

Outcomes for Issues Followed in 2004 Legislative Session

Following is a summary of the work we did with Keiki Caucus and the Legislators during 2004. The Chapter would like to build on the experiences we have had this year with the help of all members interested in Advocacy.

Issues which we supported with testimony

1. Funding for Poison Center Hotline: Funding is provided - \$200,000 as requested.
2. Statutory designation for Public Health Nursing: Passed into law, awaiting Governor's signature.
3. Graduated Drivers Licensing: Didn't pass. House and Senate could not agree on exemption for students attending school functions. House wanted exemptions. Senate did not.
4. Bills promoting physical fitness programs in public schools: Did not pass.
5. Bills requiring nutritious drinks in vending machines in public schools: Did not pass.

Other Outcomes

1. Self-medication for students in public schools, particularly those with asthma: Passed.
2. School based integrated health services for children: Bill did not pass but there will be a pilot project in Kalihi.
3. BOE turned down the recommendation of the Graduation Task Force to cut one-half credit of PE as a requirement for graduation. We testified in support of keeping the one-half credit.
4. BOE directed the DOE to provide nutritious drinks in the vending machines in the public school. We testified in favor of this.

Coordinated School Health Program

In the course of working with the DOE on the PE and vending machine issues we learned that they are implementing a "Coordinated School Health Program" on a grant from CDC and together with the DOH. This program has a health services component which sounds very much like school based health services.

Where do we go from here? Possible Options

1. Follow the development of the Kalihi project.
2. Become involved in the development of the Coordinated School Health Program.
3. Review our performance in the 2004 session getting input from legislators and members. What do we need to do better?
4. Consider which areas we want to concentrate on: School health, Early childhood development, Child safety, Issues related to economics, other.
5. Start early on advocacy for the issues we want to work on. Find other groups to join with.
6. Consider the possibility of funding for the Hotline from the HMSA Foundation.
7. Work at getting members involved.
8. Improve the Legislative Issues website.
9. Meet with members interested in advocacy at the monthly Chapter meetings.

Of these options, #3, #4, #5, #7 and #9 might be considered priorities.

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