



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

by

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and

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Provost

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HB 1448 – RELATING TO ASTHMA

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 1448 Relating to Asthma, which will authorize the Department of Education to stock bronchodilators for emergency use during respiratory distress and authorize department employees and agents to administer bronchodilators. The Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) submits testimony with comments.

The legislature, in their great wisdom, established the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program within the Department of Education (DOE). This program, which is a partnership between the DOE and NAWSON at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa now has a physical presence on over 170 schools and supports all schools within the department. This program includes school nurses at the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Registered Nurse level in 51 schools, and 171 school health technicians who have clinical education and can support telehealth services and extend the nursing reach.

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse can assess and diagnose health conditions and prescribe medications. Nurses have education and training in administering medications, including inhaled bronchodilators. School health technicians may be educated in medication administration as well.

NAWSON defers to the Department of Education on this measure and further respectfully offers that should the measure be passed by this committee, that the committee consider an amendment to ensure consistency in who is included as prescribers, as currently established in this statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure, and for your ongoing and fervent support to school aged children and healthcare access in this state.
Suggested amendment appears in bold, below.

Page 12, line 5:

(i) Any person, school district, or school and its employees and agents, including the prescribing physician, **physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse**, and pharmacy filling the prescription,