



March 15, 2022 at 10:00 am
Via Videoconference

House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

To: Chair Linda Ichiyama
Vice Chair Stacelynn K.M. Eli

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Submitting Comments
SB 2880, Relating to Home Health Care

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 provide **comments** on this measure. The home health agencies that are members of HAH have all received certification by Medicare and hold contracts with insurance companies at the federal and state level that set reimbursement rates that cannot be changed based on the vaccination status of an individual healthcare worker. Further, these home health agencies must follow strict state and federal rules to promote patient safety, access, and protection. As a result of these contracts, rules, and regulations, the home health agencies that are members of our Association do not engage in any practices that would require patients to pay additional fees or costs to receive care from a vaccinated individual.

Of note, there is a federal requirement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that virtually all healthcare workers at organizations that are contracted with Medicare or Medicaid must be vaccinated, with some exceptions made if an individual has a legitimate medical or religious reason. This requirement went into full effect on February 28 of this year and our members are in compliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

SB-2880

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 2:20:23 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/15/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sheldon lehman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am speaking on behalf of my parents who need home healthcare and the difficulty in finding home healthcare nurses. I am appalled when calling for home caregivers that the few home healthcare agencies on the Island of Hawaii expect an over 50% premium for asking for a vaccinated homehealthcare nurse. From \$38/hour to \$50/hour solely because my aging parents who are in a vulnerable population want their caregiver to be vaccinated.

There will likely come a time when their savings are used up in paying for private pay home healthcare and have taxpayers pay for their nursing home care through Medicaid but passing this bill helps my parents remain in their home longer and not be wards of the state while also allowing them to protect themselves from the pandemic.