



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
and  
Senate Committee on Education  
February 11, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

by  
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### SB 984 – RELATING TO SCHOOL BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Chairs Baker and Kidani, Vice Chairs Chang and Kim, and members of the Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, and Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, SB 984. This bill aims to amend the education statute relating to school-based medication administration to improve access to prescribed medications for children enrolled in and attending public schools. The current statute requires Department of Health (DOH) to approve provider prescribed and parent supplied medication before medication can be taken in school. The intent of this bill is to expand approval authority to the increasing number of organizations partnering with the Department of Education (DOE) to improve school attendance.

The presence of school-based licensed health care professionals, including advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and registered nurses (RNs), decreases absenteeism and time away from class of children with acute and chronic conditions, increases parents' and caregivers' time at work, and principals' and teachers' instructional time. Beginning in 2015, the Hawai'i Legislature support enabled Hawai'i Keiki (School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene) to provide at least one school based APRN (15) to each DOE Complex Area and three RNs to selected high need schools on four islands. These licensed professionals are highly skilled and can approve such medication administration.

Hawai'i Keiki and those school based health centers that partner with DOE are adding on-campus licensed professionals to the team dedicated to improving the success of our schools and students. However, HRS Section 302A-853 relating to DOE requires

that for physician ordered and parent approved medication to be given or self-administered during the school day, the prescription must be approved by the DOH. The amending of the statute allows not only DOH but with also school based health services to approve medication administration in school by:

- including Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to the list of professions who may prescribe medication at school; and
- expanding the medication administration approval authority beyond the DOH to include DOE recognized school based health providers.

This proposed legislation will allow school based health care entities with formal agreements with the DOE to approve timely and efficient administration of prescribed medications so children can attend school.

Therefore, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene respectfully requests that SB 984 pass as written. We appreciate your continuing support for keiki, nursing, and school-based health care services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.