feels "produces or increases immunity to particular diseases".... even if FDA or ACIP have not approved or recommended. ( please see under definitions: Immunization")
3. This will create a new & massive administrative burden upon our DOH.

Hawaii needs to stop being myopically focused on infectious illness and initiate more programs aimed at improving overall health & resilience! How about decreasing diabetes, obesity, drug addiction & homelessness, or creating healthy school lunches?

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 2:25:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Willweber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

too much power given to the government.

Please vote no on this bill to keep the power with the people and freedom. Mahalo nui, Dave

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 2:29:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Philip Verhoef	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members-

I am an ICU physician here in Hawai'i, caring for both pediatric and adult critically ill patients and I strongly support this bill, as both a physician and as a parent.

As the COVID pandemic taught us, access to immunizations is critical to assuring that vulnerable populations can be protected from communicable diseases. The COVID vaccines were initially complicated and expensive to store and administer, meaning that most private physician's offices were unable to offer them (thus creating challenges for the public to access them). As a result, even now, it can be very difficult to find a provider willing to provide up to date COVID immunizations. On top of that, reimbursement from private insurers does not adequately cover costs of vaccine administration to private physicians, creating a disincentive to vaccines being offered. Indeed, my own family members have struggled to find providers willing to administer immunizations. This is a failure of the public health system in this state.

This bill will assure access to immunizations in Hawai'i by eliminating the financial barriers that prevent access. On top of that, it will save the state and the health care system money. This bill is not a mandate for people to receive vaccines; it simply removes barriers that prevent them from accessing them. Most importantly, it's the right thing to do because we know how important immunizations have been in protecting our community. It's a win/win. How could you not support this?

Thank you for your time.

-Philip A. Verhoef, MD, PhD, FAAP, FACP, ATSF

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 3:22:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nathalie Champion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1434

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 3:34:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1434 for several reasons:

RED FLAG: Questionable funding sources for the Universal Purchase(UP) special fund--DOH's testimony on 14 Mar 25 p7 line 21-23, and p9 line 9-12 states Director of Finance will deduct 5% from other special funds, transfer \$\$ to General fund, then into UP special fund. "All officers of the State & other persons having power to allocate or disburse any special funds shall cooperate with the director in effecting these transfers"--potential Abuse of funds also, p4 line 3 & 13: need to specify sources of "donations & private contributions" and "other moneys from other sources" to deposit into this UP special fund..

NOT Sound Fiscal policy to transfer funds from general fund just to create a special fund--inappropriate, Unjustified and subverts normal appropriations process..

NO spending caps, NO clear budget, NO cap on assessment fees & fines, NO financial transparency, NO fiduciary responsibility, all topped off with NO LIABILITY for Director of Health, his task force or anyone else involved in running this Program adds up to a BIG NO to a Program that is NOT Needed--instead support existing programs that provide vaccines to children & adults at little to no cost--NOT create an over-reaching Program with ever-rising costs with little to NO benefit to majority of people in Hawaii...

Strongly Urge you to NOT fund this Unfounded Program---VOTE NO to SB1434

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 3:55:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shilpa Patel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen and health care provider, I wholly support making vaccines as easily available to ensure the safety and health of our community.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 4:29:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to vaccines is paramount to protect the entire community.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 5:39:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larissa Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Dr. Gonzalez and I am writing in strong support of SB1434, which aims to expand access to vaccines in Hawaii. As a physician, I have seen firsthand the critical role that immunizations play in preventing disease, reducing hospitalizations, and protecting public health. This bill is a necessary step toward improving vaccine accessibility and ensuring that all Hawaii residents—especially those in rural and underserved areas—can receive timely and life-saving immunizations.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:00:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am glad to see this bill continue to advance through the legislative process. Improving access to crucial vaccines is an important part of strengthening our overall public health readiness. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the stunning success of President Trump's Operation Warp Speed, we have all learned the lesson of necessary preparation.

I urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 6:21:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvette Moore	Hawaii General Jural Assembly	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This bill is against our constitutional rights ; we own our own bodies, and we should not be subjected to any type of law that imposes anything on our bodies.

this will be defeated anyway, according to Trump's federal laws...

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1434 SD1 HD1

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as an individual citizen to express my strongest SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1434 SD1 HD1. I believe that this legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring that all members of our community are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

I have observed firsthand the importance of vaccine access in preventing diseases such as COVID-19, influenza, measles, and whooping cough. This experience has convinced me that SB1434 SD1 HD1 will provide much-needed benefits to affordable medical access for our community.

### Key Reasons for Support

#### 1. The proposed measures in SB1434 SD1 HD1 will:

- Enhance access to critical immunizations across the state for all families and individuals regardless of their insurance or economic status, reducing health disparities and promoting overall community well-being
- Provide an additional safeguard to community public health against potential vaccine preventable disease outbreaks
- Reduce the administrative and financial burden on local and community-based healthcare providers, freeing-up resources for other community health priorities
- Enhance public health outcomes by providing broader and more equitable immunization coverage, resulting in higher immunization rates and stronger herd immunity, protecting vulnerable populations such as young children, kupuna, medically vulnerable individuals

#### 2. Long-Term Benefits: This bill sets the foundation for

- Better public health outcomes in vulnerable populations, especially our keiki and kupuna
- Sustained public health immunization efforts across by reducing the fiscal burden on the state and taxpayers by utilizing the special funding mechanism which directly bills assessed entities (insurers) for immunizations
- Bulk purchasing at negotiated rates, resulting in savings for insurers and families, which lower overall healthcare expenses and contribute to long-term economic benefits for the community

#### 3. Alignment with Community Values: Our community values of Kapu Aloha (a code of conduct emphasizing compassion and respect)] and this legislation aligns with those principles by:

- Protecting our most vulnerable populations through enhanced immunization access
- Keeping our communities healthy, enabling its members to continue working, attending school, and being active in their pursuits of happiness and positive contributions to their neighborhoods and environment
- Exemplifying the states commitment to care for its people and their lands

Conclusion

I respectfully urge you to SUPPORT Senate Bill 1434 SD1 HD1, which I am confident will make a significant, positive difference in the lives of Hawai'i residents. I appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing my testimony and hope that you will act in the best interests of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Sandra P. Chang  
Nuuanu, Oahu

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 9:04:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 9:08:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia M. Yano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am asking for opposition to **SB1434**.

This bill does not give people a choice in regard to vaccinating or not vaccinating. **According to this bill, every adult 65 years and younger and every child who has healthcare is required to receive an unspecified amount of unspecified vaccines with unspecified ingredients, as decided by Dr. Fink from the Department of Health and this bill was written to fund these unspecified vaccines.**

This bill leaves out important details like the ingredients of the vaccines, how many vaccines are included in this bill, the vaccine schedule, and who is authorized to give these vaccines. **According to this bill, the State of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Department of Health, whoever supplies these vaccines including pharmaceutical companies, and those who administer the vaccines would have no liability in cases where adults or children get injured or die from vaccines.**

This program is not necessary since we already have *Vaccines for Children*, a federally funded program that provides free vaccines for eligible children in Hawai'i.

**Although the Hawai'i Department of Health gives an initial start-up cost of this program, SB1434 contains no spending cap and does not detail the ongoing cost of funding this program.** This bill does not say how much money the "assessed entities" (Healthcare Providers) give towards this Funding Program.

**This bill gives Dr. Fink, the Director of the Department of Health too much authority!** Dr. Fink would be able to decide what substance, including mRNA can be used in these vaccines. mRNA is a dangerous substance and according to Dr. Robert Malone, M.D., M.S, a biochemist/biologist and creator of mRNA technology, mRNA changes people's DNA. The people and not Dr. Fink should decide whether or not they want to be vaccinated.

With deepest respect, I am asking for opposition on this bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 10:19:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tarita Tehotu	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**Testimony of Tarita Tehotu**

**Citizen of Hawaii, House District 44 and Senate District 22.**

HB 1434 SD1, HD1 RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM.  
House Finance Committee - Friday, March 28, 2025

My name is Tarita Tehotu,  
and I am testifying in opposition to HB1434 SD1, HD1

I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

"The proposed §325 outlines immunization assessment rates and mechanisms, raising concerns about financial and administrative burdens on assessed entities.

Determining assessment rates involves complex calculations and gives the director significant discretion over reserve amounts, leading to unpredictable costs that can strain organizational budgets. The need for entities to self-report covered lives adds administrative challenges, especially for those lacking tracking resources, risking penalties for reporting errors.

Allowing the director to alter assessment collection after one year threatens program stability, complicating financial planning. Interim assessments for new immunizations or health emergencies, demanded quickly, could further tax financial resources, while penalties for late payments, including 1% monthly interest, might disproportionately impact smaller entities, causing debt accumulation.

Even though unspent assessments might be refunded if the program ends, this offers limited relief and may not address the full financial impact promptly.

Overall, the intricate assessment methods, administrative demands, potential for frequent changes, and severe penalties suggest this program could excessively burden participants in the Universal Immunization Purchase Program."

Questions:

1. "Why does HB 1434, SD 1, HD 1 broaden the (UIP) Universal Immunization Purchase Program to cover all individuals' immunizations in the State, not just those ineligible for no-cost programs?"
2. Could this increase costs and duplicate coverage for many in Hawaii?"

## **UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM~ §325- D**

The Universal Immunization Funding Program in the bill presents concerns for Hawaii's healthcare system and economy. Although widening immunization access for those under sixty-five is commendable, the financial and administrative strain on the state could overshadow benefits.

The program requires significant insurer, employer, and provider participation to finance vaccinations, yet its broad "covered lives" definition might complicate management and duplicate federal initiatives like the Vaccines for Children Program.

There's also excessive discretion granted to the director over costs, assessments, and reserves, leading to unpredictable financial pressures on insurers and providers. This unpredictability, combined with penalties and high-interest rates for missed payments, threatens especially smaller healthcare entities.

Moreover, the bill lacks adequate procedures for handling remaining funds if the program ceases, risking added financial stress without mechanisms for rapid adjustments. These factors could negatively impact Hawaii's healthcare infrastructure and smaller stakeholders, despite the program's public health intentions.

**The creation of the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund** raises concerns about possible inefficiencies, lack of accountability, and added financial pressure on state resources. Key issues need addressing:

**Unstable Funding Sources:** The fund's reliance on fees, fines, reimbursements, grants, federal funding, and private contributions makes its financial stability uncertain. This unpredictability might hinder consistent resource availability for immunizations if some funding sources, like private donations or federal funds, decrease.

**Transparency and Accountability Issues:** Sole administration by the Department of Health risks inefficiency or mismanagement without clear oversight. The department's broad discretion may lead to poor financial decisions, prioritizing administrative costs over vaccines.

**Increased Financial Burden:** The fund's establishment may impose additional fees and fines on businesses and healthcare providers, raising operational costs that could be passed to consumers, thus increasing healthcare expenses.

**Program Duplication:** This fund might replicate programs like the Vaccines for Children Program, creating overlaps instead of complementing existing services, complicating immunization efforts and resource allocation.

In summary, despite its aim to improve immunization access, the fund's potential financial instability, accountability issues, increased contributor burdens, and program overlap risks could undermine its intended benefits.

**Question:**

1. Because Hawaii already participates in the vaccines for children program, USC 1396s, which provides immunizations at no charge for eligible children eighteen years of age or younger, why do we need the UIP to cover children?

**The proposed immunization assessment rates** outlined in this section present a range of issues that could place undue financial strain on assessed entities, limit transparency, and create operational challenges. Several key concerns include:

**Complex and Unpredictable Costs:** The process for determining assessment rates, based on estimates of both child and adult immunization costs, operating costs, reserves, and adjustments for surpluses or deficits, introduces complexity and potential unpredictability. This could make it difficult for businesses, healthcare providers, and other assessed entities to accurately forecast their financial obligations, leading to budgetary constraints and unexpected expenses.

**Administrative Burdens:** The requirement for entities to self-report covered lives adds significant administrative challenges, especially for those without adequate tracking or reporting systems in place. The risk of reporting errors could result in penalties, further complicating compliance and adding costs for entities already burdened by operational overhead.

**Frequent Changes to the Assessment Mechanism:** The provision allowing the director to modify the assessment collection mechanism after just one year undermines stability and predictability. Entities will struggle to plan for future years if the assessment methodology can change frequently, leading to confusion and potential financial instability.

**Interest and Penalties:** The imposition of interest charges on late payments at 1% per month, compounded monthly, creates an additional financial burden. Smaller entities, which may already operate on tight margins, could face escalating debt, worsening their financial position.

This penalty structure seems particularly harsh given that assessments are complex, and timely reporting may be difficult for some entities.

**Interim Assessments for Emergencies:** The potential for interim assessments to be levied during public health emergencies further exacerbates financial uncertainty. While such emergencies may warrant quick action, the rapid imposition of additional assessments within just 45 days could strain the resources of assessed entities, especially those already dealing with the direct impacts of the emergency.

**Lack of Oversight and Accountability:** The broad discretion given to the director in determining assessment amounts and making adjustments without clear oversight may result in inequitable or inefficient fund allocation. Without additional transparency and checks on the director's authority, there is a risk that the program could be mismanaged, affecting the efficacy of immunization efforts.

In conclusion, the proposed immunization assessment system risks placing undue financial and administrative burdens on assessed entities, introduces significant uncertainty with the potential for frequent changes, and imposes harsh penalties for non-compliance. These factors collectively suggest that the proposed system could create more problems than it solves.

"The proposed §325 outlines immunization assessment rates and mechanisms, raising concerns about financial and administrative burdens on assessed entities.

Determining assessment rates involves complex calculations and gives the director significant discretion over reserve amounts, leading to unpredictable costs that can strain organizational budgets. The need for entities to self-report covered lives adds administrative challenges, especially for those lacking tracking resources, risking penalties for reporting errors.

Allowing the director to alter assessment collection after one year threatens program stability, complicating financial planning. Interim assessments for new immunizations or health emergencies, demanded quickly, could further tax financial resources, while penalties for late payments, including 1% monthly interest, might disproportionately impact smaller entities, causing debt accumulation.

Even though unspent assessments might be refunded if the program ends, this offers limited relief and may not address the full financial impact promptly.

Overall, the intricate assessment methods, administrative demands, potential for frequent changes, and severe penalties suggest this program could excessively burden participants in the Universal Immunization Purchase Program."

### **Questions:**

1. There are similar terminologies that appear throughout the drafts of SB 1434. What do these terms entail such as "Assessment", "Assessments", "assessed entity", "assessment rate", and "interim assessment", and to whom do they apply?

2. What reports are these “assessed entities” required to submit?  
2b. What specific information must be included in these reports?
  
3. What is the Department of Health's (DOH) approach to executing these “assessments”?  
3b. What is the financial impact on entities, and what is the expected annual revenue from this initiative?"
  
4. Could you please specify which organizations or businesses are defined as 'Assessed entity'?  
4b. How does this differ from the definitions in SB 1434 and SB 14344, SD1?"

Thank you for allowing me to present my written testimony in opposition to .SB1434 SD1 HD. I am available for any questions from the Committee and its members.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:40:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brent K. Tamamoto, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as a Practicing Pediatrician and individual citizen to express my strong SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1434 SD1 HD1. I believe that this legislation is a crucial step toward protecting the health of our most vulnerable and valuable resource, our keiki. I have observed firsthand the impact that the heavy burden that the cost of vaccinations places on our state's families. I have also witnessed and personally cared for children afflicted by vaccine-preventable diseases both in the hospital and in my outpatient clinic. This experience has convinced me that SB1434 SD1 HD1 will provide much-needed access to life-saving vaccinations for our community.

**Key Reasons for Support 1. Community Impact:** The proposed measures in SB1434 SD1 HD1 will remove the burden of cost from individual families and allow our state to leverage buying power against pharmaceutical companies intent on making a profit. • Enhance access to critical immunizations across the state for all families and individuals regardless of their insurance or economic status, reducing health disparities and promoting overall community well-being • Provide an additional safeguard to community public health against potential vaccine preventable disease outbreaks • Reduce the administrative and financial burden on local and communitybased healthcare providers, freeing-up resources for other community health priorities • Enhance public health outcomes by providing broader and more equitable immunization coverage, resulting in higher immunization rates and stronger herd immunity, protecting vulnerable populations such as young children, kupuna, medically vulnerable individuals 2. **Long-Term Benefits:** This bill sets the foundation for universal access to vaccinations across all of our keiki. • Sustained public health immunization efforts across by reducing the fiscal burden on the state and taxpayers by utilizing the special funding mechanism which directly bills assessed entities (insurers) for immunizations • Bulk purchasing at negotiated rates, resulting in savings for insurers and families, which lower overall healthcare expenses and contribute to longterm economic benefits for the community 3. **Alignment with Community Values:** Our community values of healthy living, resource stewardship and equity. • Protecting our most vulnerable populations through enhanced immunization access • Keeping our communities healthy, enabling its members to continue working, attending school, and being active in their pursuits of happiness and positive contributions to their neighborhoods and environment • Exemplifying the states commitment to care for its people and their lands

I respectfully urge you to SUPPORT Senate Bill 1434 SD1 HD1, which I am confident will make a significant, positive difference in the lives of Hawai'i residents. I appreciate your time

and consideration in reviewing my testimony and hope that you will act in the best interests of our community. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Brent K. Tamamoto, M.D., FAAP

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 6:15:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose SB1434..Another demonic bill that's purposely meant to depopulate humans as big pharmas partnering with the elite and New Wolrd Order.They are evil and stick people!!!I.resist and don't comply to idiots!!!!

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 7:27:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosa L Jaime	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this bill. We already have a great health care system here and putting our finances into this bill makes no sense when we have some many other pressing problems with the cost of living here.

Lilia

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 8:57:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alicia Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge this body to oppose this bill.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 9:49:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose the proposed bill to establish the Universal Immunization Purchase Program and its associated Special Fund because it will end up creating an unnecessary and potentially vulnerable layer of bureaucracy. The existing system for immunization access is functioning adequately, and this bill seeks to "fix" what isn't broken by introducing a vaguely defined special fund that opens the door for financial mismanagement and lack of oversight. Furthermore, the bill concentrates excessive authority in the hands of an unelected Department of Health director, granting sweeping powers without adequate checks and balances. This legislation would impose a massive new administrative burden on the Department of Health, diverting resources and focus away from broader public health initiatives that address chronic issues such as diabetes, obesity, and substance abuse—areas that desperately need attention in our state. Instead of funneling more money into programs narrowly centered on infectious disease, we should prioritize holistic, long-term wellness strategies that promote healthier communities.

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 11:17:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Camille Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS EVIL BILL!!!!

1. Creates an unnecessary "special fund" that will be ripe for waste fraud and abuse due to the VERY vague allotment of funding sources. Why fix a system that is not broken?

2. Grants our unelected Director of DOH way too much power! Authorizes him to purchase ANYTHING he feels "produces or increases immunity to particular diseases".... even if FDA or ACIP have not approved or recommended. (please see under definitions: Immunization")

3. This will create a new & massive administrative burden upon our DOH.

Hawaii needs to stop being myopically focused on infectious illness and initiate more programs aimed at improving overall health & resilience! How about decreasing diabetes, obesity, drug addiction & homelessness, or creating healthy school lunches?

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 12:42:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
debra engel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO NO NO! GOVT DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO INFRINGE UPON MY MEDICAL CHOICES! THIS IS ABSOLUTELY A COMMUNISTIC OVER REACH!!!

NO, I DO NOT CONSENT TO GIVE OVER MY FREE CHOICE TO CHOOSE!

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 1:23:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Van Kleef	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

'Nuff already with partnering with Big Pharma!

**SB-1434-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 1:51:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan McCloskey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Haven't we been learning about the fraud and abuse that happens with federally funded programs that are vague in their definitions, allocations, and oversight objectives? This state bill creates an unnecessary "special fund." It lacks measurable specificity, like transparency and accountability.

The SB 1434 is authorizing power to an unelected official who may be politically biased. Medical definitions and parameters are often adjusted midstream to enhance the desired outcomes. Debate is shut down. Personal liberties are ignored.

We recently heard Governor Green strongly oppose other immunization options. He is adamant about the need for vaccines over wellness care. He even wishes injury to an individual who does not agree with his beliefs. He is quick to exaggerate and call nutritional practices, "malpractice."