



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/11/2020  
**Time:** 02:05 PM  
**Location:** 309  
**Committee:** House Lower & Higher  
Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2045 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires a public school that has a career and technical education requirement relating to health care workforce development to review all geographic exception applications and make a determination whether to allow students to enroll in career and technical education programs in schools outside the Department of Education service area in which the student resides.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2045 to allow students to enroll in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs outside of the service area in which they reside and respectfully provides comments.

In line with the intent of this bill, the Department supports preparing our students for successful careers and believes the CTE programs are the avenue to achieve this end. However, the Department also recognizes the importance of student voice and allowing students to determine the pathways which will ignite their passions, keep them engaged in school, and guide them towards their future professional careers. As such, the Department respectfully offers the following amendments for consideration:

Page 2, Section 1, line 7 - Amend language to read, "...programs [~~relating to health care workforce development~~] outside of the service area in which they reside."

Page 2, Section 2, line 14 - Amend language to read, "...education program [~~relating to health care workforce development~~] shall review all geographic exception applications submitted.

Page 3, Section 2(c), line 15 – Amend language to read, "...[~~relating to health care workforce development~~] through the practical application of academic and technical skills and knowledge."

The Department again stresses the importance of student choice as an essential part of student voice and equity in education and applauds the Legislature's foresight in allowing students an opportunity to participate in a CTE program that may not be offered at their home school.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2045.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



**Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 2:05 pm**  
**Conference Room 309**

**House Committee on Lower and Higher Education**

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson  
Vice Chair Mark J. Hashem  
Vice Chair Sean Quinlan

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
Director of Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 2045, Relating to Health Care Workforce Development**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** this measure. We appreciate the legislature's commitment to strengthening the healthcare workforce pipeline to address current needs and meet the demands of our aging population.

Our organization recently completed a supply and demand survey that found that there are more than 2,200 open positions in 76 non-physician, patient-facing roles. HAH and its members are actively working on a number of initiatives to help meet the current needs of healthcare organizations in the state, including an initiative to provide more opportunities for students in health academies at public high schools to receive industry certification that allows them to get a well-paying job in a healthcare role upon graduation. From there, students can embark on a career path in healthcare with many growth opportunities.

Efforts to help reduce any barriers for students interested in healthcare professions will be very important as we look at our current and future needs in the workforce. We support efforts by the legislature to strengthen our workforce pipeline in healthcare and appreciate the opportunity to support this measure.



**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Lower and Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020; 2:05 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2045, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2045, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would establish a mechanism by which public schools having a career and technical education program relating to health care workforce development fully utilize geographic exemptions to allow interested students to participate.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

There is a growing consensus that the health care workforce in the United States needs to be reconfigured to meet the needs of a health care system that is being rapidly and permanently redesigned. Accountable care organizations and patient-centered medical homes, for instance, will greatly alter the mix of caregivers needed and create new roles for existing health care workers. The focus of health system innovation, however, has largely been on reorganizing care delivery processes, reengineering workflows, and adopting electronic technology to improve outcomes. Little attention has been paid to training workers to adapt to these systems and deliver patient care in ever more coordinated systems, such as integrated health care networks that harmonize primary care with acute inpatient and postacute long-term care.

In order to meet the evolving and growing demands for cost-efficient and effective health care, it is vital that we develop the next generation of workers who must have the skills and knowledge to

**Testimony on House Bill No. 2045**

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perform these changing tasks. To do this, it will be vital for our educational system provide meaningful learning opportunities that allow youths to identify career paths in health care.

This bill seeks to do that by ensuring that existing health care workforce development programs are operated at capacity with students wanting to learn these skills. For this reason, the HPCA strongly supports this measure and urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiipca.net).

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 2:05 PM  
Conference Room 309

**House Committee on Lower & Higher Education**

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representatives Mark Hashem and Sean Quinlan, Vice Chairs

From: Carl Hinson  
Director, Workforce Development

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 2045  
Relating to Health Care Workforce Development**

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My name is Carl Hinson, Director of Workforce Development at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

**I write in support of HB 2045** which requires a public school that has a career and technical education requirement relating to health care workforce development to review all geographic exception applications and make a determination whether to allow students to enroll in career and technical education programs in schools outside the DOE service area in which the student resides.

Hawaii has critical shortages of qualified local workers in fields including health, education, air travel, and technology. In light of the needs of the state's economy, our public high schools should strategically prepare students for the workforce. Educational programs specializing in career readiness and technical expertise can be effective in preparing students in Hawaii to successfully enter the job market. While educational initiatives at schools within the State have been established to develop students' technical skills, the need for these educational initiatives is particularly significant for the development of the State's health care workforce. Hawaii is facing critical shortages in health care workers across all fields and in almost all settings from acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, hospices, home health agencies and health system clinics.

As one of the largest employers in the state, HPH recognizes the value of the program proposed in HB 2045 in producing future health care workers who have been provided with the skills needed to make a meaningful contribution to the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.