



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 24, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2882, S.D. 1, RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish the community health worker certification program within the Department; (2) establish the Community Health Work Certification Special Subaccount of the Compliance Resolution Fund.

The Department recognizes the tremendous amount of work and effort that went into drafting this measure as well as taking into consideration its request for amendments to the bill. However, the Department respectfully requests that prior to enactment of any regulatory scheme for community health workers, the Committee refer this matter to the State Auditor for a sunrise analysis pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 26H-6. HRS section 26H-6 requires that new regulatory measures being considered for enactment be referred to the State Auditor for a sunrise analysis. Referral is required to be made by concurrent resolution that identifies a

specific legislative bill to be analyzed as authorized by S.C.R. 2. The statute further requires that the analysis shall set forth the probable effects of regulation, assess whether its enactment is consistent with the legislative policies of the Hawaii Regulatory Licensing Reform Act, and assess alternative forms of regulation.

Further and as expressed at several meetings with stakeholders, the Department would like to avoid any regulation with requirements that would adversely impact existing community health workers. The implementation of any new licensing scheme would require additional funding to administer the program, including IT upgrades and additional operation and personnel costs. Again, the Department would like to avoid driving existing community health care workers out of the profession due to high costs in establishing this program.

Therefore, the Department respectfully requests that this bill be deferred until a sunrise analysis on this measure is conducted by the Auditor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

By
Erika Lacro
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2882 SD1 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Chairs Baker and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Chang and Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill (SB) 2882 Senate Draft (SD) 1 relating to Community Health Workers. The University of Hawai'i (UH) provides comments.

SB 2882 SD1 would establish the Community Health Worker certification program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The bill requires that Community Health Workers complete a program at the UH system to be certified, unless they had completed 3,000 hours as a “supervised trained health worker” between 2005 and 2020.

Community Health Worker is an emerging field. Labor market information estimates 390 Hawai'i jobs classified as Community Health Workers with 53 openings in 2020. In 2020, the average wage of Hawai'i's Community Health Workers was \$42,224, slightly below national comparisons, as reported in UH's Career Explorer tool: careerexplorer.hawaii.edu. In Hawai'i, within the last 12 months, employers have posted 32 unique jobs within the Community Health Worker classification (based on the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics categories). Salary range of posted jobs was \$27,498-65,125. The most common job titles posted were Community Liaison, Guest Advocate, Cultural Advisors, Community Health Navigators and Contact Tracers; jobs were posted by healthcare organizations, higher education institutions and retail merchants.

In healthcare, public health and social services fields, Community Health Workers are valued for their strong connection to the communities they serve. They bridge the gap between providers and patients of differing ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Community Health Workers facilitate access to healthcare and social services for minorities, and improve the cultural competence of services. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the key role of Community Health Workers—in urban and rural communities—in conducting outreach and serving as trusted navigators for underserved individuals and

communities. In fact, during the COVID-19 pandemic, UH trained more than 100 Community Health Workers to support healthcare outreach to identified high-risk populations, serving as community navigators and working in tandem with the clinical healthcare professionals and contact tracers.

State certification would provide professional recognition for Community Health Workers and establish standard minimum educational requirements for those who are certified. State certification would provide a greater opportunity for Medicaid or Managed Care Organizations to reimburse for services provided by Community Health Workers, as is the case in 25 other states (as of 2020). This would lead to more accessibility of services provided by Community Health Workers and increased compensation for Community Health Workers.

At the UH, we have four campuses offering Community Health Worker courses and/or certificates. UH is committed to continuing our partnership with employers and other stakeholders to align our Community Health Worker programs with needs of the field and for certification. We are especially encouraged by the opportunity for our Community Health Worker students to contribute to improving the health of their communities and to receive greater professional recognition, including compensation, for their education and training.

We encourage the legislature to conduct a sunrise study on licensing or certifying Community Health Workers to further develop plans for certification or licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2882, S.D. 1

February 24, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2882, S.D. 1: 1) establishes the Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Program (CHWCP) within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA); 2) establishes requirements for CHW practice and CHWCP applications, renewals, and certifications by endorsement; 3) allows the Director of DCCA to enact rules and enforce regulations for CHWs; 4) requires each CHW, upon license issuance or renewal, to pay a fee of an unspecified amount to be deposited into the Compliance Resolution Fund (CRF); 5) establishes the CHW Certification Special Subaccount (CHWCSS) of the CRF to collect fees for DCCA to expend for the CHWCP and personnel costs; 6) requires the State Auditor to perform an evaluation of the CHWCP prior to the sunset date of June 30, 2029; 7) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to be deposited into the CRF; 8) appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds from the CRF for FY 23 for DCCA to implement the CHWCP; and 9) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for

DCCA to administer the CHWCP, including information technology upgrades and support and operational and personnel costs.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation or continuance of any special fund or special fund subaccount which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds and any related subaccounts should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Even with the proposed fee on CHW licenses and renewals, it is unclear if the CHWCSS of the CRF will be self-sustaining.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

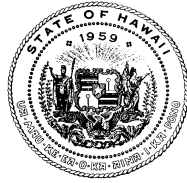
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2882, S.D. 1
RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 24, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on Senate Bill
2 2882, Senate Draft 1 (S.B. 2882, S.D. 1) establishing the Community Health Worker (CHW)
3 certification program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The DOH
4 appreciates the intent of this bill, as it acknowledges the critical role that CHWs play in linking
5 communities, particularly rural, low-income, homeless, and immigrant/migrant communities,
6 with critical health care services and culturally appropriate health care resources.

7 The DOH is committed to maturing the role that CHWs have in serving their
8 communities as part of workforce development and improving care. S.B. 2882, S.D. 1 aligns
9 with ongoing efforts within the DOH and with community stakeholders to expand CHW training,
10 advance the educational and professional infrastructure for CHWs across the state, and establish
11 a reimbursement process to sustain CHW capacity.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure.

13 **Offered Amendments:** None



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lōkahi

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 9:30AM, Videoconference

RE: SB 2882 SD 1 – Relating to Community Health Workers
Position: PROVIDING COMMENTS

Dear Chairs Baker and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Chang and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means,

Papa Ola Lōkahi offers the following **comments** on SB 2882 SD 1, which establishes a community health worker certification program with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Protection Affairs. The State Legislature’s intent and action to represent the goals of community health worker (CHWs) organizations that employ or otherwise support CHWs reflects a meaningful connection with constituents to advance community health.

In addition, it is unclear if further discussions are necessary to reflect feedback from a diverse group of community health workers and organizations who support them, and to ensure that the proposed changes create benefit and do not place further burden on the workforce. CHWs play an integral role in connecting Native Hawaiians to critical and culturally appropriate health care resources. Thus, the need to have robust and iterative discussion – as each community health worker can have vastly different experiences, needs, and ideas – is vital when proposing actions that will impact all CHWs across the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to **provide comments** on this important legislation.

About Papa Ola Lōkahi

Papa Ola Lōkahi holds the mission of improving the health status and well-being of Native Hawaiians and others by advocating for, initiating, and maintaining culturally appropriate strategic actions aimed at improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of Native Hawaiians and their ‘ohana, and empowering them to determine their own destinies. This mission works towards Papa Ola Lōkahi’s vision of a thriving Native community of health individuals, families, and communities who are informed about their rich heritage and culture living in a state of lōkahi (unity) and making informed choices and responsible decisions in a safe island society that is pono (in proper order). Created through the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, Papa Ola Lōkahi is the designated organization charged with a variety of mandates, which include coordinating, implementing, and updating a Native Hawaiian comprehensive health care master plan; leading the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems; and housing the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program.

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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Member Organizations

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Hui No Ke Ola Pono

Hui Malama Ola Na ‘Oiwī

ALU LIKE

Ke Ola Mamo

E Ola Mau

University of Hawai‘i

Hawai‘i State Department of Health

Na Pu‘uwai

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Executive Director

Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

SB2882 SD1 CHW Certification

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, Feb 24 2022: 9:30 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition comments SB2882 SD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.

Community Health Workers (CHW) can be very important to healthcare and a certification assures providers that training in healthcare support and customer service has been met.

Our comment is that we are not sure who would be best to provide certification, only that CHWs can be an important part of healthcare.

CHWs share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status and life experiences with the people they serve in the healthcare environment.

- They offer interpretation and translation services,
- **provide culturally appropriate health education and information,**
- help people get the care they need,
- give informal counseling and guidance on health behaviors,
- advocate for individual and community health needs, and
- provide some direct services such as first aid and blood pressure screening¹

CHWs improve access to care, increase screenings, help with patients adhering to health recommendations, reduce the need for ER, help families understand risks, provide support for data input, provide education to patients and families. CHWs provide a very important role to support good healthcare services.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions. (2007). [Community Health Worker National Workforce Study](https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/educational/healthdisp/role-of-community-health-workers.htm#:~:text=CHWs%20offer%20interpretation%20and%20translation,such%20as%20first%20aid%20and).
<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/educational/healthdisp/role-of-community-health-workers.htm#:~:text=CHWs%20offer%20interpretation%20and%20translation,such%20as%20first%20aid%20and>

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available to answer questions.



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and
Ways and Means
Thursday, February 24, 2022; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2882, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

Chair Baker, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Joint 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 THE INTENT** of Senate Bill No. 2882, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's 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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish the Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). This bill would also appropriate unspecified amounts of general funds and compliance resolution special funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to implement the certification of CHWs.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) have long been active health care providers in rural and underprivileged communities throughout the State. However, because this profession is not licensed by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, in accordance with Section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, among others, their services are not reimbursable under private nor public insurance. This has greatly diminished the services that they can provide, especially in areas that are experiencing a critical lack of health care professionals to provide basic services for our citizens.

During the interim prior to the 2022 Regular Session, the HPCA participated in a series of meetings organized by Senate Majority Leader Dru Kanuha with representatives from DCCA, the Department of Health, and various stakeholders, including CHWs, to investigate the feasibility of establishing professional regulation for CHWs. These discussions were extremely productive in fostering common understanding of the issues surrounding CHWs and the need for more diverse health care and human services in underprivileged and isolated communities.

The enactment of such legislation faces numerous challenges:

- (1) The "sunrise" of a new professional regulatory scheme requires going through a two-year process of adopting a Concurrent Resolution calling for a sunrise analysis on the need for regulation followed the next year with the enactment of the statutory provisions;
- (2) Even if licensure requirements are established, discussions with the insurers are needed to ensure that the CHW scope of practice will be included as part of contract law for reimbursement for services to be allowed. Only with their acceptance would CHW services be reimbursable;
- (3) For Medicaid reimbursement, CHW scope of practice would have to be integrated into the State Medicaid Plan, which would also require approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;
- (4) Each regulatory program must be self-sustaining. As such, are there a sufficient number of CHWs in Hawaii to justify regulation and what fees would be levied to regulate this new profession? If there are only a few CHWs, the licensure or certification fees will likely be very expensive; and
- (5) For persons currently employed on the neighbor islands, if regulation should include educational or training requirements for certification or licensure, are there sufficient places of higher learning on these islands where current employees are able to obtain the necessary education and training needed for certification or licensure? If not, then certification or licensure would effectively force many good employees out of their profession.

While the HPCA greatly appreciated the opportunity to participate in these discussions, we note the absence of representatives from the insurance industry and the University of Hawaii System or other institutions of higher learning.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2882, Senate Draft 1
Thursday, February 24, 2022; 9:30 a.m.
Page 3

Pursuant to these meetings, the HPCA had discussions with DCCA to share our concerns for the plight of existing CHWs at FQHCs. These employees are key members of our teams. **It would truly be unfortunate if in our mutual and sincere desire to promote the credentials of this profession, we inadvertently force many loyal, hardworking, and essential workers out of their jobs.**

DCCA assured the HPCA that they too share these concerns and will proceed cautiously should the Legislature choose to proceed with this Legislation.

Ultimately, the HPCA defers to your wisdom on the best approach in expanding the reach of CHWs throughout the State. The HPCA continues to assert that CHWs are well skilled professionals that can perform an array of essential services. The HPCA stands committed to participating in the discussions with Senator Kanuha and willing to serve as a resource as this issue moves forward.

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@hawaiiipca.net.



Community Association

Mission: "Do What It Takes To Keep Ka'u Healthy"
P.O.Box 878 Pahala, Hi 96777
Website: krhcai.com
Phone: (808) 928-0101

February 22, 2022

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health
Re: Comments & Support of SB 2882 SD1 Relating to Community Health Workers

My name is Jessanie Marques, executive director of Ka'u Rural Health Community Association Inc. (KRHCAI), and on behalf of the KRHCAI board of directors and Ka'u Rural Health Academy community health workers graduates, support the intent of SB 2882 SD1, Relating to Community Health Workers. SB 2882 SD1, is a first step in laying the foundation for Hawaii's CHWs Certification process, establish CHWs as a profession, and engage CHWs in policy and decision making.

In 2018 KRHCAI established a Rural Health Academy to develop a local workforce of CHWs in our remote, rural underserved, economically distressed community and recognized legislative support was first needed to acknowledge CHWs as a profession, followed by administrative support, policy infrastructure, reimbursement and sustainability. KRHCAI pro actively engaged the help and advise of of Senators Josh Green, Richard Creagan, Dru Kanuha; Representative Richard Onishi, Papa Ola Lokahi, and the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW), resulting in the Senate' Committee on Health decision making of SB 2882 SD1.

On behalf of KRHCAI board and CHWs, we strongly urge your decision to support SB 2882 SD1, so Hawaii's CHWs can move forward in collaboration with Dept. of Commerce & Consumer Affairs. Mahalo, for providing KRHCAI the opportunity to share our comments.

Cc: Sen. Dru Kanuha
Tonga Hopai, Adm.Secretary
Iokepa Command



HIPHI Board

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Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
Pharmicare Hawai'i

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: February 23, 2022

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Comments for SB 2882, SD1, Relating to Community Health
Workers

Hrg: February 24, 2022 at 9:30 AM via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ (HIPHI) provides **Comments on SB 2882, SD1** which establishes the community health worker certification program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Since 2018, HIPHI has convened a network of community health workers (CHW) from across the state and a network of CHW allies dedicated to supporting CHWs. The long-term goal of most CHWs is to have services provided by CHWs to be reimbursable. This would likely provide for more job stability and better pay for CHWs.

HIPHI supports the intent of this bill but does have some concerns with the bill in its current form.

(1) It appears that all CHWs would need to obtain certification (as stated on Page 5, §3 (2) (b). At this time we would prefer the certification program be optional for CHWs and for employers to decide if they will require certification.

(2) §4 Identifying types of employment for CHWs may inadvertently limit who CHWs can work for (ie currently, health insurance companies are not identified).

(3) §7 This section states the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) Director would be able to determine if a CHW who holds a certificate in another state meets the requirements to be certified in Hawai'i. Since much of the work CHWs do depends on the trust they have with the community, CHWs should either complete the local certificate program offered by University of

Hawai'i OR have work or volunteer experience in Hawai'i. Experience in another state should not replace experience in Hawai'i.

- (4) It is currently unclear how much obtaining a certificate will cost CHWs. As CHWs tend to be paid less than traditional health care workers, this may be a hardship for many CHWs.

As previously mentioned, HIPHI supports the intent, however it is currently unclear if a certification program will lead to more sustainable, better paying jobs for CHWs and as currently written may inadvertently prevent some CHWs from continuing to work.

We defer to DCCA as to their capacity to create the certification program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on **SB 2882, SD1**.

Mahalo,



Jessica Yamauchi
Chief Executive Officer

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.



LATE

**HICHW Association
Leadership Council**

Claudia Hartz, CHW
Chair

Gracie Flores, CHW
Vice Chair

Nicole Moore, CHW
Treasurer

**James E. Jones, J., CHW-
DSNP, Culture Ambassador**
Secretary

**HICHW Association
Island Representatives**

Ka'apuni Kama, CHW
O'ahu

Eugenie Naone, CHW
O'ahu

Crystal Caday-Bargayo,
CCHW
Kaua'i

Date: February 23, 2022

To: Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Comments on SB 2822, SD1, Relating to Community Health
Workers

Hrg: February 24, 2022 at 9:30AM via Videoconference

We are the Hawai'i Community Health Worker Association. The Hawaii CHW Association mission is to bridge the gap to health disparities by empowering Community Health Workers (CHW). Our mission is to offer CHWs the tools of support, education and collaboration needed to affect their communities.

The Hawai'i CHW Association supports the intent of SB 2882, SD1 and would like to provide the following comments:

- CHWs should not need a CHW certification to work as a CHW but have the option to choose and gain training as they see fit for the position they are in.
- § –6 Fees; disposition. Page 6, line 9: There are Community Health Workers who have been involved in our communities for decades and have invaluable experience. This measure should represent all CHWs working in Hawai'i, and the association does not feel that is the case. Therefore, potentially affecting much of our workforce. It is also unclear how much the cost will be to obtain a certificate and could be a hardship to CHWs who tend to be paid less than traditional health care workers.

- § -I Definitions. Page 4, line 6 states: “Traditional health worker means a: (1) Community health worker; (2) Personal health navigator; (3) Certified peer specialist; or (4) Doula.” However, the titles listed below or as defined by the CDC: “a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of a community or who has a thorough understanding of the community being served” should also be included in this section:
 - Case manager
 - Case worker
 - Community health advocate
 - Community health outreach worker
 - Community outreach worker
 - Community liaison
 - Community organizer
 - Enrollment specialist
 - Health ambassador
 - Health educator
 - Health worker
 - Health advisor
 - Public health aid
 - Peer counselor
 - Peer educator
 - Promotor
 - Housing navigator
- § -3 Certification; application; renewal. Page 5, line 1 states: “Worked or volunteered as a supervised traditional health worker for at least three thousand hours in the State from January 1, 2005, to June 30, 2020”. We would recommend that it be considered that the end date for this section be changed to December 31, 2021 to account for CHWs working in the field during 2021 especially during a pandemic.
- § -4 Association with community–based organization, local health care system, facility, clinic, or hospital required. Page 5, line 8 states: “Association with community-based organization, local health care system, facility, clinic, or hospital required”. The association believes there needs to be further definition of what a “local health care system” is.

Thank you committees for hearing this bill; the Hawaii Community Health Worker Association supports the intent and offers comments on SB2882, SD1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Claudia Hartz

Claudia Hartz, CHW

Chair

cphartz@westhawaiiichc.org

*The Hawai'i Community Health Worker Association is convened under
Hawai'i Public Health Institute, a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization.*

hichw.org • Claudia Hartz: cphartz@westhawaiiichc.org • Rosi Handy, Community Health Worker Liaison: rosilyn@hiphi.org

DATE: February 22, 2022

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: Testimony in opposition to SB2882, SD1
Relating to Community Health Workers

HRG: February 24, 2022 at 9:30am, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Aloha! I have been working as a Community Health Worker in the state of Hawai`i for the last 6.5 years for a Medicaid health plan. I was also elected as Vice Chair for the Hawai`i CHW Association Leadership Council. I am testifying in opposition of this measure.

There are Community Health Workers who have been involved in our communities for decades and have invaluable experience. This measure should represent all CHWs working in Hawai`i, and I do not feel that is the case. Therefore, potentially affecting much of our workforce. It is also unclear how much the cost will be to obtain a certificate and could be a hardship to CHWs who tend to be paid less than traditional health care workers.

Section 3 - Line 2 states, "Worked or volunteered as a supervised traditional health worker for at least three thousand hours in the State from January 1, 2005, to June 30, 2020". I would recommend that it be considered that the end date for this section be changed to December 31, 2021 to account for CHWs working in the field during 2021 especially during a pandemic.

Section 4 – states, "Association with community-based organization, local health care system, facility, clinic, or hospital required". I believe there needs to be further definition of what a "health care system" is in this section. Health plans that employ many CHWs in our state are not included in this measure.

Section 1 states, "Traditional health worker means". The title "outreach worker" or any other title that a current CHW working in Hawai`i identifies themselves as, should be included in this section.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my written testimony. I urge you to oppose SB2882, SD1.

Gracie Flores, Community Health Worker
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808-535-1167

SB-2882-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:28:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/24/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Crystal Caday Bargayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am CCHW and I am in support. We as CHW bridge our community with services available for them.

LATE

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Senate Ways and Means Committee

Testimony on SB 2882 SD1 – Relating to Community Health Workers

Thursday, February 24, 2022
9:30 am, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

My name is Chantel Kualapai and I am a BSW Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on SB 2882 SD1, which seeks to establish the community health worker certification program to be administered within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Community health workers are an important link to educating and encouraging people from underprivileged and rural communities to utilize the resources available to them. I agree with the intent of the bill that having a licensure program will afford the community health worker the opportunity and enhanced training to offer resources and advanced skills to the community. However, I believe that financial considerations should be taken into account before this bill advances..

Limiting the certification to only organizations who employ community health workers would be inequitable to community-based organizations that rely on the workforce of volunteers to reach the community members. Requiring these types of organizations to employ workers and require them to pay for a certification course only available through the University of Hawaii systems, would create a financial burden discouraging volunteer organizations from offering services to the community.

Current community health workers would be impacted by having to add on and maintain this certification to their current workload. The Senate Committee on Health hearing, held on Monday, February 7, 2022, in which the DCCA submitted testimony stating that “the Department would like to avoid any regulation with requirements that would adversely impact existing community health workers. The implementation of any new licensing scheme would require additional funding to administer the program, including IT upgrades and additional operation and personnel costs. Again, the Department would like to avoid driving existing community health care workers out of the profession due to high costs in establishing this program.”

Avoiding financial burden to all stakeholders should be considered.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Chantel Kualapai
Ewa Beach , Oahu