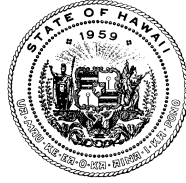


SB2334

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HEALTH SCREENINGS.
Report Title:	Vision and Hearing Screening Program; Department of Health; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent position within the department of health to implement a systematic vision and hearing program and other operating expenses of the program.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	BAKER, ESPERO, GREEN, INOUYE, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, RUDERMAN, English, Gabbard, Riviere, Taniguchi



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2334
RELATING TO HEALTH SCREENINGS**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 2, 2016 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The bill proposes a general fund appropriation for operating expenses and
2 one full-time position within the Department of Health (DOH) to implement a systematic hearing
3 and vision program.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department is providing comments on this bill. The DOH
5 appreciates the intent of the bill but defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request and DOH
6 appropriations and personnel priorities.

7 Hearing and vision are critical to speech and language development, communication, and
8 learning. Hearing and vision screening helps to identify children with a hearing or vision deficit
9 who were not identified at birth, lost to follow-up, or acquired the loss later.

10 DOH is mandated by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §321-101 to conduct a systematic
11 hearing and vision program for school children. The former DOH School Health Services
12 Branch/Hearing and Vision Program, which provided statewide screening and follow-up, was
13 established in 1978, but was discontinued in 1995 due to budget reductions and with the
14 assumption that primary care providers will do the hearing and vision screening.

15 Currently, hearing and vision screening is conducted in preschools and schools through
16 partnerships with community organizations. Each organization functions independently by
17 individually contacting schools, setting its own screening protocol and standards, and providing
18 its own volunteer screeners. Hearing and vision screening is available to only select schools and
19 grades.

20 There is a current need for school/community screening that is systematic, follows a
21 standardized screening protocol, uses age-appropriate methods, and is conducted by trained

1 screeners. Issues include: screener training and competency to provide quality screening,
2 supervision of hearing screeners, standard protocols, data collection to demonstrate outcomes,
3 and, for a child that fails screening, appropriate follow-up that involves the child's vision and
4 medical home. For significant vision or hearing deficit, consultation with school personnel is
5 needed to ensure that the child's educational needs are met.

6 To address some of these concerns, in 2015 the DOH formed the Vision Screening Task
7 Force. Members include DOH, Department of Education, University of Hawaii School of
8 Nursing, medical professionals, and community organizations. Its purpose is to develop
9 statewide evidenced-based vision screening protocols and standards for children ages 3 to 18
10 years and to share data, through collaboration and partnership.

11 Establishing a position within the DOH will support developing a system to assure that
12 all preschool and school-age children have screening for hearing and vision; children who fail
13 screening have needed follow-up and tracking to ensure that children receive evaluation,
14 diagnosis, and medical intervention/treatment; screeners are trained; hearing screeners are
15 supervised by an audiologist or nurse; standard protocols and methods are used; and statewide
16 data are collected and analyzed. Planning will involve state and community partners.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/02/2016

Time: 08:30 AM

Location: 229

Committee: Senate Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2334 RELATING TO HEALTH SCREENINGS.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SB 2334 to ensure Hawaii's keiki are healthy and ready to learn. Respectfully, the Department defers to Department of Health on this measure regarding its operational program needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair

Testimony on Senate Bill 2334

Relating to Health Screenings

Submitted by Dustin Stevens, Public Affairs and Policy Director

February 2, 2016, 8:30 a.m., Room 229

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2334, which seeks to create a position within the Department of Health to implement a systemic vision and hearing program in Hawaii.

Research has shown that most undetected or undiagnosed vision issues can become permanent if untreated before age six. Further, it has also been shown that 80% of a child's learning is obtained visually, and that those students unable to keep pace in their early years have a much higher likelihood of being held back or dropping out of school altogether.

In 1992, recognizing these statistics, as well as the importance of proper hearing, the state established a systemic hearing and vision program to detect and identify deficiencies in school-aged children. Due to cuts, the program was unable to be sustained, creating a complete dearth of these necessary services in many communities.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories.

This bill speaks to several critical determinants by looking to shore up access to care issues, as well improve the health and educational opportunities for children in the state.

For these reasons we support Senate Bill 2334 and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Roger Christian Ede, O.D.
94-050 Farrington Highway
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
(808) 677-1544

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

February 1, 2016

SB 2334 Relating to Health Screenings
Testimony for Support (in Principal)

Dear Chair Rosalyn Baker and Vice Chair Michelle Kidani,

On behalf of the Hawaii Optometric Association (HOA), I am presenting this testimony in support of funding HRS Title 9 321-101 Systematic Hearing and Vision Program with modifications.

The Department of Health (DOH) successfully conducted hearing and vision screening throughout the State of Hawaii from 1978 through 1995. Teams of audiologists, audiometric technicians and certified vision screeners provided this vital service. The DOH provided the following **List of Services**:

1. Purchased and maintained audiometric equipment
2. Purchased and maintained vision screening charts
3. Established guidelines and criteria for pass/fail
4. Provided training to audiometric technicians
5. Travelled to schools throughout the state to conduct the screenings
6. Administered hearing and vision screening
7. Sent referral cards to parents for children who failed the vision screening. These notices recommended parents to take their child to an optometrist or ophthalmologist for a complete eye examination.
8. Parents who did not return the card to the DOH received a call from a DOH staff member to complete and return the referral card
9. Kept detailed statistics regarding the condition found treatment information.
10. Maintained a statewide database of children screened

In 1995, due to fiscal restraints, the State's Systematic Hearing and Vision Program was defunded. At that time the annual budget for Hearing and Vision Screening was approximately \$500,000.00.

Since 1995 vision and hearing screening have been conducted by lay volunteer organizations such as District 50 Lions, District 50 Rotary, private non-profit organizations such as Project Vision Hawaii, Half-Helen Foundation, Parents and Children Together (PACT), Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii, Hawaii Optometric Association, "Tutu and Me" (Partners in Development), the University of Hawaii, and public health nurses within DOH.

Many of these organizations have developed their own means and methods to accomplish Hearing and Vision Screening. In addition to the diversity of methods used (audiometric instruments, vision screening charts, and photo-screener), not all organizations follow the same screening protocols, or referral criteria. Record keeping and data analysis also varies from organization to organization.

In 2008 the DOH reported, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 70, H.D. 1 its findings of the Screening Task Force that met in 2006 and 2007. Summary comments included, in part, the following:

Further action needed: Hearing and vision screening and follow-up data for preschool and school aged children indicate a need for further improvement. Approaches to promote improve vision and/or hearing screening and follow-up include:

- School vision and/or hearing screening program with community partnership.
- Community-initiated preschool and school vision screening.
- Supporting screening and follow-up by primary care providers.
- Family and community education about vision and/or hearing screening and follow-up.

Under the direction of Patricia Heu, M.D., MPH, Dale Matsumoto-Oi, Hearing Program Coordinator for the DOH, formed a Vision Screening Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force was to update and revise Hawaii's vision screening protocols to reflect current best practices and evidenced-based methodologies. Vision screenings will follow recommendations of nationally recognized vision and medical organizations. The Task Force has met several times over the past two years to accomplish this goal.

Our local community volunteer organizations are willing to partner with the State to provide Hearing and Vision Screening. District 50 Lions have led the way in vision screening by purchasing, nine (9) hand-held photo-screener at a cost of \$6,000.00 each. These instrument based screeners are used to screen children ages 36 to 60 months. Lions and Rotarians also assist with screening grades K, 1, 3, and 5 by providing approved vision acuity charts (Sloan, HOTV, Lea Symbols).

To fully fund HRS 321-101 using only DOH staff, and purchase/maintain audiometric equipment and vision screening charts/equipment it could cost the State of Hawaii over \$1.1 million per year. (See attached Advertiser article dated January 25, 2008).

By partnering with community lay volunteer and non-profit organizations, the DOH should be able to significantly reduce the overall annual program cost. The technological advances in vision screening require that we all partner together to provide the current best, evidenced-based screening methods that are available.

The number one concern expressed in Task Force meetings is not having a mechanism in place to follow up on children who are referred for professional evaluation after failing a hearing or vision screening. This is where funding for staff to accomplish items seven (7) through ten (10) in the DOH **List of Services** would be most beneficial. Adequate funding should include salaries for staffing this effort.

HOA fully supports the reinstatement of a vision screening program by funding HRS 321-101. Research clearly validates the need to identify early and ameliorate any vision deficiencies in order to optimize learning in childhood. A vision screening program is in alignment with Hawaii's efforts to meet Common Core Standards. HOA stands ready to assist the State in this most worthy endeavor.

Respectfully yours,

Roger Christian Ede, O.D.

Past President
Hawaii Optometric Association

Attachments:

- HRS 321-101
- Advertiser Article January 25, 2008

February 1st, 2016

Testimony of Project Vision Hawai'i

Honorable Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Honorable Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani
Honorable Members of the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee

Project Vision Hawai'i submits testimony in strong support of SB 2334.

1.5 million kids nationwide lack the glasses they need to see the board, read a book, study math or participate in class. Over 12,000 of them live in low-income communities of Hawai'i, where a good education may be their only pathway out of poverty. While 80% of learning in early grades is visual, studies indicate 95% of incoming first graders who need glasses do not have them. The problem is access; for a variety of reasons, kids in low-income areas don't often make it to the optometrist. Students with uncorrected vision problems often avoid reading, suffer headaches, and have trouble focusing on class discussions. These symptoms make affected children less likely to reach the important educational milestone of reading proficiency by the end of third grade, which makes them more likely to fall behind and drop out of school. The problem is particularly prevalent in low-income areas of the Big Island. According to key stakeholders interviewed for the 2013 Healthcare Association of Hawai'i's Hawai'i County Community Health Needs Assessment: "Children do not have screenings for even basic dental and vision, and these are so often barriers to doing well in school." (Page 24)

This bill is written to restore this critical and inexpensive program to provide vision and hearing screening that can not only change a child's academic performance now, but further change the course of a child's life and society at large. Research in the states that have consistently offered vision screenings have demonstrated a clear return on investment for this services that equals a savings of ***\$162 in costs for every \$1 spent on prevention through screenings, for each child who is trying to attend school while visually impaired. For hearing screenings the return on investment is \$112 to every \$1 spent.***

This bill would create an FTE committed to the mission of better vision for Hawai'i. They would be a liaison, ombudsman, diplomat if you will, for vision and hearing screenings among DOE, DOH and already existing community organizations/volunteers. This individual could help recommend best practice protocols based on guidance from experts (with formation of a scientific advisory board), create systems that would facilitate consistent record keeping and follow up (working with DOE, community orgs and UH Hawai'i Keiki), as well as conduct surveillance so that we are not duplicating services. We hope you will consider supporting this effort for better vision.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Elizabeth "Annie" Valentin, MPH
(Annie Hiller)



Executive Director
PROJECT VISION HAWAII
PO Box 23212
Honolulu, HI 96823
(808)-282-2265
www.projectvisionhawaii.org

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
February 2, 2016
8:30 am
Conference Room 229

Re: SB 2334 Relating to Health Screenings

Chair, Vice-Chair, and committee members thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2334 relating to health screenings.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports the appropriation of funds to retain personnel within the Department of Health to implement a systematic vision and hearing program for the children of Hawaii and to cover operating expenses for the program.

Nationwide, 1.5 million children lack the glasses they need to see the board, read a book, study math or participate in class, with over 12,000 of these children residing in low income communities of Hawaii. For these low income children, one of the greatest challenges is gaining access to vision care professionals. Students with uncorrected vision problems often avoid reading, suffer headaches, and have trouble focusing on class discussions. Unfortunately, these symptoms prevent affected children from reaching the important educational milestone of reading proficiency by the end of third grade, which makes them more likely to fall behind and drop out of school.

To reduce health disparities among Hawaii's children, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii proudly supported Project Vision's Better Vision for Keiki program in 2015, which sponsors preventive vision, hearing and BMI screenings to needy children at high-risk preschool and elementary schools across the State. Since 2012, more than 8,000 children statewide have benefited from Project Vision screenings.

Today, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii continues to collaborate with leading community organizations in a joint effort to create a culture of health and wellness for Hawaii's children.

Thank you for your consideration.



KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES

**2239 N. SCHOOL STREET ◆ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819 ◆ TEL: 808-791-9400 ◆ FAX:
808-848-0979 ◆ www.kkv.net**

Honorable Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker
Honorable Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani
Honorable Members of the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee

Testimony on Senate Bill 2334

Submitted by David Derauf MD MPH
Kokua Kalihi Valley

February 2, 2016,

This bill is written to restore this critical and inexpensive program to provide vision and hearing screening that can not only change a child's academic performance now, but further change the course of a child's life and society at large. Research in the states that have consistently offered vision screenings have demonstrated a clear return on investment for these services that equals a savings of \$162 in costs for every \$1 spent on prevention through screenings.

This bill would create an FTE at the Department of Health committed to the mission of better vision for Hawai'i. This individual could help recommend best practice protocols based on guidance from experts (with formation of a scientific advisory board), create systems that would facilitate consistent record keeping and follow up (working with DOE, community orgs and UH Hawai'i Keiki), as well as conduct surveillance so that we are not duplicating services. We hope you will consider supporting this effort for better vision.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

David D Derauf MD MPH

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: anne.chipchase@wellcare.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2334 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016 11:34:22 AM

SB2334

Submitted on: 1/28/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Chipchase	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Vision is irreplaceable. We must do everything to protect the vision of all in Hawai'i.

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Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 7:02:12 PM

SB2334

Submitted on: 1/27/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:56:12 AM

SB2334

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Humphry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB2334

Submitted on: 1/29/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maryellen Markley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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