

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2366

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2483
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 2483 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds and require the Department of Health to administer a three-year pilot program to authorize community health workers to provide outreach, education, training, and navigation services to address the social determinants of health in Ka'ū, Hawaii County.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Office of the Mayor of the County of Hawai'i; Office of Housing and Community Development of the County of Hawai'i; Kula no nā Po'e Hawai'i; Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association, Inc.; Papa Ola Lokahi; Ka'u Hospital; and five individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health.

Your Committee finds that community health workers play a central role in connecting rural, underserved communities with essential programs and services that target social factors of health by addressing issues such as access to health care, prevention, outreach, and training. Your Committee further finds



that community health workers are especially vital in rural areas lacking reliable access to health education, resources, or employment opportunities. This measure improves health care accessibility and promotes community well-being in the Ka'ū district.

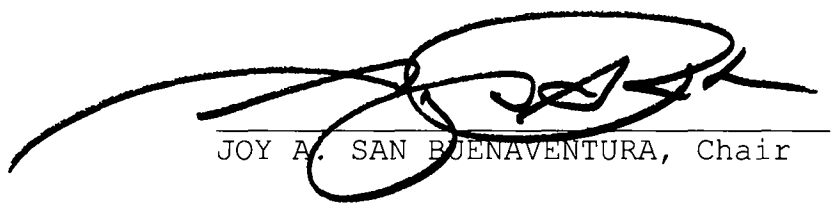
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language to require that contracted nonprofit organizations for the pilot program have the capacity to provide culturally competent training and services; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee urges advocates of this measure to determine an appropriate amount to be inserted into the appropriation section of this measure so that it can be effectively considered by future committees as this measure advances through the legislative process.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2483, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2483, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health and Human
Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2483	Committee Referral: HHS, WAM	Date: 2/7/24
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett				✓
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4			1

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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***Only one measure per Record of Votes**