



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
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by
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HCR24 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CONDUCT A STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION GUIDELINES IN HAWAII'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee.

My name is Donald Young. I am currently Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The College of Education, and especially the Physical Education Teacher Education faculty support the intent and purpose of this resolution because physical education and physical activity are related to health and wellness, academic achievement, attendance, and student behavior. It is essential information from which planning can occur to provide public schools with quality Physical Education programs as well as potential employment placements for our graduates. With the feasibility study that is being proposed, we are interested in studying the information and working collaboratively to implement data and best-practice-based recommendations. However, in light of the proposed feasibility study, it would be helpful to know the current state of Physical Education in our public elementary and middle schools. We do not know what data currently exist, have been collected, or are available to help give us a baseline from which to start addressing the scope of the items being proposed in the resolution.

We would like to propose a step prior to the feasibility study to implement National Physical Education guidelines in Hawai'i's public schools. Prior to examining the feasibility of Physical Education in all elementary and middle schools, we would first like to gain a sense of what the current state of Physical Education is in Hawai'i by reviewing all available data related to the following:

1. Personnel assignments in terms of who teaches Physical Education in all public elementary schools and middle schools and how many per school (e.g., if middle school, how many lines for Physical Education in a department; for an elementary school, number of teachers teaching Physical Education) and if they are full or part-time, and the ratio of Physical Education teacher(s) to students.

2. How many minutes per week is Physical Education currently scheduled and how frequently is it offered (e.g., once per week, once every six days, daily, etc) at elementary and middle schools.
3. Of teachers assigned to teach Physical Education, how many are certified/licensed in Physical Education (i.e., elementary, secondary, K-12), Elementary Education, Secondary Education, etc?

Depending on data available related to the proposed questions above and the need to potentially collect data for the above-mentioned information, this portion could be completed in the available time frame. Once a baseline is established, the feasibility study items in the resolution could be addressed. The feasibility study would require additional time. Access to Department of Education data and reports in a timely manner will be necessary in all phases of this project. Given current faculty workloads, the baseline portion will require faculty release time and a graduate assistant to help with the collection, organization, and review/report of available data. The feasibility portion would also require faculty release time and a graduate assistant to assist in the collection, organization, and review/report of available data, but also potentially in the development/identification of instruments to collect and analyze data as needed. Without funding attached to the resolution, these costs will have to come from existing College of Education resources, which are already strained to provide necessary program support.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.