



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
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by

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SB 1522 – RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, SB1522. This bill appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program.

The 2015 Legislature, in its wisdom, recognized that students must come to school healthy and ready to learn. Through Act 139, you provided fiscal support to provide school based health services through a Department of Education (DOE) partnership with the UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH). We launched this program by placing one APRN in seven Complex Areas in schools in disadvantaged communities on O'ahu, Kaua'i, and the Island of Hawai'i. Second, we partner with public and private agencies to provide evidence based school health services to ensure screening for common conditions, up to date immunizations, and together with primary care providers, we ensure management of 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 improve health and achievement of students, schools, and communities.

The Legislature funded the program line item in the DOE budget in the first year of the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium to develop school-based nurse practitioner (APRN) delivered services in Complex Areas statewide, increase access to nursing and health related career development to DOE students and schools, and facilitate maximizing partnerships with public and private organizations addressing health needs in schools.

In the second year of the 2017-19 Fiscal Biennium (FY19), the Legislature reaffirmed commitment to the health and well-being of school aged children with Hawai'i Keiki in the base budget at an allocation of \$2,147,282. That said, SB 1522 requests the appropriation for the Board of Education's increase of \$752,066 beyond the base budget of \$2,147,282 as requested by Superintendent Kishimoto in a memo to the

Board of Education dated October 18, 2018. The base budget and requested increase will make the program budget whole, providing an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to all 15 Complex Areas as well as the administrative/technical support structure, as currently operationalized.

Therefore, the UHM SONDH respectfully requests that SB 1522 pass as written. We appreciate your continuing support for keiki, nursing, and school-based health care services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.