

# SB 2004

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO HOME CARE LICENSING.

**Report Title:** Home Care Licensing; Extension

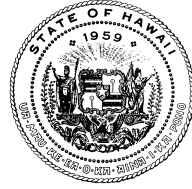
**Description:** Extends the sunset date of Act 21, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, which requires home care agencies to be licensed by the department of health and makes various conforming amendments.

**Companion:** [HB2093](#)

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** HMS/CPN, WAM

**Introducer(s):** CHUN OAKLAND, IHARA, Green, L. Thielen



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Human Services and  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**SB 2004, Relating to Home Care Licensing**

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill  
Acting Director of Health**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2014**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** There are financial implications if this bill passes. Those implications are  
3 addressed in SB 2005 and can be discussed later.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The department testified to the merits of the original bill. The licensing of  
5 home care agencies is consistent with our goals and objectives to safeguard vulnerable populations and  
6 ensure the safety of individuals receiving such care or services in their residence and, thereby, allowing  
7 individuals to remain in their homes.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



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**Tuesday – February 11, 2014 – 1:15pm**  
**Conference Room 016**

**The Senate Committee on Human Services**

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

**The Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

From: George Greene  
President & CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**SB 2004 — Relating to Home Care Licensing**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116 member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2004, which would extend the sunset date of the home care licensing law—which is set to expire on June 30, 2014—five years to June 30, 2019, to allow the program to begin operation.

Home care agencies employ workers who assist a growing number of older adults and those with chronic illnesses or disabilities. Home care workers are referred to by a variety of job titles, including certified nursing assistants, care assistants, and home care aides. They make it possible for people with functional limitations to remain at home in a comfortable, familiar environment by providing a wide range of assistance with the activities of daily living. These activities include bathing, dressing, grooming, assisting with ambulation or transferring, toileting, feeding and providing assistance with self-medication. Home care workers also help with the daily living activities, including shopping, meal preparation, making medical appointments, transportation, laundry and housekeeping.

Because many elderly residents live alone and are often faced with declining mental and physical abilities, home care agencies are a critical resource in ensuring that Hawaii's kupuna are kept safe.

Phone: (808) 521-8961 | Fax: (808) 599-2879 | [HAH.org](http://HAH.org) | 707 Richards Street, PH2 - Honolulu, HI 96813

Affiliated with the American Hospital Association, American Health Care Association, National Association for Home Care and Hospice, American Association for Homecare and Council of State Home Care Associations

Charged with such an important duty, the public must be assured that home care agencies are meeting minimum standards when delivering care. At present, at least twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia require licensure for home care agencies.

During the regular session of 2009, the legislature passed SB415 SD2 HD1 CD1, which was enacted as Act 21 in the first special session of 2009. The purpose of Act 21 is to require home care agencies to be licensed, and the Act designates the Department of Health (DOH) as the home care licensing agency. DOH has collaborated with home care agencies, consumer advocates, and other stakeholders to draft administrative rules needed to implement licensing. These draft rules are in the last stages of the approval process.

SB 2004 is critical to extending the sunset date of Act 21, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, to June 20, 2019, to allow the home care licensing program to begin operation. After five years without funding—and with DOH set to publish rules relating to the home care licensing program—SB 2004 is crucial to ensuring the program the opportunity to begin operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2004.

**SB2004**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HMS/CPN on Feb 11, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: