



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

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

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

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 Health  
Monday, February 7, 2022  
1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Keohokalole 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 purpose of this bill is to establish the community health worker certification program within the Department.

The Department recognizes the tremendous amount of work and effort that went into drafting this measure. 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

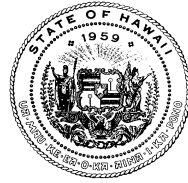
whether its enactment is consistent with the legislative policies of the Hawaii Regulatory Licensing Reform Act, and assess alternative forms of regulation.

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, this bill should be deferred until a sunrise analysis on this measure is conducted by the Auditor. However, should this bill advance, the Department requests the following amendments:

- A delayed implementation date of July 1, 2024;
- A fees and disposition section, which would authorize the Department to assess a new license and at each license renewal period, a surcharge, which shall be maintained in a separate account within the compliance resolution fund established pursuant to HRS section 26-9(o);
- Separate and distinct sections for: application for certification and examination; renewal of certification; grounds for refusal to renew, reinstate, or restore a certificate and for denial, revocation, suspension, or condition of a certification. Page 4, section 3, lines 15 to 21 through page 5, lines 1 to 7 only set forth the requirements for initial certification;
- Funding to administer the program, including IT upgrades/support and additional operation and personnel costs to support an executive officer and secretary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**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**  
**RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 7, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on Senate Bill  
3 2882 (S.B. 2882) establishing the Community Health Worker (CHW) certification program  
4 within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The DOH appreciates the intent of  
5 this bill, as it acknowledges the critical role that CHWs play in linking communities, particularly  
6 rural, low-income, homeless, and immigrant/migrant communities, with critical health care  
7 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 aligns with  
10 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 Homebirth Collective  
1188 Bishop Street Suite 1509  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## Testimony of the Hawaii Home Birth Collective

Before the Senate Committee on Health  
Monday February 7, 2022 1:00 p.m.

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

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristie Duarte, and I am the President of the Hawai'i Home Birth Collective (HiHBC). HiHBC appreciates the intent of SB 2882 and offers comments on this bill in regards to the definitional terms of "community health worker" and "community based organization".

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! HiHBC has offered continued education opportunities for it's midwives- including continuing education 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.

The current language of SB 2882 is unclear and I have the following questions:

- (1) If SB 2882 passes, would traditionally trained midwives (ineligible for licensure under 2019 Act 32) be able to apply for certification as a Community Health Worker within the Department?
- (2) Would all CPM (Licensed) and Traditional Midwives be required to register with the Department as Community Health workers if HRS Chapter 457J (midwives) is repealed in 2025, as scheduled to sunset in 2019 Act 32?
- (3) Would SB 2882 recognize Hawaii Homebirth Collective as a community based organization? If so, this would create a pathway for registered traditional midwives of HiHBC to become Community Health Workers and continue to give culturally diverse care, improve access to services and ensure that the services are culturally appropriate.

If HiHBC is considered a community based organization and our registered traditional midwives could apply for certification, it would protect the multiple traditions that are present in Hawaii. This would continue to allow for all cultural practitioners and the diverse communities present in Hawaii, to uplift, elevate, and preserve these different traditions that are present in Hawaii. These traditions are not protected, and there is not a clear pathway for practice. This is about a larger tradition being preserved through the acknowledgment of the presence of these community health workers, including our own traditional midwives and the community's cultural practices. Recognizing HiHBC as a community based organization, would protect Hawaii's residents, both individual's seeking those services and the cultural practitioners.

Safety of Traditional Midwives- Hawaii Home Birth Collective data on registered Traditional Midwives shows no maternal or infant deaths in the 5 years that data has been collected. **In the most recent two years, HiHBC traditional midwives have had no infant transfers, therefore there has been no abnormal conditions of the newborn, no assisted ventilation necessary and no NICU admission.**

Cultural practitioners are trained, competent, invaluable, and improve both quality of care and access to health care. We must continue to provide and not criminalize culturally appropriate care for the communities.

Respectfully,  
Kristie Duarte  
President  
Hawaii Home Birth Collective



## HIPHI Board

Kilikina Mahi, MBA  
Chair  
KM Consulting LLC

JoAnn Tsark, MPH  
Secretary  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine  
Treasurer

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW  
Molokai Community Health Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD  
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd  
Hale Makua Health Services

May Okihiro, MD, MS  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Department of Pediatrics

Misty Pacheco, DrPH  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Michael Robinson, MBA, MA  
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP  
Kaiser Permanente

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

Garret Sugai

Titiimaeta 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 6, 2022

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health

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

Hrg: February 7, 2022 at 1:00 PM via Videoconference

---

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

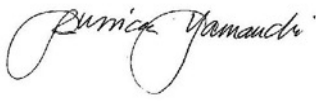
cost CHWs. As CHWs tend to be paid less than traditional health care workers, this may be a hardship for many CHWs.

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**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Yamauchi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Yamauchi  
Chief Executive Officer

---

<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.

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 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2882

**February 7, 2022**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Via Videoconference**

RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

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

Senate Bill No. 2882 adds a new chapter to the HRS to: 1) establish the Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Program (CHWCP) within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA); 2) establish requirements for CHW practice and CHWCP applications and renewals; 3) allow the Director of DCCA to enact rules and enforce regulations for CHWs; 4) require the State Auditor to perform an evaluation of the CHWCP prior to the sunset date of June 30, 2029; 5) appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to be deposited into the Compliance Resolution Fund (CRF); and 6) appropriate an unspecified amount of special fund ceiling from the CRF for FY 23 for the DCCA to implement the CHWCP.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation 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.



February 5, 2022

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

Re: SB 2882 – Relating to Community Health Workers

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2882, which establishes the community health worker certification program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Community health workers are essential providers in our health care community, particularly in rural areas. We understand and support the intent of this measure to encourage access to care and improve quality of care; however, we would like to offer the following comments.

Section 2, Subsection 4 on page 5, lines 8-13 may be too restrictive in only allowing certain organizations to employ community health workers. This may cause the unintended consequence of discouraging individuals from obtaining certification if employment is limited to these organizations.

Additionally, we respectfully request that should this measure move forward, the legislature consider differentiating between “certified community health workers” and “certified health workers” to not impact the existing infrastructure that exists for currently employed community health workers across our healthcare community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on SB 2882.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Sasaki  
Assistant Vice President  
Government & External Relations



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health  
Monday, February 7, 2022; 1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, 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 THE INTENT** of Senate Bill No. 2882, 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) 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 discussion, we note the absence of representatives from the insurance industry and the University of Hawaii System or other institutions of higher learning.

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.

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2882**  
**Monday, February 7, 2022; 1:00 p.m.**  
**Page 3**

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](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



## **SB2882 CHW Certification**

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Monday, Feb 7 2022: 1:00 pm : Videoconference

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

*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.

---

<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). <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>



## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Senators Sharon Moriwaki, Kurt Fevella, Joy A San Buenaventura

### TESTIMONY

Aloha,

We, Dr. Adrienne Dillard, Ph.D., LSW, MSW; Executive Director and B. Puni Kekauoha, Associate Director of Kula no na Po'e Hawaii o Papakōlea, Kewalo, Kalāwahine (KULA), **DO NOT SUPPORT** SB2882 as submitted. There are still amendments that need to be considered to move this bill forward, such as the inclusion of community-based organizations in the definition of workplaces, the number of hours at 3000, and other certificate programs that will provide the necessary skills not just requiring the UH system as the only route for certification training. Not supporting this bill is very hard as we value Community Health Workers. The certification being sought does not address the issue for those working at the grassroots and community-based levels regarding sustainability. How will Community Health Workers with certification as a critical part of community care be sustained beyond the resources currently being inequitably distributed to community-based organizations from Federal COVID-19 Pandemic funding? How will this profession be built to thrive as we plan our road to recovery from the impacts of this pandemic? We are being told that certification is not the vehicle that addresses sustaining this workforce which has proven its value in the most trying of times? What plans are being made not to toss them aside when contact tracing and other COVID-19 services are no longer needed? We can no longer expect Community Health Workers from our indigenous communities and communities of color to place themselves at greater risk while serving as volunteers or temporary hires.

The conversations and implications of this certification have caused many different levels of discussion and leave many of us divided as our goals and intentions are different. We have performed community health work in the community of Papakōlea for over 20 years as Community Health Workers. We work alongside Community Health Workers born and raised on Hawaiian Homesteads and other grassroots and community-based organizations who have done this work for decades without certification. They are critical to serving their communities because they serve their 'ohana and friends in the most culturally appropriate way. They get the job done. They will continue to do this with or without certification if their jobs can be sustained. We no longer ask people seeking to provide for their 'ohana to spend countless hours volunteering when resources distributed from the Federal and State governments to aid us are not reaching our community-based organizations. We seek health equity for all we serve from the Papakōlea region and the larger community.

While we do not intend to stop the certification of Community Health Workers, we seek the appropriate legislation to support this most admirable profession. There are amendments to this bill that are needed before we can support moving it forward. Community Health Workers are needed at every level to address health disparities in our communities with adequate

compensation and reimbursement for their services. We are deeply concerned with all the resources available for the training of Community Health Workers; there is not enough conversation about sustaining our contact tracers and others working at the community-based level when they are no longer needed due to COVID-19. Certification without employment is of little to no value. If we have learned nothing else since March 2020, it is the tremendous value of the Community Health Workers who are part of our most hard-hit communities' cultural fabric that has had the most significant impact on bringing about positive change. Community Health Workers are critical to community care as we have the relationships and trust of our 'ohana and friends, which remains unrecognized as crucial to addressing the social determinants of health in places that matter.

Yes, SB2882 has some weaknesses, yet no one has provided us with a greater opportunity to be heard as Senator Kanuha and staff in drafting this legislation. We hope their continued support keeps us moving forward to understand better the certification needed to meet our ultimate goals. We will continue to be part of the conversation and will not lose sight of the value of the Community Health Worker profession, including those working in community-based organizations across the State of Hawaii, as we seek to draft the appropriate amendments.

In closing, please **DO NOT PASS SB2822**. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this measure. We submit this on behalf of our team, the Community Health Workers employed by Kula no na Po'e Hawaii o Papakōlea, Kewalo, Kalāwahine who have completed the Community Health Worker certificate course of Kapiolani Community College:

Kaapuni Kama, Papakōlea  
Faith Kalamau, Kewalo  
Kelli-Ann Murakami, Honolulu  
WilmaGay Kapuiki-Heen, Papakōlea

Cappy Solatorio, Kewalo  
Iolani Ulii, Papakōlea  
Kamaka Kekoa-Kaaihue, Kewalo  
Hanakia Tui, Papakōlea

Currently taking online Community Health Worker Certificate Course of Morehouse School of Medicine:

Kuuipo Paia, Papakōlea  
Kawai Kaneakua, Papakōlea

Jeremiah Kama, Papakōlea

Community Health Social Workers


Meghan Kenney, MSW  
Kelli-Anne Murakami, MSW

Mahealani Austin, MSW -  
Chantal Kelihoomalua, MSW - Kanehili

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Adrienne Dillard, PhD., LSW, MSW



B. Puni Kekauoha





February 7, 2022  
via Videoconference

**Senate Committee on Health**

To: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole  
Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

From: Wesley Lo  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Ohana Pacific Health, Hale Makua Health Services

**Re: Comments related to SB 2882, Relating to Community Health Workers**

Ohana Pacific Health (OPH) / Hale Makua Health Services (HMHS) is the largest provider of post-acute care services in the State of Hawai'i and also, the largest provider of Medicaid nursing facility services. Our organization employs almost 1,500 healthcare workers and manages approximately 950 nursing home beds that provide short-term rehab and long-term care, adult day health services and home health care, and Care Management/Navigation Services on all four major islands.

We would like to provide comments relating to Certification program for Community Health Workers

A Certification program for Community Health Workers is goal that the industry should work towards. We have seen various different certification programs across the Country and there is a wide disparity of requirements, depending on the market and the maturity of the market.

In Hawaii, the use of the Community Health Worker is evolving and to some extent is being dictated by the "healthcare delivery system", which not only includes the Healthcare Providers, but also the Healthcare Insurance Companies, including Med-Quest and Medicare.

Currently, it does not appear that there is a consensus of the training and duties of the Community Health Worker and the jobs/needs/benefits for the Community Health Workers is still evolving. It is suggested that before any defined certification program and educational pathway is developed that there should be deeper discussions with key stakeholders, including UH, Healthcare Providers and key Healthcare insurance companies to ensure that we all have common goals, and have a deeper understanding of the certification and the intended and unintended consequences of any certification



KĀLELE



LUANA LIVING



THE VILLAS



Ann Pearl



Garden Isle



Hale Kupuna



Hale Makua



Hale O Meleana



Legacy Hilo



Pu'uwai O Makaha



45-181 Waikalua Rd., Kaneohe, HI 96744

P 808.247.0003

F 808.247.0018

W ohanapacific.com

Thank you for your consideration,

Wesley Lo  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Ohana Pacific Health / Hale Makua Health Services



KĀLELE



LUANA LIVING



THE VILLAS



Ann Pearl



Garden Isle



Hale Kupuna



Hale Makua



Hale O Meleana



Legacy Hilo



Pu'uwai O Makaha



# Pacific Birth Collective

pacificbirthcollective@gmail.com  
pacificbirthcollective.org

---

**PBC Board**

Sonya Niess  
*President*

Kiana Rowley  
*Co-Vice President*

Jami Lehman  
*Co-Vice President*

Mariah Strong

Ki'i Kaho'ohanohano

Makalani  
Franco-Francis

Haley Rabago  
Callahan

To:

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Health

From: Pacific Birth Collective

Date: February 5, 2022

Re: Comments regarding SB 2882

Aloha,

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide questions on SB 2882 relating to community health workers.

The Pacific Birth Collective serves women, families, and various service providers throughout Hawaii. We also maintain a directory of over 100 professionals such as midwives, doulas, massage therapists, and chiropractors who work with pregnant, birthing and postpartum women.

Our questions are as follows:

1. What problem does this seek to solve?
2. Who raised concerns?
3. Who benefits from this, and what is the benefit?
4. Have you considered unintended consequences?
5. Will there be an enforcement aspect?
6. How will reciprocity with other states be determined?

Respectfully,

Lantana Hoke  
Director, PBC

**SB-2882**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 5:30:21 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Amber Granite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Amber Granite. I have worked at the Waimānalo Health Center which houses a WIC clinic for over 5 years. If you don't know WIC is the Women, Infant & Children's Program which provides nutritional supplemental benefits, nutrition and breastfeeding counseling and community referrals to pregnant and postpartum people and children under 5 who qualify through our eligibility requirements. My job does everything that is described in this bill's description of a "community health worker" or "certified community health worker" or "traditional health worker." I also worked as a prenatal "care coordinator" which is pretty much the same thing as a "community health worker" but my focus was on pregnant and postpartum patients.

I have helped mothers who never breastfed any of their 5 kids breastfeed their 6th child for over 2 years. I have connected women with an OB or pediatrician who they finally felt listened to them and they could connect with. I have listened to hundreds of stories of trauma, challenges and perseverance of mothers with 1, 2, 3, 4 kids who had abusive husbands or who had to go back to work 1 week after delivery and have helped them get necessary resources like diapers or hot meals or lactation support or SNAP or TANF benefits. Community health workers fill gaps that doctors honestly either have no clue about or don't have or won't take the time to share about. They have 15 minutes to do the exam and its very in and out because of insurance requirements. There should be 1-2 CHWs in every department of every clinic, of every hospital, of every birth center, of every Native Hawaiian Health system on every island. That is how important their role is. Pilina or connection, something that, especially in this time is lacking, is what our people so desperately need and is what CHWs bring. Offering certifications to those who have been doing the work already is especially important and the right move because then they will be recognized for their hard work and their connections and they have an edge to apply for higher paying jobs now that they hold this certification. They deserve to be paid well. No less than \$20/hour for their compassion, for their ease and willingness in showing their aloha and the skills and referrals they will bring to people who need them. This is a no-brainer, elected officials. Your kupuna, your wife, your husband, your keiki, your hāpai child, your challenged nephew, they will all be loved and cared for with the most resources you ever saw if we can get CHWs into healthcare facilities. They will be part of prevention rather than waiting till people are sick to help them. Mahalo nui for your time.

**SB-2882**

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 11:17:34 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Having recently learned about what community health workers do to support the residents in communities such as Papakōlea, it is clear that providing an opportunity for these workers to become certified under DCCA is the right thing to do. It will acknowledge their work as a profession and add value to the invaluable contributions they make to the communities they serve.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2882**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 12:03:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Crystal Caday Bargayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB2882. I am a CHW and completed my certification in 2018 thru Kauai Community College. I have employed through several CBO (Community Based Organizations) and also in a hospital where CHW are the only point of contact to the individual. I believe we are essential in the community because of we connect with both the service providers and the community needs. CHW are first person they voice their concerns to.

You have MSW and LCSW in different work areas like jail, schools, hospitals; none that is community oriented. CHW can served that role for our all Communities.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
Monday, February 7, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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

**LATE**

### SB 2882 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill (SB) 2882 Relating to Community Health Workers. The University of Hawai'i (UH) does not have a position on the bill but would like provide comments.

SB 2882 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 traditional health worker” previously.

Community Health Workers 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](https://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.



**LATE**

**SB-2882**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:56:31 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gracie Flores	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 07, 2022

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2882 Relating to Community Health Workers.

Monday February 07, 2022 01:00pm via Videoconference

I have been working as a CHW in the state of Hawai`i for the last 6.5 years, and I was also voted as Vice Chair for the Hawai`i CHW Association Leadership Council. I am testifying in opposition of this bill.

There are Community Health Workers who have been involved in the community(ies) for decades and have invaluable experience. This bill should represent all CHWs working in Hawai`i. I believe not all CHWs are represented in this bill, therefore affecting much of our workforce.

CHWs should be considered for certification based on the hours that they have worked in their respective communities. There should be a "Grandfathered in" exception for certain CHWs. I hope you will take this into consideration regarding the proposed bill.

Mahalo!

Gracie Flores, Community Health Worker

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

808-535-1167