



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 31, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

by
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
and
Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1440 HD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1440, HD1.

Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn (Hawai'i Keiki), a program of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing (UH Mānoa Nursing), is partnering with the Department of Education (DOE) to achieve student, school, and system success by building school nursing services. This effort is a safety net partnership to increase access to healthcare for a vulnerable population – pre-kindergarten to high school keiki – by providing school health nursing and primary care services, when needed, in the public schools. The goal is to build a fiscally sustainable school health program using public funding, cost recovery, and community engagement. Further, we know that academic success leads to economic achievement - the major determinant of a healthy population.

Through the partnership of two sister public agencies - the DOE and UH Mānoa Nursing - we will bring health care to the setting where children spend 90% of their day - the public schools can become the gateway to health for children, their families and the school teachers and staff.

The Hawai'i Keiki Program uses school nurses and advanced practice nurse practitioners (APRNs) to provide evidence based school health services to ensure screening for common conditions, up to date immunizations, and community care providers to manage chronic conditions that impact readiness to learn. Further, the program partners with both state agencies and the health care delivery sector to forge innovative partnerships to support building a robust system to improve health and achievement of students, schools, and communities.

Since our launch in July 2014 - just eight months ago - Hawai'i Keiki nurses in the five complex areas have partnered with superintendents, principals, and teachers to create school health policies, integrated school wellness planning, participated in Hawai'i Smiles, developed health content for newsletters and blogs, and enhanced regular communication with Public Health Nursing (PHN) and the DOH.

This bill will expand Hawai'i Keiki from five to all 15 DOE Complex Areas and build the infrastructure needed to develop a sustainable school health program. With initial support from the Hawai'i State Legislature, our goal is to be self-sustaining in two years. We will place a school nurse at each of the complex areas, implement an electronic school health office record in each Complex Area, and train the Hawai'i Keiki Program nurses to obtain national certification

in school nursing. In addition, we will organize undergraduate and graduate student clinical learning opportunities to align with the strategic goals of the DOE and engage our colleagues in the College of Health Sciences and Social Welfare to participate in the program.

We request \$3.5 million per year in the FY 2017-2018 biennium budget. Over this time, Hawai'i Keiki will establish cost recovery with third-party payers, initiate public reimbursement options for school health and primary care services, and initiate student health plan tracking of DOE children. A recent federal policy reversal, long-sought by states and health care advocates, could enable schools to take a lead role in managing chronic childhood diseases and result in the hiring of many more school nurses. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) notified state Medicaid directors in December 2014 that for the first time since 1997, they will allow public schools to receive Medicaid money for health services they provide to eligible students. Our state Medicaid plan allows for billing for some school based services. We believe that, with the support of the Department of Human Services, we can expand billing for services provided in the schools.

In 2014, the state of Massachusetts reported a \$2.20 cost benefit for every \$1 spent on school nursing services¹. In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Howard Tars noted that "By virtue of their training in the medical and educational sectors, school nurses are the best bridges between these sectors. With their feet in both worlds, school nurses understand the occupational culture and jargon of educators as well as the culture and language of the health sector."²

UH Mānoa Nursing is well positioned to build public sector cross agency collaboration to weave the discrete school health efforts into a strong quilt by engaging with the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and DOE schools to:

- Eliminate gaps and reduce redundancies across the many initiatives and funding streams;
- Build partnerships and teamwork among school health and education professionals in the school;
- Build collaboration and enhance communication among public health (DOH), school health (DOE), higher education (University of Hawai'i) and health professionals in the community; and
- Focus efforts on helping students engage in protective, health-enhancing behaviors and avoid risk behaviors.

The legislature is to be applauded for your willingness to invest in the partnership of the DOE and UH Mānoa Nursing to improve student success through improved health screening, monitoring, and management of chronic conditions that impact learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1440 HD1.

¹ Li YanWang, MBA, MA; Mary Vernon-Smiley, MD, MPH; Mary Ann Gapinski, MSN, RN, NCSN; Marie Desisto, RN, MSN; Erin Maughan, PhD, MS, RN, APHN-BC; Anne Sheetz, MPH, RN, NEA-BC. (2014) *JAMA Pediatr.* doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.5441. Published online, May 19, 2014.

² Taras H. School nurses_beyond medications and procedures. 2014) *JAMA Pediatr.* doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.5441 Published online, May 19, 2014.

Tuesday – March 31, 2015 – 9:00 am
Conference Room 211

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Executive Director, Government Relations & Community Partnerships
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Re: HB 1440, HD1 Relating To Education
Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Executive Director of Government Relations & Community Partnerships for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-government employer. It is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I am writing in support of HB 1440, HD1 which appropriates funds for the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready To Learn program. The program builds and enhances school-based health services that provide screening for treatable health conditions, referral to primary care health care and patient-centered medical home services, prevent and control communicable disease and other health problems, and provide emergency care for illness or injury. These services will be delivered through a public-private partnership between the state, federal government and private entities, thus shifting the financial burden away from the Department of Education. The measure would also relieve school leaders and staff of health-related duties by creating a partnership with the University of Hawaii Schools of Nursing and Health Sciences to improve health promotion and disease management.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.





DATE: March 31, 2015

TO: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Robert H. Pantell, MD, Medical Director
The Kapi'olani Child Protection Center and The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 1440, H.D. 1
Relating to Education

I would like to thank the Committees for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Kapi'olani Child Protection Center (the KCPC) and The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (the SATC), a program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, in strong support of House Bill 1440, House Draft 1 (H.B. 1440 H.D. 1).

H.B. 1440 H.D. 1 appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program. Among its various initiatives, this program notably improves children's direct access to high quality health services by making University of Hawai'i-trained nurses available to participant public schools across the state.

I am a member of the Hawai'i American Academy of Pediatrics and have been a pediatrician for more than 40 years. Over the course of my career I have had countless experiences where school nurses played pivotal roles in caring for children and improving their health. They have identified children in need of services; provided on-site urgent care; developed and implemented programs to improve students' health; and participated in immunization efforts to combat measles and other preventable diseases. School nurses are both the medical front line and health care provider of last resort for many children who are otherwise receiving suboptimal care.

There is also a growing body of professional and academic research supporting the effectiveness of school nurses in addressing chronic childhood conditions, ranging from asthma to obesity, and identifying and responding to students' acute or life-threatening health events. Consequently, the shared recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, and the United States Center for Disease Control is that state education and health officials ensure an availability of at least 1 school nurse for every 750 students.

As Medical Director for the KCPC and the SATC, I also believe that school nurses are critically important for another reason: it is well known that most reports of child abuse are made by teachers, counselors, and other school staff. The involvement of school nurses in evaluating suspected child abuse, as medical professionals, improves the accuracy and detail of these reports by allowing schools to better detect, corroborate and confirm evidence of physical and psychological harm. Moreover, school nurses are able to provide timely medical treatment and other support to victims of child abuse, even as a report is being made.

By placing UH-trained nurses into local schools, your support of H.B. 1440 H.D. 1 demonstrates that the State of Hawai'i is committed to the health and wellbeing of its children, and takes a meaningful step towards ensuring that appropriate and necessary health care is immediately available whenever it is needed in a school setting.

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:48 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1440 on Mar 31, 2015 09:00AM*

Categories: Processed

HB1440

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIZABETH A HILLER VALENTIN	PROJECT VISION HAWAII	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HB1440

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desiree Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony in strong support of HB 1440 HD1: Hawaii Keiki. My name is Desiree Yamamoto and I live in Aiea, Hawaii. I don't have kids yet, but I have a wonderful nephew who is 4 years old. Soon he will be enrolling in a Hawaii public school. It is shocking and disappointing to learn that DOE schools do not have a registered nurse on campus. Hawaii is below the national standard of 1 school nurse for every 750 students. I believe that our keiki deserve a school nurse to be there in case of emergencies and to help keep them healthy. Hawaii should meet, if not exceed any national standard that keeps our children healthy. I am in strong support of Hawaii Keiki and the funding needed to put a registered nurse in each of the 15 DOE complex areas. Mahalo, Desiree Yamamoto Aiea, Hawaii

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HB1440

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Reichhardt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of the Hawaii Keiki Program.

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THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
THE SENATE REGULAR SESSION OF 2015
COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS
DATE: March 31, 2015
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: State Capitol, Conference Room 211
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. 1440 HD1, Relating to Education.
Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Senate Committee on
Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB1440 HD1.

My name is Sandra Jordan, I live in Honolulu, and I am retired DOE school
counselor. I am testifying on behalf of myself and I am in strong support of HB
1440 HD1.

Hawai'i is below the national standard of one school nurse for every 750
students. The Hawai'i Keiki Program will improve our students' chances to be
successful in school by working with individual schools to understand and
address local keiki health needs, return time to teachers by addressing student
health concerns and reducing health-related absenteeism, identify and prevent
the spread of communicable diseases and provide referrals for additional
services and emergency care.

I am in strong support of this program and the funding needed to take this
program to Complex Areas, Statewide. Through this bill, the Hawai'i State
Legislature will enable the Hawai'i Keiki Program to expand to place a school
nurse in all 15 complex areas in the State, vastly improving the support and
resources available to our keiki.

Sincerely,
Sandra Jordan
Honolulu

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:31 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: brendonf@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1440 on Mar 31, 2015 09:00AM

HB1440

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendon Friedman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a registered nurse, live in Honolulu and am in strong support of H.B.1440 HD1, Relating to Education. I went through the public schools here in Hawaii and now have three keiki who all went through our public elementary schools. There have been a number of times that a nurse being available would have been extremely helpful for my keiki (and family). The Hawai'i Keiki Program will improve our students' chances to be successful in school by working with individual schools to understand and address local keiki health needs, serve as an expert resource in school health to teachers and principals, reduce health-related absenteeism, identify and prevent the spread of communicable diseases and provide referrals for additional services and emergency care. Through this bill, the Hawai'i State Legislature will enable the Hawai'i Keiki Program to expand to place a school nurse in all 15 complex areas in the State, vastly improving the support and resources available to our keiki. Thank you for your time and favorable consideration of this bill.

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Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Strong Support for HB 1440, HD1, Relating to Education

I am a master's prepared school health nurse working in the Kailua-Kalaheo and the Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani complex areas. I submit testimony in strong support of the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn Program (HK Program), a partnership between the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing (UH Mānoa Nursing). This bill would help to ensure the HK Program continues to support the DOE to achieve student, school, and system success by building school based health services.

Evidence from around the country shows that when a school nurse is present, student attendance improves, as does academic performance. Children spend more time in school (seat time). The HK Program is working at the school level with parents, teachers, and principals to lead the school wellness plan effort, ensure continuity of care for children with chronic conditions, and provide emergency care on site. Further, the nurse is the "school health coordinator" for the implementation of an organized approach to school health. The HK Program helps facilitate health programming in the district and school and between the school and community by offering:

- Increased productivity and efficiency: School nurses allow for other staff to focus on their expertise. Principals are not called upon to address health concerns. Teachers can focus on teaching. Administrative staff are not pulled away to call parents or caregivers or sending home sick children.
- Enhanced collaborative practice: Nurses who specialize in school health have a unique skill set equipped to serve our keiki, develop processes and procedures to enhance school health aide's services in the school, and engage in population health improvement within the school environment.
- Improved access to care: School nurses serve as the first contact for many students and improve timeliness of referrals to needed health care services.

I strongly support **HB1440 HD1**. The Hawaii Keiki Program, with its partnership with DOE and UH Mānoa Nursing, will improve student success through improved health screening, monitoring, and management of chronic conditions that impact learning. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Katherine Moyer, Registered Nurse

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1440 on Mar 31, 2015 09:00AM

HB1440

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Honorable Representatives, I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1440, HD1 which will appropriate funds to the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program to build and enhance school-based health services, and to require matching funds by federal and private entities. The Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program is designed to improve the access and quality of health services available to schoolchildren by coordinating and expanding the existing efforts of community partners and resources. This type of program is crucial to the well being and learning environment for our keiki. Resources should be allocated to ensure a safe learning environment as well as ensure trained nurses are available to respond to health crises and emergencies within the school age population. I urge you to vote affirmatively and move this important legislation forward to the entire Legislature. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1440, HD1.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

