

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2882, S.D. 2**  
**RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: March 15, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference  
Conference Room 329

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

8 The DOH is committed to maturing the role that CHWs have in serving their  
9 communities as part of workforce development and improving care. S.B. 2882, S.D. 2 aligns  
10 with ongoing efforts within the DOH and with community stakeholders to expand CHW training,  
11 advance the educational and professional infrastructure for CHWs across the state, and establish  
12 a reimbursement process to sustain CHW capacity.

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

14 **Offered Amendments:** None



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

## **SB2882 SD2 CHW Certification**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Mar 15 2022: 9:00 : Videoconference

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition comments SB2882 SD2:**

*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 screening<sup>1</sup>

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.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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>



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2882, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, 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 2, RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

The bill would take effect on January 1, 2050.

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.

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2882, Senate Draft 2**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2022; 9:00 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

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 an Auditor 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.

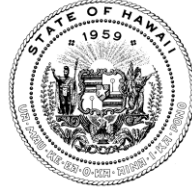
**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2882, Senate Draft 2**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2022; 9:00 a.m.**  
**Page 3**

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.



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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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022  
9:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 2882, S.D. 2, RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**

Chair Yamane 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.



## HIPHI Board

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Medical-Legal Partnership  
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai  
Pharmicare Hawai'i

Titiiamae 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: March 13, 2022

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services,  
& Homelessness

Re: Comments for SB 2882, SD2, Relating to Community Health  
Workers

Hrg: March 15, 2022 at 9:00 AM via Videoconference

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The Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> (HIPHI) provides **Comments on SB 2882, SD2** 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) §8 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, SD2**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosilyn Handy".

Rosilyn Handy  
Community Health Worker Liaison

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<sup>i</sup> 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.



**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

**House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness**

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 9:00 AM, Videoconference**

**Papa Ola Lōkahi**

is the Native Hawaiian Health Board established in 1988 to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians.

**Board of Directors**

*Member Organizations*

*Ho'ola Lāhui Hawai'i*

*Hui No Ke Ola Pono*

*Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi*

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*E Ola Mau*

*University of Hawai'i*

*Hawai'i State Department of Health*

*Nā Pu'uwai*

*Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

**Executive Director**

*Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD*

**RE: SB 2882 SD 2 – Relating to Community Health Workers  
Position: PROVIDING COMMENTS**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness,

Papa Ola Lōkahi offers the following **comments** on SB 2882 SD 2, 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 benefits and do not place a 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 discussions – 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.

Additionally, it is unclear if the bill's intent or language is to make UH the only vehicle for CHW credentialing. If so, it is further unclear if this component of SB 2882 SD 2 reflects feedback from CHWs, CHW organizations, or other universities.

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

*Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy. Our workforce development program includes scholarships across 20 different health professions and education and training for community-based allied health professionals.*



**HICHW Association  
Leadership Council**

**Claudia Hartz, CHW**  
*Chair*

**Gracie Flores, CHW**  
*Vice Chair*

**Nicole Moore, CHW**  
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**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

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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](mailto: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](mailto:cphartz@westhawaiiichc.org) • Rosi Handy, Community Health Worker Liaison: [rosilyn@hiphi.org](mailto:rosilyn@hiphi.org)



Hawaii Homebirth Collective  
1188 Bishop Street Suite 1509  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## **Testimony of the Hawaii Home Birth Collective**

**Before the House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness**

**Tuesday March 15, 2022 9:00 a.m.**

**State Capitol, Via Video Conference SB 2882, Relating to Community Health Workers**

Aloha Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristie Duarte, and I am the President of the Hawai'i Home Birth Collective (HiHBC). HiHBC and offers comments on this bill.

HiHBC is a self-regulated home birth midwifery organization dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation, and diversity of home birth practices and autonomy in home birth midwifery care. Our HiHBC elders who are *still practicing* today, together have over 85 years of experience birthing babies at home! Over the past few years, HiHBC has offered continued education opportunities for it's midwives- including continued educational opportunities for Hawaii's licensed midwives and doctors. Our community based organization includes all types of midwives- licensed, exempt and traditional midwives in it's membership.

Our understanding is that this bill does not directly affect our membership and are available if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Kristie Duarte  
President  
Hawaii Home Birth Collective

DATE: March 11, 2022

TO: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair  
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto  
Rep. Sharon E. Har  
Rep. Gene Ward  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

RE: Comments on SB2882, SD2  
Relating to Community Health Workers

HRG: March 15, 2022 at 4:03PM via Videoconference, Conference Room 329

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 support the intent of SB2882, SD2 with the following concerns:

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 and comments on SB2882, SD2.

Gracie Flores, Community Health Worker

[gracie\\_flores@uhc.com](mailto:gracie_flores@uhc.com)

808-535-1167

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES,  
& HOMELESSNESS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2882, S.D. 2

**March 15, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Room 329 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. 2: 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.



## *Community Advocate and Philanthropist*

*March 14, 2022*

*TO: CPN/JDC (Commerce and Consumer Protection & Judiciary)*

*FROM: Chaslynn-Nicole Kapuaonalani Gaspar*

*SUBJECT: SB 2882SD2 RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS*

*Community Health Workers; Certification; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Professional and Vocational Regulatory Programs; Rules; Appropriation (\$)*

*Establishes the Community Health Worker Certification Program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Establishes the Community Health Worker Certification Special Subaccount of the Compliance Resolution Fund. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD2)*

*Current Referral HHH, CPC, FIN*

*Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 9:00 am  
Via videoconference - Decision-making only, no oral testimony.*

*KANUHA, ACASIO, BAKER, CHANG, DECOITE, KEITH-AGARAN, KEOHOKALO, MISALUCHA, SAN BUENAVENTURA, Dela Cruz, Fevella, Gabbard, Kidani, Wakai*

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*Thank you for the opportunity to provide a personal testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2882SD2*

*Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Chaslynn-Nicole. I write in strong support of SB2882SD2. Community health workers have improved the quality of life for residents in the State for more than twenty years by providing a critical service to connect disadvantaged populations with culturally appropriate health care resources. With over two thousand community health workers actively engaging with local communities, there is an imminent need to recognize the work and contributions of community health workers in the State.*

*The legislature further finds that a certification program administered by the department of commerce and consumer affairs is needed to sustain community health workers as a professional health care career path in Hawaii. In rural, isolated communities throughout the State, community health workers are invaluable. Residents rely on community health workers to drive long distances through rugged terrain to provide health care resources. The legislature further finds that by establishing a certification program for community health workers, the State will improve the quality of care and access to health care, create a more robust and more significant health care workforce, and build an effective health care system for all residents in the State.*

*Therefore, this Act aims to establish the community health worker certification program within the department of commerce and consumer affairs.*

*In solitary, I strongly urge you to consider the passage of SB 2882SD2. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.*