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

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Thursday, April 21, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

On the following measure:

**S.C.R. 2, S.D. 1, REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE REVIEW
OF THE CERTIFICATION AND REGULATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committees:

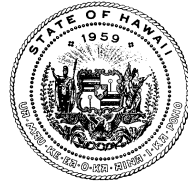
My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department supports this resolution.

The purposes of this resolution are to request that the Auditor: (1) conduct a sunrise review of the certification of community health workers; (2) solicit and incorporate input from current community health workers in the State and consider the potential cost burdens to community health workers resulting from the certification and regulation of community health works as proposed by S.B. 2282; and (3) submit findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023.

The Department supports this resolution as it complies with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 26H-6, which requires that new regulatory measures being considered for enactment be referred to the State Auditor for a sunrise analysis. HRS

section 26H-6 also requires that the Auditor's 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. The Department would like to avoid any regulation with requirements that would adversely impact existing community health workers and the communities they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 2, S.D. 1
REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE REVIEW OF THE
CERTIFICATION AND REGULATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

REPRESENTATIVE AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: April 21, 2022

Room Number: Conference Room 423
& Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Office of the State Auditor
2 on the fiscal implications of conducting a sunrise review.

3 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, Senate Draft 1
4 (S.C.R. 2, S.D. 1), as it acknowledges the need to increase the number of Community Health
5 Workers (CHW), standardize their training and qualifications, study the costs related to
6 establishing a certification program for both the State and for CHW seeking professional
7 certification, solicit and incorporate input from current CHW, and consider the potential cost
8 burdens of certification and regulation to CHW as proposed by Senate Bill 2882 (S.B. 2882).
9 CHW play a critical role in linking communities, particularly rural, low-income, homeless, and
10 immigrant/migrant communities, with vital health care services and culturally appropriate health
11 care resources.

12 The DOH is committed to maturing the role that CHW have in serving their communities
13 as part of workforce development and improving care. S.C.R. 2, S.D. 1 aligns with ongoing
14 efforts within the DOH and with community stakeholders to expand CHW training, advance the
15 educational and professional infrastructure for CHW across the state, and establish a
16 reimbursement process to sustain CHW capacity.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HIPHI Board

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

Garret Sugai
Pharmacare Hawai'i

Titilimaea 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

Date: April 19, 2022

To: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection &
Commerce

Re: In Support of SCR2 SD1, Relating to Community Health
Workers

Hrg: April 21, 2022 at 2:00 PM via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ **supports SCR2 SD1**, which requests the auditor to conduct a sunrise review of the certification and regulation of Community Health Workers (CHW).

Since 2017, HIPHI has convened a network of CHWs 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. We believe that the sunrise review will provide the needed information regarding benefits, potential drawbacks, and costs related to certification and regulation for CHWs that is necessary to build a framework for the CHW profession. In addition, we believe that by soliciting and incorporating input from CHWs as part of the sunrise analysis will strengthen the measure and allow proper consideration of the impact of certification on CHWs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rosilyn Handy'.

Rosilyn Handy
Community Health Worker Liaison

¹ 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.



COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY

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), **WE STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR2 SD1 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE REVIEW OF THE CERTIFICATION AND REGULATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS** and submit findings to recommend what may be in the best interest of the many community-based health workers who provide countless hours to serve their community without the needed recognition and compensation of this highly regarded workforce across our state to be sustained beyond the pandemic to be employed for the endemic and to address health equity for our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

We submit this on behalf of our team, serving the Papakōlea, Kewalo, Kalāwahine Hawaiian Homesteads.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Adrienne Dillard, Ph.D., LSW, MSW

B. Puni Kekauoha

DATE: April 19, 2022

TO: Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

RE: Testimony in Support for SCR2 SD1 - REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE REVIEW OF THE CERTIFICATION AND REGULATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

HRG: Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 423 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha! My name is Gracie Flores, and I have been working as a CHW 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 support for SCR2 SD1, requesting the auditor to conduct a sunrise review of the certification and regulation of Community Health Workers.

Conducting a sunrise review would give CHWs a better picture on how a certification process would affect or benefit our workforce. I feel an analysis should take place before any certification process is even considered for CHWs. I would recommend that if SCR2 SD1 passes that the analysis be conducted involving the voices of all CHWs in Hawai'i, as it is our workforce that will ultimately be affected. I would also like to see how this review will address the burden of cost, if any, to CHWs if a certification process is put in place as CHWs tend to earn less than traditional health care workers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my written testimony in support for SCR2 SD1.

Gracie Flores
Community Health Worker
gracie_flores@uhc.com
808-535-1167

SCR-2-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/21/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Caday Bargayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:



LATE

**HICHW Association
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Island Representatives**

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O'ahu

Eugenie Naone, CHW
O'ahu

Crystal Caday-Bargayo,
CHW
Kaua'i

Date: April 20, 2022

To: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: Comments on SCR2 SD1, Relating to Community Health Workers

Hrg: April 21, 2022 at 2:00 PM 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 serve their communities.

The Hawai'i CHW Association supports the intent of SCR2 SD1, and offers the following comment:

- Page 1, Line 14: "*WHEREAS, community health workers may also offer translation services,...*" - Bilingual CHWs can assist with performing their responsibilities in other languages but are not necessarily trained as professional interpreters. Those who hold a certification for interpretation can assist with interpretation, and those who are not trained or hold certification are more comfortable finding interpretation services.

Thank you committees for hearing this resolution; the Hawaii Community Health Worker Association supports the intent SCR2 SD1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Claudia Hartz

Claudia Hartz, CHW

Chair

cphartz@westhawaiiichc.org