



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

Date: 02/12/2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 1314, HD1 RELATING TO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH.

Purpose of Bill: Requires that all schools develop plans to execute mental health check-ins with their students grades six through twelve. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 1314 HD1.

The Department supports the intent to require schools to develop mental health check-in plans for students in grades six through twelve. Currently, the Department addresses mental health needs through the Student Support Process (SSP), a team-based framework that monitors student well-being. When concerns are expressed by school staff, guardians, students themselves, or anyone invested in supporting the student, the SSP is initiated, and a behavioral and emotional impairment rating scale (i.e., Behavior Intervention Monitoring Assessment System [BIMAS]) may be conducted. The BIMAS evaluates a student's emotional and behavioral health by gathering input from individuals such as teachers, parents, and caregivers, helping identify issues such as anxiety, depression, and aggression. The results guide targeted interventions and support strategies.

The school team analyzes data, including BIMAS results, to identify mental, emotional, and physical health concerns. The school team then creates individualized support plans, including counseling, behavioral strategies, or referrals to additional resources. The process is cyclical, ensuring that support is regularly monitored and adjusted to meet students' evolving needs.

The Department is in the preliminary stages of adopting a system-wide platform to track students' mental health status. The TrustCircle, a student mental health platform available at no cost to all Department schools, provides a secure space for students to express their thoughts and emotions daily, going beyond the once-per-semester check-in proposed in HB 1314 HD1. This platform

enables students to track emotions, journal, reach out for support, and engage in self-reflection activities. It also offers 24/7 access to crisis helplines. To further enhance this support, the Panorama platform systematically screens and monitors student well-being, tracks tiered interventions across academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and physical domains, and administers the Social and Emotional Learning and Well-being Student Survey to all students in grades 3 -12 multiple times per year. The SSP, TrustCircle, and Panorama provide a structured, data-informed approach to identify and address students' needs to promote overall success.

Given the Department's existing processes and procedures, we believe the proposed requirements in HB 1314 HD1 are not needed. The Department remains committed to a data-driven approach that ensures students receive timely and effective mental health support.

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

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:40:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:41:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:42:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:09:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Shelton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not trust school will handle this properly. Leave it to the parents and the professionals chosen by the PARENTS.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:56:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How dare you propose to circumvent parental authority over their children. It's obvious you want to the state to have full control of the youth. Our kids do not belong to the schools or the state. There is no need to be performing mental health checks on children save for the fact that your entire educational system is corrupted and harmful to them.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 6:07:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronelle Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1314 HD1

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:24:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This is not the school's place. This is the parent's place. I repeat not the schools place. Another instance of government overstepping their bounds. Government needs to stay out of citizens private lives unless asked in by the parent.

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

HB 1314, HD1

Wednesday, 02/12/2025

10:00am House conference room 329

Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of **HB1314**

My name is Nicole Rae Munoz, a resident of Ewa Beach and a social work graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa but the views I am expressing in this testimony are my own and don't represent my school. I am testifying **IN SUPPORT** of **HB1314** which will require schools to perform mental health check-ins/plans with students grades six through twelfth.

Mental health check-ins/plans are incredibly important for students in grades 6 through 12. These check-ins help spot mental health concerns early, allowing for a timely intervention to step in with support before things get worse. They also build emotional strength by giving students a safe place to share their feelings and learn how to handle their emotions. Plus, regular mental health check-ins help break down the stigma around mental health issues, making it easier for students to seek the help they need.

For these reasons, it is crucial that Hawai'i take actions to provide mental health check-ins/plans to the youth in grades 6th through 12th and why I am **IN FAVOR** of **HB1314**.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Nicole Rae Munoz
Social Work Student

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:34:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

I *oppose* HB 1314 HD1.

Kind regards,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai'anae resident

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:24:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Dieperink	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1314 HD1 as written

What's missing: The right to *OPT OUT*

And one question:

Does the immunity from liability for schools mean that they could choose NOT to administer such check ups?

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:15:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Oppose Bill HB1314 HD1

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:04:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Kaulukou	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony and *strong opposition* to HB1314, which mandates mental health check ins for students in grade 6 to 12 in all public, private and charter schools, while providing immunity from liability to schools and providers failing to include a parental opt-out provision.

While youth mental health is an important issue that must be addressed, this bill raises serious concerns regarding **parental rights, student privacy, and accountability**. My opposition is based on the following points:

1. Lack of Parental Consent and Opt-Out Provisions

Parents have a fundamental right to be involved in their children's mental health and well-being. This bill does not provide an opt-out option, meaning parents would have no say in whether their child participates in these check-ins. Mental health care should not be impose without parental knowledge or consent.

2. Student Privacy and Confidentiality Concerns

The bill does not outline clear protections for how mental health information will be handled, stored, or shared. Without strict safeguards, such as sensitive student data could be mishandled, leading to unintended consequences.

3. No Accountability for Schools and Providers

Granting schools and mental health providers immunity from liability is highly concerning. If a student is misdiagnosed, mislabeled, or subjected to an effective interventions, there is no legal recourse for families. Schools should be *held accountable* for any potential harm caused by these mandatory screenings.

4. Potential for Misuse and Overreach

Mental health check-ins conducted by schools--without parental oversight--could lead to over diagnosis, inappropriate referrals, or even coercion into mental health services that may not align with a family values or cultural beliefs. This could this proportionately affect students from diverse backgrounds.

5. Diversion and Educational Resources

Schools are already struggling with teacher shortages, academic performance issues, and budget constraints. Requiring schools to implement mental health screening programs **without additional funding or resources** faces an undue burden on educators and may detract from their core mission--providing quality education!

Conclusion

I urge the committee to **oppose HB1314** unless it includes the following:

- A **parental opt out option**, allowing families to decide what is best for their child.
- Clear **data privacy protections** for student mental health information.
- **Accountability measures** for schools and providers to prevent mismanagement or harm.
- A **defined funding source** to prevent this from becoming an unfunded mandate.

mental health is a serious concern, but **one-size-fits-all government mandates are not the solution**. Instead, we should focus on strengthening **voluntary, family center support systems** that empower parents, teachers, and students **together**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:06:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DOE has no business mixing education with Healthcare!! STOP messing with constitutional freedoms!! GOD sees all and you will be held accountable!

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:56:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is a draconian overreach of power. Stop this bill!

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:28:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, no personal information should be released as public view just because the person is a gun carry license applicant. Not necessary.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:29:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This is an overstep in what schools should be doing for our keiki's well-being. Who will be doing these 'checks' and how will children be chosen for them? How do we gauge what questions that could be asked to be deemed appropriate? I have had instances where in professional settings my daughter of elementary has been asked about and exposed to ideas she wasn't even aware of such as sex and drugs so as a parent I don't want that coming to our children in the guise of a health and wellness check. Teachers are already gauging students well being. Help them not add anything layer of personelle in which the keiki feel they have to answer to. There is so much else that can be done for mental health. Please vote no on this and consider other, viable solutions.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:02:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clardean Lehano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

Clardean Lehano

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:59:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill because we have so many issues with the health of our keiki, including physical and mental health. I do, However, recommend that the bill be amended to add an opt in or opt out, clause for both parents and students. Parents do not appreciate it when they feel like laws are being passed regarding their children and they potentially do not have a say. We need to make sure that we always keep the lines of trust open.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:37:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Oppose unless amended for 1314 HB RELATING TO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

While this bill has good intent, it is placing a huge responsibility upon non-professional health professionals. While teachers and school staff frequently do mental health check in, this bill suggests these unprofessional health professionals report on a students perminant record. This bill is an over reach of the educational system and places additional burden on educators that they are not qualified to do.

Thank you,

Dawn P. Honolulu, HI 96813

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:15:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1314.Schools are not hospitols and they already did enough damage to hawaiiis kids.We are the lowest in the nation in basic school subjects.Thanks to our teachers and most of all the superintendant whos getting 300,000 a year about.Our state loves to attack our kids,what a bunch of losers.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:25:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** and urge the committee to **VOTE NO** on the proposed legislation mandating mental health check-ins for students in grades six through twelve across all schools in Hawaii. While the intent to support student mental health is commendable, this bill, in its current form, presents several critical issues that could lead to unintended negative consequences.

Privacy Concerns:

This bill requires personal mental health assessments to be documented in students' permanent files, potentially violating student privacy and confidentiality. Mental health is a sensitive issue, and mandating such records could deter students from being open about their struggles, fearing future repercussions in academic or professional settings. Privacy laws, including FERPA, already complicate the sharing of student information, and this legislation would add another layer of complexity and liability.

Impact on Teacher-Student Relationships:

Teachers, counselors, and coaches are not universally trained as mental health professionals. Forcing them into roles that require clinical assessment skills could strain their relationships with students. These check-ins might be perceived by students as invasive or punitive rather than supportive, potentially damaging the trust and rapport that educators strive to build.

Resource and Training Deficiency:

Implementing this mandate without the necessary resources is impractical. Schools already face shortages in funding, staff, and specialized mental health professionals. The bill does not address how schools will be equipped or trained to handle the nuances of mental health assessments. Without proper training, these check-ins could do more harm than good, misdiagnosing or overlooking serious issues.

Bureaucratic Overload:

The administrative burden this legislation would impose on schools is substantial. Documenting every check-in, ensuring compliance, and managing follow-ups would divert resources from education to bureaucracy. This could lead to a less effective educational environment, where teachers are more focused on paperwork than teaching.

Risk of Misuse:

The immunity clause suggested in the bill might encourage a less cautious approach to handling sensitive information. There's a risk that, under the guise of immunity, some might act

negligently, potentially leading to inadequate responses to students' mental health needs or even breaches of confidentiality.

Potential for Stigmatization:

Regular, mandatory check-ins could inadvertently stigmatize mental health issues, making students feel labeled or singled out. Mental health support should be integrated naturally into school culture, not mandated in a way that might make students feel different or "checked on" because they are perceived as potential problems.

Better Alternatives Exist:

Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, schools should be encouraged to develop flexible, resource-rich mental health programs that include voluntary counseling sessions, peer support groups, and education on mental health. These should be implemented with community input and with the assurance of professional support from trained mental health professionals.

Conclusion:

While I acknowledge the urgent need to address mental health in schools, this bill's approach is flawed. It risks privacy violations, lacks necessary training provisions, and could strain educational relationships and resources. I urge this committee to **VOTE NO** on this bill and instead support initiatives that empower schools to create tailored, supportive, and privacy-conscious mental health programs.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:39:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair

Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

House Committee on Education

House Committee on Finance

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 10, 2025

RE: Upcoming Hearing for HB1314 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH.

Report Title: DOE; Private Schools; Public Charter Schools; Mental Health Plans

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I am in support of House Bill 1314 HD1. In my opinion, these "check-ins" can assist staff in being more alert to the mental health needs/struggles that youth face. In addition, it is possible that this extra level of care could aid in preventing a mass shooting, suicide attempt, or persistent problematic behavior that could lead to incarceration. Thank you for introducing this bill, and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding it.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:23:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Haine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I appreciate the intentions of this bill; many kids are in need of help and sometimes do need advice/counseling from adults other than their parents. We do however have to safeguard parental rights and informed consent. An Opt Out amendment here is vital.

Mahalo

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:33:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:23:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose HB1314

Paul Giles

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:39:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1314 and against mandating invasive mental health check-ins in schools.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:54:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health

February 12, 2025 at 10:00 am

by

Kaitlyn Stewart, Student
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SUPPORT OF HB 1314_HD1 - RELATING TO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kaitlyn Stewart, I am currently a Masters of Social Work Student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The views I will express are mine and do not necessarily reflect those of the university. Through the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, my specialization is Child and Family. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of House Bill 1314**, which will implement mental health check-ins each for students grades sixth through twelve.

Youth mental health is highly relevant in the state of Hawaii. The Department of Health released a survey titled *2021 Hawaii Youth Behavior Survey*, which highlights that “of public middle school students 34% have felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row, so that they stopped doing some usual activities” (DOH, 2021). The survey states that of public highschool students, the amount is 35%. For both groups of students, 17% have seriously considered attempting suicide. Youth mental health needs to be prioritized more effectively and efficiently across all schools in the State of Hawaii.

Providing a safe space for students to express how they feel and giving them an appropriate environment to share their experiences would be beneficial to their growth and development. It can also help prevent further mental health concerns, such as increase suicidal ideation. While I support this bill and its interest, I believe certain amendments can be made to increase its effectiveness. While the check-ins can be an effective way for children to communicate their struggles with a trusted adult, there may be hesitancy to include the information held in their permanent file. This may lead to long term impacts that are not foreseen at this time. For example, if a child discloses information that they do not want to share with their parents/legal guardian, but the parent requests the child's record. What are the ethical guidelines of this bill and how practitioners will navigate complex scenarios once it is in effect? Once these nuances are considered, I believe this bill can be powerful in addressing youth mental health.

Thank you for your time.

Kaitlyn Stewart

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:05:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zac Nosugref	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:21:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanine Acopan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The government has no business to interject themselves in our children's lives! You're starting to look like child predators! So creepy!

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:27:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am most strongly against this bill - HB1314.

This is government overreach, intimidation, and an invasion of privacy.

Do not pass HB1314. Vote NO.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:27:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1314. Leave the children alone. The schools are here to teach children, NOT ransack their fragile brains with a lot of suggestive ideas. Please vote NO on HB1314.

Thank you,

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:58:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miles Kushima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose hb1314. School oversteps it's role to educate. They are not doctors. Reading, math, science, computer skills, and scocial skills period.

Mahalo,

Miles kishima

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1314 HD1, Relating to Youth Mental Health. My name is Karisa Yuasa & I am currently completing my final semester of the Master's of Social Work program at UH Mānoa. Through this program, I have seen first hand the need for added mental health support for students in our state.

The organization that provides my field internship partners with a Hawaii Keiki site to provide additional mental health support for students. We do anxiety and depression screeners for students that receive Hawaii Keiki services in the health room and provide brief behavioral health interventions to support students' return to the classroom. Through this, we have been able to meet with students that may not have been identified as needing additional support through existing systems.

The National Survey of Children's Health 2023 reported that the prevalence of diagnosed mental or behavioral health conditions among adolescents aged 12-17 grew 35% from 2016 to 2023. This equates to 1 in 5 adolescents having a current diagnosed mental or behavioral health condition. The statistics doesn't take into account the numerous students that fall through the cracks and are not being identified as needing additional support or qualifying for services.

This is also personal. While I am a proud product of Hawaii Public Schools, I was one of those students who fell through the cracks. In middle and high school I was actively suicidal and engaged in self destructive behaviors, but since my grades never slipped enough and I didn't act out in class, no one ever caught them and I didn't receive any formal diagnosis until college. I was lucky enough to have had access to resources and coping skills to get me through my toughest times, but I know other students do not have the same privilege. In my current work, we also come across students that may have fallen through the cracks if they didn't happen to come into the health room. We've been able to work with them on safety plans, coping skills, and connect them to school staff for added wrap around support.

HB 1314 provides a valiant start toward a proactive approach to student mental health services. In its current form, this bill gives the DOE, private schools and charter schools the ability to determine what their plan includes and leaves questions as to what these check-ins could look like. In public school's specifically, I have questions about who the added responsibilities will fall on as many schools have a shortage of staff and those that exist are already overworked. Our site is lucky that we are able to give and evaluate PHQ-9 & GAD-7 screeners for students and we have the ability to meet with students to discuss their answers and check for additional support, but that is not always realistic in our current system.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:22:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Enoka-Shayne Bingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: OPPOSE

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:47:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Kwong	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DATE: February 11, 2025

Aloha mai kākou.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and feedback to a very important bill, HB 1314. My name is Serena Kwong and I am a student at the Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. I will be testifying in support of this bill. I believe that it is essential to implement mental health check-ins for students in grades six through twelve. This will support their well being and foster a safe environment in schools.

During this stage in an adolescence they will experience new challenges like peer pressure and bullying. Many youth struggle to communicate their emotions and mental health concerns, often feeling isolated and overwhelmed. Having assessable support systems within schools can leave students to feel supported.

By utilizing these checks-in once a semester teachers, counselors, and coaches can look at warning signs, provide necessary support, and connect them with appropriate resources. With the rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide rising in recent years implementing check-in every so often can make a difference.

As a future social worker, I recognize the value of putting together mental health support into the education systems. Schools are a safe space to learn and grow through emotional development.

Thank you.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:08:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill HB1314

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:17:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharan Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it carries too much harmful potential to students and their families. There are already procedures in place to help students.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:50:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John S	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Health care is a private matter and this bill allows for potential abuse to children.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:53:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gene Lamkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Violation of privacy

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:44:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. My child's mental health is no business of the government. I would not want my child/minor accessing any kind of medical care without my knowledge and input. This is government overreach.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:00:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1314 HD1. The youth of today take on heavier burdens earlier in life than past generations and need help where they spend the most time, in school with people that care for their wellbeing. Their parents may be too busy chasing the American Dream or just trying to keep up with living expenses and cannot see that their children are their greatest assets for the future. I tried the best I could with my daughter even after a divorce, maintaining a good relationship with her dad, although she may have seen and remembered things differently! That's why it's so important to talk to others, especially an elder, and get their views and perspectives.

Buying more toys or technology that we didn't have doesn't help, but teaches them to isolate and communicate on a computer that can now generate answers to your questions with artificial intelligence. There is cyberbullying and teasing in schools that increases with the use of social media. In an instant a child may be hurt and find ways to solve their issues, sometimes by hurting themselves or even taking their life to ease the pain they feel at that moment. Not realizing that with time, comfort food, fresh air, and music things will get better! Even finding a purpose for yourself like caring for an elder or a baby even voluntarily can help you find yourself and what you may want to be when you grow up or at least one of them!

Without the watchful eye of their parents, guardians, grandparents, or even neighbors with a village way of raising children, the youth and even adults tend to isolate and ruminate of only the negative things that has happened to them and not from the perspective of the other person involved. Teachers are busy keeping up with their itinerary than worry about an individual's issues of home or life outside of the classroom. We cannot blame the teachers for not doing a job that we signed up for the rest of our children's lives!

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:26:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Leave the kids alone.

The state does not know better.

Get the free roaming adult crazies of the street!!

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:42:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lolita Keni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. ..we need to protect our children's rights.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 3:17:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erzsi Palko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To members of the House:

I urge you to consider voting NO on HB1314.

I have worked in Hawai'i public school settings and I already find it alarming how much personal information we are required to review about students. I am concerned about privacy and confidentiality if further mental health data is collected on students.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:28:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony Opposing HB1314****

****Aloha Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,****

I am submitting this testimony to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 1314 (HB1314), which mandates mental health check-ins in schools for students in grades six through twelve. Here are several key reasons why I believe this bill should not be enacted:

1. ****Violation of Student Privacy****:

- The proposed check-ins could infringe on students' privacy rights. Even with good intentions, collecting sensitive information about students' mental, emotional, and physical health without explicit consent could lead to misuse or unintended disclosure of personal information.

2. ****Lack of Confidentiality****:

- Documenting these check-ins on a student's permanent file poses significant risks regarding confidentiality. Such records could potentially be accessed by unauthorized individuals or used in ways that were not intended, which could harm students' future opportunities or personal lives.

3. ****Bureaucratic Overreach****:

- Implementing this system would necessitate extensive new administrative protocols, training for staff, and the creation of new positions or the overloading of existing ones. This would not only increase costs but could also divert resources from other educational priorities.

4. ****Effectiveness and Support****:

- There is no clear evidence in the bill that outlines how these check-ins will be effective or how schools will be equipped to handle the outcomes of these discussions. Without trained mental health professionals to follow up or provide ongoing support, these check-ins might do more harm than good by highlighting issues without providing solutions.

5. ****Parental Involvement and Rights****:

- The bill suggests involving parents or legal guardians only after issues are identified, which might bypass the need for parental consent in the initial stages. This approach could undermine parental rights to be informed and involved in their child's mental health journey from the outset.

6. **Potential for Stigmatization**:

- Regular mental health check-ins might inadvertently lead to the stigmatization of students who are identified as needing support. This could affect peer interactions and self-perception among adolescents, a sensitive age group where social acceptance is paramount.

7. **Liability and Accountability**:

- While the bill offers immunity for those implementing it, except in cases of gross negligence, there remains a significant gray area. Schools might become overly cautious, potentially neglecting students who might need help to avoid any risk of liability.

8. **Alternative Approaches**:

- Instead of mandating check-ins, resources could be better allocated to enhancing the availability of school counselors, promoting mental health education, and creating supportive environments where students naturally feel safe to seek help if needed.

In conclusion, while the intent behind HB1314 is commendable, the method proposed could lead to numerous unintended negative consequences. We must protect student privacy, ensure effective and confidential support systems, and involve parents from the beginning. I urge you to reconsider or significantly amend this bill to address these critical concerns.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Tiare Smith

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:59:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Lamay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mental health check ins/ interventions require parental consent.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:12:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislator's,

I oppose HB1314. I believe this potentially violates student privacy and could potentially pit students against parents. I believe it adds unnecessary bureaucracy without effective support or confidentiality.

Sincerely,

Erik Eck

**Chair Gregg Takayama,
Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy
House Committee on Health**

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Time: 10:00AM

Location: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 329
State Capitol: 415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB1314 HD1 Relating to Youth Mental Health – IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

My name is Brianna Sookhoo, and I am writing in strong support of HB1314 HD1, which requires schools to develop and implement mental health plans for students in grades six through twelve, including mandatory check-ins each semester. As a graduate social work student at UH Manoa and practicum student at Child Welfare Services, I have witnessed firsthand the urgent need for proactive mental health support for Hawaii's youth. The views I will express are mine and do not necessarily reflect those of the university or department.

Adolescence is a critical time for emotional and psychological development, yet many students face challenges without speaking up due to stigma, lack of awareness, or difficulty accessing mental health support. The implementation of regular mental health check-ins ensures that students are provided with a safe space to express their concerns and access necessary support before crises escalate.

This bill is especially important given the growing mental health challenges youth face today. The rise of social media, cyberbullying, academic pressure, and family stressors contribute to increased rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation among students. By requiring schools to implement structured check-ins, HB1314 HD1 creates a system of early intervention, reducing the likelihood of long-term negative outcomes.

Additionally, by ensuring documentation of these check-ins in the student's file, this bill helps promote accountability and continuity of care. It also gives educators, counselors, and school staff the tools they need to recognize and support at-risk students more effectively.

I strongly encourage you to pass HB1314 HD1 to make mental health a priority in our educational system. This bill is an important step toward building a more supportive and responsive environment for Hawaii's youth.

Sincerely,
Brianna Sookhoo

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:37:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:51:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Brashers	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Parents—not schools—are ultimately responsible for the wellbeing of children. This bill acts to usurp God-given parental authority and responsibility of parents. It will lead to out of control healthcare workers imposing harmful ideologies upon Hawai'ian families. The vast majority of parents know there are only two sexes, but insane gender ideologies within the schools and healthcare system, are acting to confuse Hawai'i's children.

Parents bear the responsibility of directing their children to healthcare professionals, when needed. Teachers—acting as agents of the parent—can help identify problems that the parents may be unaware of. This bill, however, will insert so-called healthcare into situations where wise parental advice will suffice, and where healthcare can lead to unnecessary and sometimes harmful interventions.

Financially, this bill is also problematic. Hawai'i can't afford the government it has. This bill will add massive costs to both the education and healthcare system. The cost of living in this state is already prohibitive. A recent survey conducted by GOBankingRates (<https://www.gobankingrates.com/money/making-money/living-wage-family-of-four-needs-all-50-states>) found the living wage to raise a family of four in Hawaii is \$259,518. Hawai'i is the only state over \$200k and there are 24 states under \$100k. The cost of government—including the cost of schools—is a major contributor to the out of control cost of living. Lawmakers should be looking for ways to lower cost of government, not raise it.

As parent of school-aged children, unless I see a need for mental health treatment for my children, I will refuse unwarranted mental health treatment imposed by the school. If imposed anyways, I will take the schools to court. Hawai'i cannot afford unnecessary litigation. Let parents do their jobs. There are already systems in place to protect children not protected by their parents.

Please oppose this bill. It would usurp parental authority, harm children, and cost too much.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:54:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maly Gella	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this is a good bill as long as there is a Parental Opt Out Option for Parents. Parents need to decide what is best for their child and not feel like their rights are being circumvented.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:53:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill if my child has mental health issues. I as a parent want full control of my child well being and I will get him or her the proper treatment. This is government overreach. I oppose this bill

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 9:53:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1314-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 9:56:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1314.