

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2882
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2882 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 establish the Community Health Worker Certification Program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Primary Care Association and three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Kula No Nā Po'e Hawai'i o Papakōlea. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Department of Health, University of Hawai'i System, Hawaii Home Birth Collective LLC, Hawai'i Public Health Institute, Hawaii Medical Service Association, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Ohana Pacific Health, and Pacific Birth Collective.

Your Committee finds that community health workers provide critical services by connecting rural and underprivileged communities throughout the State with health care resources. However, because the community health workers are not licensed by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, in accordance with existing law, their services are not reimbursable by private



or public insurance. This has greatly diminished the services that they can provide, particularly in areas that are experiencing a critical lack of health care professionals to provide basic services. Establishing a certification program for community health workers will improve the quality of care and access to health care for residents throughout the State.

Your Committee acknowledges the testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, which requested additions to the measure that would facilitate the implementation of the Community Health Worker Certification Program.

Therefore, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Authorizing the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to assess fees for certificate applications and renewals, which shall be maintained in a separate account within the compliance resolution fund;
- (2) Adding separate provisions regarding the renewal of certificates and grounds for refusal to renew, reinstate, or restore a certificate and for denial, revocation, suspension, or condition of a certificate;
- (3) Adding an appropriation for funds to administer the Community Health Worker Certification Program;
- (4) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2882, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2882, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,

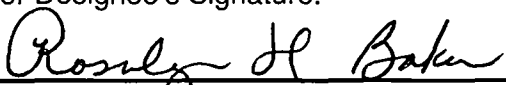


JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB2882	HTH, CPN/WAM	2-7-2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEOHOKALOPE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (VC)	✓			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes