



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1434 S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Friday, March 14, 2025, 9:00 A.M., Room Number: 329

- 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. Providers, often small businesses, would
- 5 not need to invest in vaccine inventory or risk loss of expired vaccine, and could have lower cost
- 6 for vaccine storage.
- 7 **Department Position:** The Department strongly **SUPPORTS** this measure and offers comments.
- 8 The purpose of this measure is to establish a collaborative, self-sustaining, “universal” funding
- 9 model for immunization purchases by the Department of Health Immunization Branch to
- 10 enable streamlined procurement, oversight, distribution, accountability, and reporting for all
- 11 persons under the age of 65, regardless of insurance status (public/private). Namely, providers
- 12 take on considerable risk because of the need to pay for their private sector immunization
- 13 supplies up front, as well as incurring other expenses such as secure and temperature-
- 14 controlled storage. A universal purchasing program will reduce the financial and administrative
- 15 burden to health care providers and create economies of scale that can reach more patients
- 16 than the current uncoordinated model. By centralizing public and private sector immunization

1 procurement and leveraging bulk purchasing power through Federal or State consortium  
2 contracts, this initiative would lower private-sector costs and improve access to needed  
3 immunizations for all keiki, families, communities, and healthcare providers statewide. This  
4 initiative addresses increasing disparities between publicly and privately insured individual's  
5 access to immunizations and reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to preventive health care, cost-  
6 effective public-health infrastructure, and data-driven decision-making – key pillars of our  
7 nationally-recognized healthcare system. In addition, the proposed program could be scaled  
8 should the federal Vaccines for Children program be disrupted.

9 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully requests the following amendments to  
10 clarify the program's structure, assessed entities, fiscal management, and available brand  
11 choices:

12

13 SECTION 2. Chapter ~~[321]~~325, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be  
14 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

15 **"PART . UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING PROGRAM**

16

17 Definitions Page 3 Lines 7-12:

18 "Assessed entity" means any health insurer in the State, that is not a Medicare Advantage  
19 health plan and is governed by article 10A of chapter 431, a nonprofit mutual benefit society  
20 governed by article 1 of chapter 432, a fraternal benefit society governed by article 2 of chapter  
21 432, or a health maintenance organization governed by chapter 432D [~~federally funded, issuing~~  
22 ~~individual and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies, individual or group~~  
23 ~~hospital or medical service plan contracts, and nonprofit mutual benefit society, fraternal~~  
24 ~~benefit society, and health maintenance organization health plans].~~

25

26 Definitions Page 4 Lines 12-14:

1 "Estimated adult immunization cost" means the estimated cost to the State for the purchase  
2 and distribution of adult immunizations ~~[purchased at the federal discount rate].~~

3

4 Definitions Page 4 Lines 15-17:

5 "Estimated child immunization cost" means the estimated cost to the State for the purchase  
6 and distribution of child immunizations. ~~[purchased at the federal discount rate].~~

7

8 Definitions Page 4 Line 18 - Page 5 Line 4:

9 ~~["Health insurer" means an entity subject to the insurance laws and rules of the State, or  
10 subject to the jurisdiction of the insurance commissioner, that contracts or offers to contract to  
11 provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of health care services,  
12 including an insurance company, a health maintenance organization, a mutual benefit society,  
13 or any other entity providing a plan of health insurance, health benefits, or health services.]~~

14

15 Definitions Page 6 Line 3:

16 "Program" means the universal immunization funding program.

17

18 Definitions Page 6 Line 6:

19 "Vaccines for children program" means the federal entitlement program established under 42  
20 U.S.C. section 1396s which provides immunizations at no charge for eligible children eighteen  
21 years and under.

22

23 Universal immunization funding program; established Page 6 Lines 8-12:

24 (a) There is established within the department a ~~[n]~~ universal immunization funding  
25 program for the purpose of ~~[administering]~~ providing immunizations for individuals in  
26 the State ~~[who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other~~  
27 ~~programs].~~

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Universal immunization purchase special fund; established Page 6 Lines 16- 20:

(a) There is established in the state treasury the universal immunization purchase special fund into which shall be deposited:

- 1) Fees, fines, and cost reimbursements collected from assessed entities pursuant to this part;
- 2) Appropriations made by the legislature;
- 3) Grants, contracts, donations, and private contributions;
- 4) Moneys from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and other federal agencies;
- 5) All interest earned or accrued from the investment of the moneys in the special fund;  
and
- 6) Any other moneys made available to the special fund from other sources.

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

Universal immunization purchase special fund; established Page 7 Lines 1-5:

~~(c) (b)~~ Expenditures from the fund shall be used for the purchase of immunizations and the administration of the universal immunization funding program [~~at no cost to providers, to administer to individuals who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other programs~~].

Assessments Page 7 Line 6- Page 8 Line 8:

The director shall determine [~~regular~~] immunization assessment rates as follows:

- (1) Provide estimated child immunization costs and estimated adult immunization costs, not covered by the vaccines for children program or any of its successors [~~any other state or federal~~]

1 ~~funds~~, for the succeeding fiscal year no later than ninety [~~one hundred twenty~~] days before the  
2 commencement of each fiscal year;

3 (2) Add estimates to cover the department's operating costs for the universal immunization  
4 funding program;

5 (3) Add a reserve of up to ten per cent of the sum of the preceding fiscal year's program  
6 costs and for unanticipated costs;

7 (4) Add a working capital reserve in such amount as may be reasonably determined by the  
8 director;

9 (5) Subtract or add the amount of any [~~unexpended fund balance~~] surplus or deficit in the  
10 fund, including any net investment income earned, as of the end of the preceding fiscal year;  
11 and

12 (6) Calculate the immunization assessment rates as a per-child covered life per month and  
13 per-adult covered life per month amount to be self-reported and paid by all assessed entities by  
14 dividing the annual amount determined in accordance with paragraphs (1) through (5) by the  
15 number of children and adults, respectively, projected to be covered by the assessed entities  
16 during the succeeding program year, divided by twelve.

17

18 Assessments Page 8 Lines 14-18

19 Unless determined by the director, any assessed entity that would otherwise be responsible for  
20 reimbursement to any provider for any immunization administration shall be responsible for  
21 reporting the child covered life and adult covered life and for payment of the corresponding  
22 assessment to the department. The department shall establish by rule the frequency, schedule,  
23 and methodology of the assessments that assessed entities shall be subject to.

24

25 Assessments Page 9 Line 6-17:

26 (e) The director may determine an interim assessment for new immunizations or public health  
27 emergencies and shall calculate a supplemental interim assessment using the methodology

1 outlined under subsection (a) for regular assessments, but payable [~~over the remaining fiscal~~  
2 ~~year, and the interim assessment shall be payable together with the regular assessment~~  
3 ~~commencing the calendar quarter that begins not less than thirty days following the~~  
4 ~~establishment of the federal contract price]~~ within 45 days of the interim assessment  
5 notice. The director may not impose more than one interim assessment per year, except in the  
6 case of a public health emergency declared in accordance with state or federal law.

7  
8 Assessments Page 10 Lines 1-7:

9 (g) If the department discontinues operation of the universal immunization funding program  
10 for any reason, any [~~unexpected]~~ unexpended assessments, including unexpended funds from  
11 prior assessments in the universal immunization special purchase fund, shall be refunded to  
12 [~~payees in proportion to the respective assessment payments by payees over the most recent~~  
13 ~~eight quarters before discontinuation of program operations]~~ assessed entities in proportion to  
14 the current fiscal year's assessment rate.

15  
16 Reports and Audits Page 10 Lines 8-19:

17 (a) The department shall audit assessed entities and providers in accordance with program's  
18 reporting and program compliance requirements. Each assessed entity shall report its  
19 number of child and adult covered lives according to a schedule determined by the director  
20 and respond to any requests by the director related to covered lives or assessments  
21 due. Any assessed entity that fails to respond to an audit request within ten business days  
22 of the receipt of notification of audit request shall be responsible for prompt payment of  
23 fees of any outside auditor engaged by the department to determine the information and  
24 shall make all records requested by the department-engaged auditors available for  
25 inspection and copying at such location within the State as specified by the auditor.

26  
27 Available Choices Page 12 Lines 7-11:

1 The department shall purchase immunizations through ~~[maintain a list of immunizations,~~  
2 ~~including all brand choices available for purchase by the State on]~~ the federal Centers for  
3 Disease Control and Prevention contracted price list, or other group purchasing negotiated  
4 discount rate, for which costs are funded pursuant to this part. The department may make  
5 purchases from available discounted immunizations based on healthcare provider requests and  
6 shall not limit the immunizations it purchases from those available at a discounted rate,  
7 provided that the department may choose not to purchase a specific immunization that has a  
8 low volume of statewide healthcare provider requests.

9  
10 SECTION 5.

11 There is appropriated out of the universal immunization purchase special fund for the fiscal  
12 year 2026-2027 and each year thereafter so much thereof as may be necessary for the  
13 purchase of immunizations and the administration of the universal immunization funding  
14 program.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this  
16 Act.

17  
18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on December 31, 2050.

19  
20 Amend HRS §36-27:

21 **HRS §36-27 Transfers from special funds for central service expenses.** (a) Except as provided  
22 in this section, and notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, from time to time, the  
23 director of finance, for the purpose of defraying the prorated estimate of central service  
24 expenses of government in relation to all special funds, except the:

- 25 (1) Special out-of-school time instructional program fund under section 302A-1310;  
26 (2) School cafeteria special funds of the department of education;  
27 (3) Special funds of the University of Hawaii;

- 1 (4) Convention center enterprise special fund under section 201B-8;
- 2 (5) Special funds established by section 206E-6;
- 3 (6) Aloha Tower fund created by section 206J-17;
- 4 (7) Funds of the employees' retirement system created by section 88-109;
- 5 (8) Hawaii hurricane relief fund established under chapter 431P;
- 6 (9) Hawaii health systems corporation special funds and the subaccounts of its regional  
7 system boards;
- 8 (10) Universal service fund established under section 269-42;
- 9 (11) Emergency and budget reserve fund under section 328L-3;
- 10 (12) Public schools special fees and charges fund under section 302A-1130;
- 11 (13) Sport fish special fund under section 187A-9.5;
- 12 (14) Neurotrauma special fund under section 321H-4;
- 13 (15) Glass advance disposal fee established by section 342G-82;
- 14 (16) Center for nursing special fund under section 304A-2163;
- 15 (17) Passenger facility charge special fund established by section 261-5.5;
- 16 (18) Solicitation of funds for charitable purposes special fund established by section 467B-15;
- 17 (19) Land conservation fund established by section 173A-5;
- 18 (20) Court interpreting services revolving fund under section 607-1.5;
- 19 (21) Trauma system special fund under section 321-22.5;
- 20 (22) Hawaii cancer research special fund;
- 21 (23) Community health centers special fund;
- 22 (24) Emergency medical services special fund;
- 23 (25) Rental motor vehicle customer facility charge special fund established under section  
24 261-5.6;
- 25 (26) Shared services technology special fund under section 27-43;
- 26 (27) Automated victim information and notification system special fund established under  
27 section 353-136;

- 1 (28) Deposit beverage container deposit special fund under section 342G-104;  
2 (29) Hospital sustainability program special fund under section 346G-4;  
3 (30) Nursing facility sustainability program special fund under section 346F-4;  
4 (31) Hawaii 3R's school improvement fund under section 302A-1502.4;  
5 (32) After-school plus program revolving fund under section 302A-1149.5;  
6 (33) Civil monetary penalty special fund under section 321-30.2; ~~and~~  
7 (34) Stadium development special fund under section 109-3.5[;] and  
8 (35) Universal immunization purchase special fund under section 325-;

9 shall deduct five per cent of all receipts of all other special funds, which deduction shall be  
10 transferred to the general fund of the State and become general realizations of the State. All  
11 officers of the State and other persons having power to allocate or disburse any special funds  
12 shall cooperate with the director in effecting these transfers. To determine the proper revenue  
13 base upon which the central service assessment is to be calculated, the director shall adopt  
14 rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the purpose of suspending or limiting the application of the  
15 central service assessment of any fund. No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
16 each regular session of the legislature, the director shall report all central service assessments  
17 made during the preceding fiscal year.

18

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

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:25:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Thomas Carlisle, MD, MPH	Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians (HAFP)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Date: March 12, 2025

From: Robert Carlisle, MD, MPH

**RE: SB1434, SD1; Universal Immunization Funding**

**Position: Support**

Thank you for allowing testimony on SB1434. The Hawai'i Academy of Family Physicians (HAFP) Legislative Committee endorses the need to mitigate the financial burden disallowing many providers in the state from stocking and administering immunizations to their patients.

HAFP Legislative Committee endorses the efforts to facilitate the proven preventative health care interventions that avoid preventable deaths and optimize the health of the people of Hawai'i.

Subsequent administrative attention to insurer coverage of immunization administration by physician clinics and offices will be important.

Thank you for allowing HAFP to testify on this.



# 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

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 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. Establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund into which fees will be deposited to finance the Universal Immunization Funding Program.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new part to chapter 321, HRS, for a Universal Immunization Funding Program (Program) that would allow the Department of Health to manage the supply of immunizations. The Program is expected to lower health care providers' administrative costs and ensure immunizations can be quickly supplied during emergencies or immunization shortages.

Defines "Assessed entity" as any insurer in the State, that is not federally funded, issuing individual and group accident and health or sickness insurance policies, individual or group hospital or medical service plan contracts, and nonprofit mutual benefit society, fraternal benefit society, and health maintenance organization health plans.

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 fees, fines and cost reimbursements paid by Assessed entities will be deposited. Expenditures from the Fund shall be used to purchase immunizations, at no cost to Providers, to administer to individuals who are not eligible to receive immunizations at no cost through other programs.

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.

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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2050.

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 manage the supply of immunizations to ensure immunizations can quickly be supplied to vulnerable patient groups during emergencies or shortages.

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.”

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. 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

Re: SB 1434 SD 1

Page 4

societies (section 432:1-403, HRS) and fraternal benefit societies (section 432:2-503, HRS), then those exemptions need to be reexamined.

Digested: 3/11/25



**March 14, 2025 at 9:00 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

**House Committee on Health**

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

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**SB 1434 SD 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.



To: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair  
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

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

Hearing: Friday, March 14, 2025, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

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

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **SB1434 SD1**. 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**.

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

# HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to S.B. NO. 1434 S.D. 1  
Submitted to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
March 12, 2025

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I write to vehemently oppose S.B. NO. 1434 S.D. 1. This bill, which establishes a Universal Immunization Funding Program and a special fund to bankroll it, is a textbook case of government overreach, fiscal recklessness, and unnecessary meddling in personal health choices. I stand for liberty, limited government, and taxpayer protection—principles that should unite us across party lines. This isn't just ideology; it's about real-world consequences for Hawaii's families and businesses. I urge you to vote NO, and here's why this bill fails both conservative and progressive tests.

## **1. Government Overreach: Trampling Personal Freedom**

This bill forces a state-run immunization scheme on Hawaii, overriding individual choice and private healthcare decisions. By creating a Universal Immunization Funding Program, it assumes everyone needs government to spoon-feed them vaccines, ignoring those who prefer private options or opt out entirely. The assessments on insurers—passed onto families and businesses—punish self-reliance and mandate participation in a one-size-fits-all system. Since when does freedom mean forced funding?

Look at Vermont, where a universal vaccine program sparked backlash. A [2015 report from the Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office](#) noted that mandatory assessments drove up insurance costs, hitting small businesses hardest and reducing healthcare flexibility. Democrats who value personal autonomy and equity should recoil—liberty means choice, not state control.

## **2. Fiscal Irresponsibility: A Taxpayer Burden**

S.B. 1434 sets up a special fund fueled by assessments on health insurers, which will inevitably trickle down to families and employers as higher premiums. The bill's vague appropriation—"sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary"—is a blank check for bureaucrats to spend without accountability. Add fines up to \$1,000 per day, interest at 1% monthly, and audit fees, and you've got a recipe for fiscal chaos. Hawaii's taxpayers don't need another money pit.

Alaska's universal vaccine program offers a cautionary tale. A [2019 Alaska Division of Legislative Audit report](#) found that its Vaccine Assessment Program overspent by millions, underestimated costs, and left taxpayers footing the bill when projections failed. Republicans demand fiscal discipline; Democrats should demand fairness for working families—this bill delivers neither.

## **3. Bureaucratic Nightmare: More Red Tape, Less Efficiency**

This bill drowns providers and insurers in paperwork—monthly covered lives reports, audits, and immunization registry updates—while piling on penalties for non-compliance. The Department of Health gets unchecked power to set rates, impose interim assessments, and contract out services, all with "no liability" for screw-ups. This isn't streamlining care; it's a bloated bureaucracy that stifles innovation and burdens small practices.

Washington State's universal vaccine program stumbled here. A [2017 Washington State Auditor's Office review](#) found that administrative overhead consumed 15% of funds, delayed vaccine distribution, and

frustrated providers with reporting mandates. Democrats who want efficient healthcare and Republicans who hate waste should agree—this is a mess waiting to happen.

#### **4. No Proven Crisis: A Solution Without a Problem**

The bill touts 14 states with “UP” programs lowering costs and boosting emergency access, but where’s the evidence Hawaii needs this? It cites no local shortages, no rampant disease outbreaks, and no data showing private systems failing. The Vaccines For Children Program and Section 317 already cover vulnerable groups—why duplicate them with a costly new layer? This is government inventing a crisis to justify control.

Minnesota’s universal vaccine push floundered on this front. A [2016 Minnesota Department of Health evaluation](#) admitted that despite heavy investment, uptake rates barely budged, and rural access didn’t improve—wasting millions on a non-issue. Republicans demand necessity; Democrats demand evidence—this bill has neither.

#### **5. Insurance Chaos: Hurting Families and Businesses**

By assessing insurers per “covered life,” S.B. 1434 jacks up premiums for everyone—not just the uninsured it claims to help. Small businesses, already stretched thin, will bear the brunt, while families face higher costs or dropped coverage. The bill even ropes in “health cost sharing programs,” dragging faith-based alternatives into the mess. This isn’t equity; it’s a regressive tax dressed up as healthcare.

Oregon’s vaccine funding model backfired similarly. A [2020 Oregon Health Authority report](#) showed that assessments raised premiums by 2-3%, disproportionately hitting low-income households and small employers, with no clear public health gain. Democrats who fight for affordability and Republicans who protect businesses should unite against this.

#### **6. Safety Risks: Rushing Without Oversight**

Handing the Department of Health carte blanche to buy and distribute any FDA-approved or CDC-recommended vaccine—plus anything the director deems an “immunization”—is reckless. No mandatory safety checks, no public input, just blind trust in bureaucrats. In emergencies, interim assessments could rush untested vaccines into use, risking lives for the sake of speed.

Colorado’s vaccine program hit this wall. A [2018 Denver Post investigation](#) revealed that lax oversight led to distribution errors, including expired doses, causing preventable adverse reactions. Democrats who prioritize safety and Republicans who distrust unchecked power should both say no—this gambles with our health.

#### **Conclusion: Vote NO for Freedom, Fiscal Sense, and Safety**

S.B. NO. 1434 S.D. 1 is a disaster. Vermont raised costs, Alaska burned cash, Washington bogged down, Minnesota wasted effort, Oregon hurt families, and Colorado risked lives. This bill tramples liberty, drains wallets, and invites chaos—all without proof it’s needed. Republicans demand small government; Democrats demand fairness and results. This fails everyone. Protect Hawaii’s people—vote NO.

Sincerely,

*Andrew Crossland*

Hawaii Patriot Republicans

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



## 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 HEALTH  
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Date: March 14, 2025  
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)  
Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

**Re: SB 1434 SD 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

American Academy of Pediatrics. Common Immunization Questions from Parents. [AAP.org](https://www.aap.org). Accessed Mar 11 2025.

[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**

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



March 14, 2025

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

Re: SB 1434 SD1 – RELATING TO UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING  
PROGRAM

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

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1434 SD1, which 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. Establishes the Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund into which fees will be deposited to finance the Universal Immunization Funding Program.

We support the intent of this bill to proactively ensure immunization availability and to lessen the administrative burden many providers face in procuring vaccines.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu  
Assistant Vice President  
Community and Government Relations



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

3/13/2025

Hawaii American Academy of Pediatrics

Advocacy Committee Chairs- Dr. Maya Maxim and Dr. Casandra Simonson

In Support of SB 1434

To whom it may concern:

We are writing on behalf of the Hawaii Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics to ask for your support for SB1434. By supporting the State Vaccine Purchasing Plan you have the opportunity to show the rest of the world how in Hawaii, we care about protecting our community. 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. Vaccine rates have plummeted and religious exemptions have skyrocketed in Hawaii setting up our rural resource limited state up for a devastating epidemic. We are predicting once we have cases many people will be wanting to vaccinate and we need to be ready to meet them. Easy access to vaccines is critical to stopping an outbreak. As pediatricians, we are responsible for educating legislators, families, and our communities about the value of vaccination. In addition to supporting the bill, we urge you to take the time to read the following statement from our national organization here:

<https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/state-advocacy/childhood-immunizations/>

or here:

Statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics on Immunizations

Routine childhood immunization is one of the crown achievements in public health over the past century. A 2013 New England Journal of Medicine study estimated that childhood vaccination programs have prevented 103.1 million cases of diphtheria, hepatitis A, measles, mumps, pertussis, polio and rubella since 1924. A 2005 Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine study estimated that for every dollar spent in the US, vaccination programs saved more than \$5 in direct costs and approximately \$11 in additional costs to society.

However, challenges remain. Outbreaks of measles, pertussis, Hib, and other vaccine preventable diseases are returning. Numerous factors—including the cost of acquiring and administering vaccines, an increasingly complex delivery system, as well as a small but growing number of parents who are forgoing vaccination for their children—put success in jeopardy.

**AAP Position**

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has long supported preventive care, including immunizations, in the medical home setting as a major component of pediatric health care and disease prevention and believes economic barriers should not restrict access to immunizations or other forms of preventive care for children. The AAP works to educate the public and key decision makers about the importance of routine child immunization and actively counters misinformation about vaccine safety and efficacy.
- The AAP recommends that state laws permitting nonmedical exemptions to school entry immunization requirements should be eliminated.
- While the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates insurance coverage of preventive services without copay, including immunizations, gaps in coverage remain. The AAP advocates for appropriate funding for public immunization programs, and works to promote reform of the vaccine delivery and payment system to ensure that children have access to vaccines and that administrative and financial burdens on physician practices are reduced.

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee for the opportunity.

Advocacy Committee Chairs- Dr. Maya Maxim and Dr. Casandra Simonson

Hawaii American Academy of Pediatrics



**Biotechnology Innovation Organization**  
1201 New York Ave, NW, Suite 1300  
Washington, DC, 20005  
202-962-9200

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Gregg Takayama  
Chair, House Committee on Health  
Hawai'i House of Representatives  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Takayama and Members of the Committee:

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) and our members share the Committee's goal in increasing access to health care and public health programs and services, including vaccination. However, we write to express our **opposition to SB 1434**, which would institute a universal purchase (UP) program for vaccines in Hawaii. Such a program would shift significant administrative burden to the state and to physicians not currently participating in the Vaccines for Children program and would benefit insurers while damaging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) contracting ability.

BIO is the world's largest trade association representing biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers, and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. BIO membership includes vaccine developers and manufacturers who have worked closely with the public health community to support policies that help ensure access to innovation and life-saving vaccines for all individuals.

Vaccines are one of the greatest success stories in public health. Routine childhood vaccinations have prevented hundreds of millions of cases of illness, millions of deaths, and have resulted in trillions of dollars of savings in societal costs in the US alone.<sup>1</sup> Vaccines against infectious diseases including measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, and varicella have been administered for decades, preventing disease and illness in millions of individuals globally. As a result of successful and ongoing vaccination efforts measles, rubella, diphtheria, polio, and smallpox have been eliminated in the US.<sup>2</sup> We are supportive of efforts to increase access to vaccines, and consequently, increase immunization rates to protect people across the lifespan; however, enacting UP is not guaranteed to achieve this objective and could create additional challenges.

UP programs have not been shown to increase immunization rates consistently. Childhood UP programs have demonstrated that UP does not necessarily drive us to our mutual goal – high immunization rates. Only 4 of the top 20 ranked states for Kindergarten MMR vaccination coverage, based on the CDC's 2023-2024 National Immunization Surveys rankings, have a UP

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/73/wr/mm7331a2.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMms1215400?url\\_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr\\_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr\\_dat=cr\\_pub%20%20pubmed](https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMms1215400?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20%20pubmed)

policy (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island).<sup>3</sup> According to a 2018 analysis, it was concluded that UP was ineffective in increasing vaccination rates.<sup>4</sup>

Patient financial barriers to vaccines have been addressed at the federal level. All children and any adults with insurance coverage have access to all routinely recommended vaccines without cost-sharing. Many children are eligible for free vaccines through the CDC's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The implementation of new UP programs is unnecessary. UP programs erode the benefits of this valuable Federal program. As part of the VFC program, the CDC is authorized to contract with vaccine manufacturers. These federal contracts are designed in collaboration with industry to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to immunizations at a discount and that each state has a sufficient quantity of vaccine for specified groups in VFC.

Specific UP program designs, such as insurance pools, create a pass through of a discount intended for vulnerable populations. A pass through is created because parents and employers pay premiums for their immunization coverage, so the vaccine cost is already paid for. These vaccine costs do not play a significant role in the cost of insurance premiums. According to a 2009 HHS study, vaccine coverage accounts for only 0.8% of family premiums.<sup>5</sup>

UP programs limit competition and negatively impact innovation. Newer vaccines require significant investment in their development because: (1) parents and regulators demand increased data on safety and efficacy; and, (2) new technologies are often needed to solve scientific issues. On average, new vaccines takes 8-10 years and over \$1 billion to develop. The current vaccine market business model depends largely on a competitive private marketplace, multi-source contracts, provider choice, and a vibrant private-sector market. UP programs reduce competition, inappropriately use public sector pricing (CDC federal contract pricing) designed for a separate and legitimate purpose, and often limit provider choice. UP programs distort both the state and national vaccine marketplace, and over the long-term, inhibit innovation because they can negatively impact the future vaccine supply and private investment in the development of new vaccines.

### ***Alternative solutions***

There must be equity across populations with consideration given to factors such as geography (rural/urban), age, and demographic factors like race/ethnicity. Hawaii should undertake an examination of the factors impacting lower uptake of vaccines by certain populations and work to address specific issues in vaccine financing and access rather than implementing an overarching change to the system. Other states have undertaken processes to identify targeted solutions to vaccine education, access, and financing issues, which include:

- Raise the Medicaid vaccine administration fee to more fully compensate health care providers administering vaccines for their time and resources. UP programs do not address administration fees paid to private insurers or Medicaid;<sup>6</sup>
- Training and education for providers on group purchasing options for lower-volume practices;
- Mentoring programs and centralized toolkits for providers;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/schoolvaxview/data/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> Mulligan K, Snider JT, Arthur P, et al. Examination of universal purchase programs as a driver of vaccine uptake among US States, 1995-2014. *Vaccine*. 2018;36(28):4032-4038.

<sup>5</sup> Rose Chu, presentation at June 2009 NVAC meeting, "2009 Premiums for Routine Immunizations."

<sup>6</sup> Granade, Charleigh, et al. State Policies on Access to Vaccination Services for Low-Income Adults. April 27, 2020. *JAMA Network Open*. 2020;3(4):e203316. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.3316

- Development of buying group lists, optional centralized billing, credentialing, and contracting services for Local Public Health Agencies and other interested providers;
- Payer use of the CDC private sector cost list as reference for private payments;
- Improved reimbursement by payers for vaccine administration;
- Training on appropriate coding of vaccine type and administration;
- Investment and support for additional funding for the state IIS to support development of additional billing and inventory management infrastructure; and
- Innovative pilots that use technology solutions to address financing, billing and stocking of vaccines for providers.

Finally, we are concerned that this legislation is moving forward without the rigor necessary to understand the implications of such a policy shift. BIO urges you to first examine the challenges and acute solutions associated with them before enacting such sweeping changes to adult vaccine purchasing.

With the goal of achieving maximum immunization coverage among children, adolescents, and adults, BIO supports policies that positively impact access to vaccinations, such as policies that encourage adequate reimbursement for all vaccine-related expenses. We stand ready to help in any discussion of alternatives as well as to share our knowledge of activities and initiatives from around the country. Please feel free to contact me at [bwarren@bio.org](mailto:bwarren@bio.org) with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,



Brian Warren  
Vice President, State Government Affairs



## HIPHI Board

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John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native  
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 13, 2025

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health

RE: Support for SB 1434, Relating to Health Care

Hrg: Friday, March 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

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Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)<sup>1</sup> **supports SB 1434 SD1**, 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 in a given time period, 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>



**To:** Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue Keohokapu-Lee, and Members of the Health Committee

**From:** Margaret Mejia, Vice President  
*Hawai'i Christian Coalition*

**We OPPOSE SB1434**, relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program

Aloha,

My name is Margaret Mejia, and I am writing on behalf of *Hawai'i Christian Coalition*. We have approx. 35,000 members and I represent 130,000 people, including their spouses and children.

SB1434 would create a Universal Immunization Funding Program to buy vaccines in bulk and distribute them to healthcare providers. However, **this program is not necessary since we already have *Vaccines for Children***, a federally funded program that provides free vaccines for eligible children.

**SB1434 contains no spending cap and the wording in this bill is ambiguous and vague.** This bill leaves out important details, especially about the ongoing cost of this funding program.

**This bill has a special fund (page 6, line 17 & 18) which includes an undisclosed amount of fees, fines, and cost reimbursements. This bill also lacks information regarding the “assessed entities”** (page 6, line 19) who are funding this special fund. “How much money will these healthcare providers contribute?” This is only one of the many questions this bill poses.

**Page 6, line 2 gives Dr. Fink, the Director of the Department of Health the authority to order any substance, including mRNA, as an immunization.** Although the wording “mRNA” was removed from the first SB1434, it is still a substance that can be used in immunization according to SB1434 SD1 (page 6, lines 1 and 2). 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.**

**SB1434 would give Dr. Fink, head of the Department of Health authority without liability.** If there are injuries and/or deaths due to these unspecified vaccines on the unspecified vaccine schedule, there is no liability.

In addition, health insurance companies do not give free healthcare, and there will be costs for services to children and adults. **The people of Hawai'i deserve full disclosure regarding this bill.**

Last of all, since the Hawai'i State Government is expecting federal cuts to "necessary programs," **can Hawai'i afford another program to be added to its existing programs that still have to be funded?**

Sincerely,

Margaret Mejia, Vice President  
*Hawai'i Christian Coalition*

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:54:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 1:01:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Our state funds could be much better utilized elsewhere! Vaccines are heavily subsidized as it is! Stop watering precious resources!

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:32:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician I support efforts to make vaccines more affordable and accessible for patients and families. This bill would allow for the state to purchase vaccines for those families who desire them, and would ease access to vaccines that are commonly required to be purchased in bulk and at significant up front expense. This enabling more practices to provide vaccine access to families who want them.

Sincerely,

Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:16:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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 concerned for and Oppose SB1434.*

Hawai'i residents should not be the ones funding this! Leaving this to the people of Hawaii is wrong. We need a clear budget and it needs to be made clear and well known that these insurance costs will be passed on to the consumer (higher premiums) to create the additional funding, before this can be passed. This is further burdening those who are already struggling to live here. While vaccines should be available to those who want them and have true informed consent how does this become another's burden? Another aspect that needs to be made transparent is what vaccines are covered and what liability there is. Dept. of Health and/or other agencies need to stand behind this, not ask for funding and simply say 'safe and effective'. Vaccines for Children already exists. The reason for and date behind why we need another fund, especially one with no spending limit, needs to be provided and made public! Please consider the real implications of this. A focus on real health, through the aspects of daily living, I feel, are far more important.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:10:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**RE: SB1434, SD1; Universal Immunization Funding**

**Position: Support**

Thank you for allowing testimony on SB1434. I am a family physician practicing in Honolulu. This measure would help mitigate the financial burden disallowing so many providers in the state from stocking and administering immunizations to their patients. Currently, many practices are unable to routinely offer vaccines in their office due to financial constraints. Maintaining vaccine uptake to avoid preventable deaths is a key component to keeping our local healthcare system intact. Keeping vaccines available in physician and other provider offices greatly increases the chances that patients will complete their vaccines, and this measure provides the support for providers to offer this service in a financially sound manner.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on this matter.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:35:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose this bill, mahalo.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:37:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jan K Baldado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB 1434.

Mahalo nui.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:03:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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. Vaccinations are a personal choice, public money should not be funding them

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:11:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1434. Taxpayer money should not be used to fund immunization when insurance covers it (including Medicare and Medicaid). COVID has proven that mRNA vaccines are still unsafe. It is interesting that this bill seeks to promote mRNA vaccines along with traditional vaccines but the DOH and others involved with this program will not assume any liability. Please use our taxpayer money for the many other needs Hawaii has and leave vaccine subsidy to the insurance companies.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:15:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Chair Takayama and Committee Members,**

**My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and I live in Ewa Beach.**

**I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB-1434.**

**While the intent to improve immunization access is commendable, this bill raises significant concerns.**

**The funding mechanism proposed by SB-1434 is problematic. By levying assessments on health insurers, the bill will lead to increased costs for Hawaii families through higher insurance premiums. This regressive approach disproportionately burdens those already struggling with Hawaii's high cost of living.**

**The bill grants excessive and broad discretionary power to the Department of Health to impose interim assessments during vaguely defined "public health emergencies". This lack of oversight could lead to unchecked financial extractions from insurers and, ultimately, consumers.**

**The centralized approach to immunization procurement and distribution undermines the autonomy of healthcare providers and patients. By mandating state-supplied immunizations and disallowing providers from using private stocks, SB-1434 replaces professional judgment and patient choice with a one-size-fits-all model.**

**The bill also fails to include a spending cap or clear budget projections. This open-ended financial commitment could strain state resources and potentially divert funds from other critical health initiatives.**

**The creation of another special fund violates sound fiscal policy recommendations, and goes against the recommendation of the 1989 Tax Review Commission which stated such funds restrict budget flexibility and reduce accountability.**

**Respectfully, I STRONGLY encourage you to vote NO on SB1434.**

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:23:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill nothing is free and should be left up to individuals not the state stay out of people lives

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:29:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am vehemently opposed to my tax dollars funding vaccines, especially extremely dangerous modified RNA (mRNA) shots.

The fact that the bills stipulates that, "Department of Health independent contractors, and employees ARE NOT LIABLE FOR ANY ACTION in operating the program, " says it all. If immunizations were truly safe there would be no need to remove liability shows. This implies that the authors know that vaccines are dangerous. In passing the PREP Act, Congress stated that vaccines are "unavoidably unsafe". In actual medicine you never give an unsafe product to perfectly healthy people. Only in a situation where the patient has a high likelihood of injury or death, do you gamble with unsafe products.

Also, NO other product is liability-free. It has been proven, and even admitted by the pharmaceutical companies that vaccines DO NOT prevent the transmission of disease to others. So vaccines are actually useless. All risk=no benefit.

I kindly request that you vote NO on this bill.

Mahalo,

Netra Halperin

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:38:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I do not want my tax dollars to go to supplying vaccines to "qualifying Healthcare providers."  
This bill removes all the liability from DoH, employees and contractors administering the  
program. We do not want the government in any form deciding what vaccines we and our  
children should have!

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:07:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:27:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Aloha Committee,**

**Plea strongly OPPOSE SB1434. This State has a fundamental responsibility to be effective stewards of taxpayers' money. This bill clearly is not using our hard earned money effectively. Vote NO on SB1434.**

**Mahalo for your time.**

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:42:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose !

Do not ! I repeat Do not allow this bill !

Taxpayers, me will not fund this Universal immunization program.

Stop. Stop. Stop this.

I disapprove of these legislators pushing vaccine Anything on us.

Stop using fear tactics. There's natural ways of remediation to these problems. Get Dr's who agree with me, us. You must.

Louella Vidinha

Hawaii resident

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:52:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please VOTE NO on SB1434. Our tax dollars should not be funding any universal vaccine program.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:56:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:14:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:18:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill because manufacturers and government should be held liable for any action in operating the programs. MRNA should be banned all together.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:20:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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 and ask you to vote no on it. I do not want my tax dollars paying for a medical procedure that is being unconstitutionally mandated and/or may cause harm to anyone. There is also no accountability/responsibility for adverse reactions.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:36:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:40:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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 very glad to see this bill continue to work through our legislative process. Immunizations are critically necessary tools to enhance public health readiness and resiliency. It is an appalling tragedy that after the calamitous COVID-19 pandemic so much misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation has been spread to undermine critical health advancements that benefit all. We must take a stand against conspiracism and for scientifically based solutions.

Providing extra resources for statewide immunization efforts is crucial to rebuilding social and economic resiliency for future health challenges. From the astounding return of measles to aviation flu we face old and new health challenges. Do not shrink from the challenge!

I strongly urge this Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:08:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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 establishing the Universal Immunization Funding Program.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:33:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. Support of universal immunization access will prevent the unnecessary death and brain damage of children from measles within the United States and reduce the necessity of local pediatricians recommending the measles vaccine as a travel vaccine for certain states in our Union.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:51:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I do not want my tax dollars funding vaccines that may or may not be "safe and effective." You are assuming all vaccines are "safe and effective" which we have seen they are NOT. With the precedent having been set of rushing of vaccine products with inadequate testing and ingoring of obvious problems made the norm, who knows what will happen with future vaccine products and the governments insistance that everyone take them, no matter what? I do not support funding the pushing of products that may not be safe and effective and ask that you vote "NO" on this bill.

Thank you.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:44:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:50:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Is anyone in the senate listening to the people of Hawaii? You cannot mandate what citizens in the free republic of the United States do to their body. This kind of authoritarianism has cost US citizens millions of dollars in liabilities and law fees. The next bill I propose is that you all will be held personally responsible for any, and I mean any damage you do to the Hawaiian citizens by mandating anything they do to their own bodies.

This is an absolutly crazy bill, and it needs to STOP here!!

Susan Wadas

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:53:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1434, which proposes to use taxpayer funds to cover the cost of universal vaccines in Hawaii. As a concerned citizen, I believe this bill is misguided and potentially unconstitutional for several reasons:

1. **Economic Burden:** Hawaii is already facing significant economic challenges, including shortfalls due to federal funding cuts. We simply cannot afford to take on the additional financial burden of providing universal vaccines.
2. **Constitutional Concerns:** While the government has some authority to implement public health measures, mandating vaccines or forcing taxpayers to fund them for others raises serious constitutional questions. The Supreme Court has held that individual liberty must be balanced against state authority in matters of public health.
3. **Personal Medical Decisions:** Requiring taxpayers to fund vaccines for others infringes on personal medical autonomy and decision-making. The Constitution protects individuals' rights to make their own healthcare choices.
4. **Specific Vaccine Concerns:** I have particular reservations about funding mRNA platform gene-based vaccines, which are still relatively new and may carry unknown long-term risks.
5. **State vs. Federal Authority:** This bill may overstep the bounds of state authority and infringe on areas that should be left to individual choice or federal regulation.

I urge you to reconsider this bill and focus instead on more pressing economic issues facing our state. We need to prioritize fiscal responsibility and protect individual liberties.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Umiamaka

March 13, 2025

To: Hawaii's House Health Committee

From: Cheryl Toyofuku

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1434 relating to Universal Immunization Funding Program  
Scheduled Health Committee Hearing on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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.
2. Establishing a special fund to purchase vaccines for future use appears inappropriate as it would impose a new charge on health insurers and health plans. This will result in higher health premiums for policy holders.
3. As stated on Section 321 Assessments (e) "The director may determine an interim assessment for new immunizations or public health emergencies and shall calculate a supplemental interim assessment...". 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.
4. Inserting legal immunity for the Department of Health with no liability in managing and operating the Universal Immunization Funding Program is very concerning and may lead to unethical and questionable policies with possible vaccine mandates.
5. Funds should be allocated instead towards healthier programs and lifestyles that build natural immunity which truly benefit the people of Hawaii. Funding 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 Health Committee.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 2:03:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose.

This program will be funded with taxpayer's money, further burdening Hawaii citizens with higher cost of living.

Also this bill relieves DoH, independant contractors, and employees of any liablilities relating to this program. Where's the incentive to care about the effects and safety of the vaccines administered if the people involved with it aren't held liable?

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 2:14:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Bareng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Opposition to SB1434 - Universal Vaccine Funding Program**

**Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members,**

**My name is Donna Bareng, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB1434, which proposes a Universal Vaccine Funding Program financed by taxpayer dollars. While I understand the intention behind this bill is to promote public health, I have significant concerns about the program’s structure, accountability, and the use of public funds.**

**First and foremost, I strongly oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to finance the distribution of immunizations through this program. Taxpayers should not be forced to fund a program that provides vaccines without clear evidence of oversight, efficacy, and public accountability. If we are going to allocate our hard-earned tax dollars to such an initiative, it is essential that the program be transparent, accountable, and ensure that the funds are being used effectively to protect public health.**

**Additionally, I am deeply concerned that the Department of Health and the independent contractors operating under this program would not be held liable for any actions taken during the operation of the vaccine distribution. Without liability for potential adverse effects or operational failures, there is a significant risk of harm to individuals who may receive vaccinations under this program. This lack of accountability undermines public trust and raises the possibility of negligence without any recourse for those affected.**

**The absence of liability protection for contractors and the Department of Health raises important questions about the safety and ethical standards of the program. We should ensure that any public health initiative operates with the highest degree of responsibility and safeguards to protect the individuals it serves. The public deserves assurance that there is a system in place to address any potential harm that could result from the program’s implementation.**

**Rather than relying on an open-ended, tax-funded program without proper oversight and accountability, I believe that any vaccine distribution should prioritize transparency, choice, and informed consent, while also ensuring that there is appropriate oversight to ensure the safety of individuals involved.**

**I urge this committee to reconsider the passage of SB1434 and to take a closer look at the potential risks and lack of accountability that come with this bill. We must ensure that any health initiative prioritizes public safety, individual rights, and transparency in its funding and operation.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 3:24:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE SB1434 for several reasons:

Special fund financing is NOT sound fiscal policy according to the 1989 Tax Review Com.

Tax Foundation of HI says establishing this special fund is inappropriate & unjustified!!!

How many people can't afford shots, & do they even want them? NO Freedom of Choice-

Unconstitutional. Majority of taxpayers should not foot the bill for the "vulnerable few"!!!

This program is Not about health, but Big Pharma wealth, and Govt. Greed/Power/Control

Cheap, Healthy alternative: Free vitamins & anti-viral meds like Ivermectin & HCQ!!!

STOP this SCAM program and VOTE NO to SB1434!!!

Get on the Right path or Face God's Wrath if you mistreat & harm His children!!!

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:42:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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

Makiki

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:47:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because having access to vaccines is important.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:50:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am opposed to using our tax payer dollars to fund vaccines that are not proven to be safe and free of injuries. Please vote no.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:01:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose my tax dollars being used for promotion or distribution of this failed, injurious system until the following are put into place:

Restore manufacturer liability

Do proper INERT placebo, long-term safety testing

Offer TRUE informed consent

Fix the VAERS system

Do a vaxxed vs unvaxxed study

Pull the deadly mRNA jabs

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:05:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We want the state to be audited at this point. How many times have we tried to shut this down and it keep coming up. My body my choice as the dems say. Your days in office are numbered, DOGE will come.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:22:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1434.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:24:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo to the Committee, Initiatives that ensure public health benefit us all. As a mother of two and a citizen of Hawai'i, I am concerned about community health because of the direct link between community health and individual health, especially regarding vaccines. We must do as much as possible to ensure our communities are vaccinated and healthy. Ensuring that all families have access to vaccines is critical to the health of the wider community, to my children, and to yours. Please pass this measure. April Ching

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 7:58:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am opposed because this bill is ridiculous. I'm being forced to be injected with vaccines I don't agree with, some of which have been proven to cause significant health problems and death. Should I experience these health problems, the ones accountable for forcing me to be injected suffer no consequence. If I die, they literally get away with murder. And I have to pay for it with my tax dollars. No thank you.

This bill imposes on my FREEDOM to CHOOSE. This bill threatens religious FREEDOM. This bill threatens the health of some. Passing this bill tells the people that you, the elected officials who represent THE VOICE of the PEOPLE, truly don't care about the people. Representing our voice means talking to and LISTENING to what EVERYONE chooses. Not just the voices of those who agree with you.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:32:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha my name is Dr Lindsey Heathcock. As a pediatrician, I strongly support this bill which would help increase vaccination in our state. Our vaccination rates are dangerously low especially on the neighbor islands, making us vulnerable for disease outbreak. Passing this bill would help providers stock their clinics with vaccines with less cost and waste. Please support this bill.

Mahalo.

Dr Heathcock

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:42:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a pediatrician on Oahu and I am concerned about the possibility of Medicaid/Vaccines for Children not being adequately funded thereby limiting access to vaccines for the children in Hawaii. Having a state vaccine purchasing program could help.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:48:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a pediatric hospitalist, 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. It is all the more important to have state-level protections that ensure access to vaccines when dangerous diseases like measles are spreading on the continent. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for this bill.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:49:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, those who are responsible for the Health of Hawaii's children,

The companion bill HB1118 failed in The House. We do not want this governmental over reach.

How can you take over the rights of a child's physical body by determining they should have vaccinations even if their parents don't agree?

Even if a parent pays for the 'privacy' of a private school for their children, you still invade their rights.

You would place the States interest higher than that of God and the parents religious values that the child is raised with?

Therefore, you are demanding that parents do not provide education for their children if they do not want their offspring to receive injections, which could prove potentially Toxic, because you decree it!

We will really be watching this and we will know who is voting for and against the governor's bill! If we must, we will take you to court for every dime we can to get for damages because instead of being productive, we have to spend our time defending our rights, and our children's bodily safety!

Apelila Lee

3/13/2025

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.

(<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/resources/reports/immunization-examination-requirements/>)

I am concerned about many types of outbreaks but none more so than measles. Herd immunity to prevent measles requires immunization rates >94% and I just mentioned that Maui has many pockets immunized at only 35%. (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p1123-measles-threat.html>)

Consider the damage covid did to the world. Covid can survive in air for around 14 minutes but measles lives for around 2 hours and infects at extremely high rates. (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/measles>, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/14/health/coronavirus-infections.html> )

Covid's isolation time is 5 days. Measles' isolation period is up to 21 days which would mean so much missed work and school for families.

(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/Measles-Quicksheet.pdf>)

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 here 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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:00:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I firmly believe in vaccines and it should be readily available. In the long term, it will help reduce costs for patients, families, and doctors with less hospitalizations and outbreaks.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:01:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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 important healthcare measure to protect our keiki and their mothers.

Thank you.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:01:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Increasing access to vaccines and decreasing purchasing costs benefits patients, families and physicians in our communities. I strongly support this bill.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:16:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose sb1434!!

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:49:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Our hard earned tax dollars will finance the distribution immunizations free of charge to qualifying healthcare proviers.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:56:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:58:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:24:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:27:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Increasing access and decreasing cost of vaccines will be helpful for our community

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:28:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Increasing access and decreasing the cost of vaccines will help our community

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:59:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is unconstitutional, will not hold up in court, and wastes time, money, and effort. Just stop it. Leave people alone.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 11:45:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

No to this bill for universal immunization funding.

taxpayer dollars should no be used to fund vaccines.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 12:19:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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 bad bill.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 1:15:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1434. Chanara Richmond HD42.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 2:18:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I do not support our government making a fund to inject people with bioweapons called vaccines.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 3:52:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristyn Nishimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my **SUPPORT** for SB1434 SD1. As a pediatrician, I believe that this legislation is a crucial step toward improving community health in Hawai‘i.

The proposed measures in SB1434 SD1 will enhance access to critical immunizations across the state for ALL families and keiki, regardless of their insurance or economic status, reducing health disparities, and promoting overall community public health.

While fortunately we have not had a serious outbreak of a vaccine preventable illness in Hawai‘i recently, we are not immune from them as recent outbreaks on the continental United States have shown us. In addition, given our location in the middle of the Pacific, a serious outbreak would put a strain on our already limited health care resources. By providing broader and more equitable immunization coverage, and thus higher immunization rates and stronger herd immunity, we would be able to protect our vulnerable population such as our young keiki, kūpuna, and medically vulnerable individuals. This would allow our keiki to continue to attend school and their parents (and grandparents) to go to work.

In addition, SB1434 SD1 would also help reduce administrative and financial burden on physicians and other health care providers, and allow us to focus on what we enjoy the most - taking care of our patients.

I respectfully urge you to **SUPPORT** SB1434 SD1, which I am confident will make a significant, positive difference in the lives of ALL those in our Hawai‘i community. I appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kristyn Nishimoto, MD

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 3:55:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Dear Chairman Takayama, Vice Chairwoman Keohokapu-Leei, And Committee Members,**

**RE. Testimony in Support of SB 1434 SD1**

**My name is Brendan Joanou and I am a graduate student at the UH Manoa Thompson School of Social Work. The views I express here are my own and do not necessarily reflect the stance of the larger School and University. I am testifying in support of SB 1434 which will establish the Universal Immunization Funding Program.**

**Many studies have shown that high rates of vaccination are a key component of maintaining public health in communities. Being able to receive vaccinations is also crucial to safeguarding medically vulnerable individuals, such as our keiki, kupuna, and those with other conditions. We saw the importance of such medicine during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Taking steps to ensure everyone is able to receive such treatment benefits everyone.**

**For these reasons I am testifying in support of SB 1434 SD1, as it is in the best interest of keeping the people of Hawaii healthy.**

**Mahalo for your consideration,**

**Brendan Joanou**



**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:13:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a community pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1115, 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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:01:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maren Cantrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong opposition to SB1434, that is seeking to establish a state-run Universal Immunization Funding Program. We as citizens know the importance of public health.

However, this bill represents an intention of unnecessary expansion of government power that impedes individual medical freedom. Also changes the economic market for supply negatively and leaves the financial burdens on businesses and consumers.

This bill would also grant unchecked authority to the Hawai‘i Department of Health as an outside fund. Which would leave the DOH in control of vaccine procurement and distribution thus setting an unfavorable precedent for government manipulation into personal medical decisions. Supporters claim the bill only facilitates vaccine availability. The problem is that the fund mandates financial participation from private insurers and self- insured businesses. Medical decisions, including immunizations, should remain personal choices made between individuals and their healthcare providers.

The funding provided by insurers and self-insured businesses will in time increase healthcare costs which would lead to higher insurance premiums for families and small businesses. As a small business owner we already pay enough to medically insure our employees. On top of that, with the current conversation surrounding vaccines safety and efficacy admittedly not performed by the pharmaceutical giants, I would hesitate to offer my tax dollars to take advantage of our elders, vulnerable populations and our lower socioeconomic community members. Our public health department could use monies to teach preventative habits to help curb disease, especially like Covid and the flu. The last four years were plagued with fear and lies from our Hawaii government to make a lot of money off of our citizens.

This legislation opens the door for future government overreach. Today, it is about state-funded universal immunization procurement; tomorrow, it could lead to coercive unlawful mandates on individuals or businesses like 2020-2022. SB1434 gives too broad of discretion to the DOH to expand the list of required vaccines without legislative oversight. Hawaii's government officials have already eroded public trust. This bill is setting a dangerous precedent for unchecked government authority in medical decision-making.

Public health initiatives should not come at the cost of personal freedom, economic stability, and market competition. This bill is an unnecessary attempt at government intervention that will bring up more problems than will be solved by it.

I urge the committee to reject SB1434 and instead support policies that defend medical choice, promote economic freedom, and encourage public health challenges to be solved by the free market.

Respectfully,

Maren Cantrell

concerned citizen, mother, Ama & RN

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:37:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am against this bill due to:

1. Lack of transparency for SB1434
2. No spending cap or projected budget with clear funding structure: past government projects such as Honolulu Rail Project was estimated at \$5.2 billion but has now ballooned to over \$12.4 billion with no end in sight. If SB1434 passes without strict financial accountability, Hawai'i taxpayers could end up covering the cost in the future when the funding runs out.
3. Insurance Companies don't absorb costs, they would just pass them down to consumers. By forcing insurance companies to contribute to this fund, this bill could result in higher premiums for families already struggling with the cost of living in Hawai'i. If the state truly believes in funding this program, there should be clear cost projections and public oversight to prevent unnecessary financial strain on Hawai'i residents.
4. This bill would give the Department of Health Too Much Power! With No Public Input

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 11:12:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1434.Josh Green wants to vax everyone in hawaii starting with the children.He don't care if they get vaccine injured or die.He got payed thousands by Pfizer.He wants money and is a puppet for the World Economic Forum.Hes as evil as they get.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 11:20:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators:

I have a big concern with this bill, so I am opposed to SB 1434. First of all, this is giving the Department of Health too much power. We saw what happened with Covid-19. People's lives were altered when government shut down schools, events, beaches, small businesses, etc. And now that it is pass, we know that all that panic was not necessary. Please do not take away the freedom to choose in people's health. Let the people decide what is best for their own bodies.

To: **Hawaii State Legislature**

March 13, 2025

From: **Commissioner Melendrez**

Subject: **Testimony in opposition to SB1434**

**Dear Honorable Legislators:**

I am Commissioner Melendrez, an Officer of City and County of Honolulu, but I provide this testimony as a single citizen, not speaking for the City and County

Thank you for your service to the people of Hawaii, we so appreciate the long hours and endless energy you put forth for your constituency.

**In review of SB 1434, I am unable to support this measure and testify in Opposition. Due to the Following:**

**1. No Spending Cap, No Budget Transparency** SB1434 creates a **Universal Immunization Purchase Special Fund to buy vaccines in bulk and distribute them for free to healthcare providers.** However, the bill does not include a spending cap, projected budget, or clear funding structure for how much insurance providers will be forced to contribute. History has shown us how government projects with no clear financial oversight cost overruns are common which can exasperate the State budget.

**2. Higher long term insurance premium costs.** Insurance Companies will pass costs to policyholders SB1434 claims to be "not taxpayer-funded", but insurance companies will not absorb costs, they pass costs to the policy holders. By forcing insurance companies to contribute to this fund, this bill could result in higher premiums for all.

**3. Government Over-reach.** This bill could give the Department of Health, uncontrolled authority to place vaccines before the public without legislative approvals. Without public input, this bill gives the Department of Health (DOH) full authority to decide which vaccines are included in the program, without public transparency or input. SB1434 states that any FDA approved vaccine can be added to the program, which includes mRNA vaccines which can harm human genetic structures and future experimental vaccines could be included without any legislative oversight.

**4. No Accountability, Legal Immunity:** One of the biggest red flags in SB1434 is that it grants legal immunity to the Department of Health, independent contractors, and employees involved in running this program. If something goes wrong—such as errors in distribution, administration, or unforeseen adverse effects—nobody can be held accountable. We have seen in the past when this type of legislature in Hawaii has caused substantial harm to our families.

**5. No Need for this bill, existing programs are already in place to provide these services.** Vaccines for Children, a federally funded program that provides free vaccines for eligible children. Instead of creating an entirely new funding system with uncapped costs, why not expand existing programs that are already in place? SB1434 is being marketed as a solution, but it presents more risks than benefits it lacks financial transparency and fiduciary responsibility.

Thank you

Commissioner Melendrez  
Residence: Mililani, Hawaii 96789  
Email: [sjm.hnl@gmail.com](mailto:sjm.hnl@gmail.com)

**Telephone: 808.693.6301**

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 11:56:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I oppose our hard earned tax dollars spent on unfounded potentially injurious vaccine/immunization.

Our hard earned tax dollars SHOULD BE spent on

1. educating the population on eating healthy and good hygiene
2. pursuing a bill to make all the pharmaceutical industries liable for all injuries including death.
3. Do a complete audit on government waste and fraud.

IN OPPOSITION, VOTE NO.

dont waste our kala!

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 1:37:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Health Committee,

Please vote No on SB 1434. I strongly oppose this bill for many reasons.

First of all, Hawaii does not have a shortage of ways to get free immunizations. As a mother, I have bombarded with letters pressuring me to get the free vaccines. I have never heard of any parents ever having difficulty getting the vaccines they want for their child. We do not need more funding for vaccines!

I also oppose this bill because my family's income is already heavily taxed. I do not want our hard earned tax money going to vaccines that we will never get because they are against our religion. I have also witnessed vaccine injured children and their daily struggles and I do not want my hard earned money going to vaccines injuring children.

The most important reason why I oppose this bill is the danger that it threatens to our medical freedom for vaccine choice. I question the intentions of this bill and it seems to me like Governor Josh Green has an agenda to mass vaccinate Hawaii residents for pharmaceutical profits. The Hawaii mumps outbreak a few years ago was a result of vaccine failure, not the failure to vaccinate. Our tax money paid for the MMR to fail in preventing a mumps outbreak among the vaccinated. I strongly oppose our tax money going to providing vaccines that are "unavoidably unsafe" and often ineffective.

Please vote No on SB 1434.

Mahalo, Christina Jung

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 2:19:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 7:32:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SHIRLEY Y. KINOSHITA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**OPPOSE SB1434 SD1**

We need to STOP COPYING OTHER STATES and make sure what is decided as laws for the State of Hawaii fit OUR STATE and has **PUBLIC INPUT from our people and DUE DILIGENCE FROM LAWMAKERS!**

**Existing Programs Already Provide Vaccine Access. Hawai‘i already has Vaccines for Children, a federally funded program that provides free vaccines for eligible children.** Instead of creating an entirely new funding system with uncapped costs, why not expand existing programs that are already in place? SB1434 is being marketed as a solution, but it presents more risks than benefits. It lacks financial transparency, gives too much unchecked power to the DOH, protects those running it from accountability, and could result in increased costs for insurance policyholders.

... The people of Hawai‘i deserve clear oversight, accountability, and a say in how public health programs are funded and managed.

Shirley Y. Kinoshita, (Individual Constituent)

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 7:45:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is an open pocket at the expense of the tax payers and there is no accountability if anything goes wrong with it. We the people need to be able to make these decisions not some bureaucratic organizations! We do not want to pay for mRNA vaccines for all!

Terrible bill if passed.

I say no

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 8:43:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill has several concerning flaws which is why I don't support this bill

First, this bill has no spending cap, projected budget or funding mechanism, lacks transparency, and oversight. This type of structure has caused the rail's cost to spiral out of control.

Second, this bill will cause health insurance rates to increase as insurance companies will pass these additional costs onto customers increasing the cost of living in Hawaii which is already causing people to flee the state for financially friendlier states. Currently the state is dealing with the Condo insurance crisis and if this bill passes it could cause the next insurance crisis.

Third, this bill will give the DOH too much unchecked power to add FDA approved mRNA or other experimental vaccines to the list without legislative oversight. Hawaii residents should have the right to choose when it comes to their medical decisions. Hawaii has always sided with the rallying cry "my body my choice." Hawaii should stand for people's basic rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

Fourth, this bill gives legal immunity to the Department of Health, independent contractors and employees for any adverse consequences related to implementing this program. If the program is safe why does it need legal protection?

Fifth, Hawaii already has a federally funded program for vaccines and eligible children; therefore, there is no need to create an entirely new program and funding system with no cap on cost, lacks financial transparency, gives too much unchecked power to the Department of Health, and has no financial accountability for any injuries sustained by the public.

This bill should be killed and if necessary just expand on programs that already exist. This is a more common sense approach to a problem that doesn't exist.

With respect

Scott Fernandez



**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 9:13:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Reducing vaccine costs and increasing access support public health goals, improve practice sustainability, and ensure that more patients receive essential immunizations. Lower costs and increased access reduce financial barriers, leading to higher vaccination rates. This is particularly important for adult vaccinations, where financial barriers are a significant issue. Higher vaccination rates contribute to herd immunity, reducing the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. This benefits the broader community by decreasing the spread of infections and protecting vulnerable populations who cannot be vaccinated

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 9:55:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I respectfully ask you to OPPOSE this bill. An individual should be able to decide what they put in their own body especially if there's risk involved. If there's a health risk caused by this immunization, the one who suffers the most are the individuals who are inoculated by this and not the one who pushes this bill. It is a human right to be able to choose what we put in our body.

I hope and pray that you will hear our plea.

Sincerely,

Marilou Deroos

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 9:55:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE!!!

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 10:14:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as one of your constituents and as a medical provider in the state of Hawaii. This broadening of the definition of vaccine is dangerous, and saying that because the director says that it is a vaccine makes it a vaccine is not "science". There is never a need for mandating that anything created to be administered to everyone and also there is nothing in God's creation that is of the benefit of everyone. I oppose the auditing of providers offices and the mandating of companies with 2 or more employees to be mandated to offer government issues insurance. The overwhelming regulation of small businesses and the burden that places on them is detrimental to their ability to live the American dream and their pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I oppose every single part of this bill and it should be dismissed with prejudice and never allowed to have something similar to be brought up in the state legislature again.

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 10:32:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madeleine D Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill. All these vaccinations are dangerous and unnecessary and they should be eliminated. JFK Jr will put a stop to this and we need to heed what he has to say. Not only that, but we shouldn't have to finance it! What a waste of our tax dollars!!!

**SB-1434-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 10:44:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/14/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a freedom loving citizen I demand that this bill which is so offensive to human liberty and freedom be stricken and removed. As a citizen with an exceptional memory who will vote against you come reelection time, if you vote for this tyrannical measure, I urge you strongly to vote NO. Vote NO. Vote NO.

im not interested in hearing about your polemical and nonsensical arguments on why you want this; we are the voters who put you in office and we can remove you. We the people say NO so you must honor your oath and vote NO.

Thank you.