



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB714
RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

REP. GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: January 31, 2025

Room Number: 329

1 **Department Testimony: Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports
2 HB714 but defers to the University of Hawaii system and the Department of Education on
3 implementation.

4 Although Hawaii's workforce shortage issues are well documented, so is the success of high
5 school-based health care pipeline programs like the Academic Health Center programs.
6 Expanding these opportunities to more campuses and specialties is a prudent investment that can
7 help Hawaii resident remain the in State.

8 Unlike other industries such as the hospitatlly industry, health care often has a steep price of
9 entry by requiring a formal credential or license or certification that often is paid by the
10 individual worker. Assistance in lowering the cost of entry and enhancing connections from
11 campus to facility is equally essential to having the educational pipeline in secondary education.

12 DOH respectfully urges the committee to pass HB714 to continue building a sustainable, local
13 health care workforce that will serve our communities for years to come.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair

Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice-Chair

January 31, 2025

9:15 am

Hawaii State Capitol

Room 329 & Via Videoconference

Testimony in Support of H.B. 714

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce. Allocates funds to the Department of Education for health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools. Allocates funds to the University of Hawaii for education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

Edward N. Chu

President & Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in support of H.B. 714, Relating to Health care Workforce Development.**

HHSC requires skilled, trained, dedicated professionals to care for patients in our unique island communities in a labor-intensive, demanding, and multi-disciplinary environment. However, due to Hawaii's substantial shortage in healthcare workforce, HHSC is supportive of all possible innovations to develop and secure staff for our rural healthcare facilities in the State of Hawaii.

To that end, HHSC has been working closely with the Healthcare Association of Hawaii in their efforts regarding the Healthcare Workforce Initiative. Our regions have benefited from their collaborative efforts in strengthening the relationships and training opportunities in both the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii. The funds that would be allocated through this measure are important to support as they will benefit all of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Friday, January 31, 2025, 9:15 AM

By
Della Teraoka
Interim Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB714 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB714, which provides essential funding to expand Hawaii's health care workforce through public high school health care certificate programs and the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) to Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) glidepath program.

The CNA to LPN Bridge Program is a collaborative program with Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, Hale Makua Health Services, Ohana Pacific Health (OPH), Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC). This program was designed to provide Practical Nursing training opportunities for working CNAs on Maui, O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island. The hybrid Bridge Program runs for 12-months and includes online lectures, in-person labs and clinicals provided at selected employer's site. Participants will be scheduled to work and maintain part-time CNA hours until they become a Licensed Practical Nurse.

In addition, UH Maui College has expanded the CNA program into the high schools. The high school courses allow students to become eligible to be certified while completing their high school degree. The CNA to LPN bridge program then provides working CNAs the opportunity to continue their education while working towards an LPN.

Act 74 funding, which was received in Fall 2023, increased student access to nursing pathways. With the support of Act 74 funding, 238 students across the state were provided tuition support to high-demand pre-requisite courses and entrance exam preparation required for eligibility to apply to the LPN program. After the funding was received, the number of students who earned the CNA almost doubled on average and the number of students who earned the LPN degree more than tripled.

Under Act 89, SLH 2024, \$700,000 was provided to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to support the glidepath program for

CNAs. We support continuing the funding through DBEDT due to the increased flexibility of working with multiple training providers for the two programs. It also allows for the continued use of the student stipends to offset employer costs for coordination and support.

For the UHMC students, funding support would be used to fund student stipends so students can continue to be paid while working towards their degree. The funding will also cover the cost of the instructor so the courses can be offered tuition free to students.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB714, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB714.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 01/31/2025

Time: 09:15 AM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0714 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce. Allocates funds to the Department of Education for health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools. Allocates funds to the University of Hawaii for education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 714, which advances the Department's workforce development efforts within the health services pathway.

The Department has prioritized work-based learning to promote workforce readiness, supporting Goal 1.3 of the Board of Education Strategic Plan – "All students graduate high school prepared for college and career success and community and civic engagement." We appreciate the proposed funding to continue and expand the public high school healthcare certification program currently administered by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii. HB 714 will increase access to healthcare training for all students, providing them with the requisite skills to enter the healthcare workforce pipeline.

The Department also appreciates the proposed funding to renovate and equip our high school health services classrooms. As the education landscape continues to evolve, the Department must ensure teachers have access to the appropriate instructional tools and resources necessary to provide our students with the education they need to succeed in the current and future workforce. Updating our classrooms to replicate actual clinical settings will allow the Department to focus on innovating instruction and engaging students through the use of technology and true-to-life scenarios to better prepare students for entry into the health services workforce.

The Department notes that Act 89, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024 (Act 89), provided similar funding for the public high school healthcare certification program and for the renovations of our high school health services classrooms. The Department further notes that the funds provided by Act 89 were allocated to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) and Hawaii 3R's, respectively. The Department respectfully requests that the funds provided in this measure be allocated in the same manner to ensure continuity and best advance the work that has already begun. With the funding provided to DBEDT, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii has been working with multiple training providers, partners, and employers to provide public school students with training that lead to industry-recognized certification. The Department is also actively engaged with Hawaii 3R's and the Healthcare Association of Hawaii to coordinate the healthcare classroom renovations as outlined in Sections 4 and 5 of Act 89.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's continued support of our work-based learning initiatives and our goal for all students to be globally competitive and locally committed. Preparing our students for the current and emerging workforce here at home will not only address our workforce needs, but will also lead to a thriving Hawaii.

The Department defers to the University of Hawai'i with regards to the glidepath program for certified nurse aides in Section 2.2. The Department requests that the funding proposed in this measure does not adversely affect the priorities in the Department's Governor-approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA

PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

January 31, 2025

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Takayama and Committee members:

SUBJECT: HB714 Relating to Health Care Workforce Development

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB714** which appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce. Allocates funds to the Department of Education for health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools. Allocates funds to the University of Hawaii for education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities strongly supports HB714, which seeks to strengthen Hawaii's health care workforce through targeted education and training programs. This measure is particularly vital for addressing the critical shortage of **Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)**—the frontline caregivers who provide essential services to individuals with disabilities in home- and community-based settings.

Hawaii is facing an alarming DSP shortage, resulting in service delays, increased caregiver burnout, and limited support options for individuals with developmental disabilities. HB714 takes a proactive approach by investing in workforce development initiatives that will directly increase the pipeline of skilled, entry-level health care workers, many of whom could transition into DSP roles.

Specifically, HB714 funds:

1. **Public High School Health Care Certificate Programs** – These programs provide students with the foundational skills needed for entry-level health care roles, including DSP positions. By covering tuition, transportation, and work-related expenses, the initiative removes financial barriers and makes DSP work a more accessible and attractive career path for young professionals.

2. **CNA to LPN Glidepath Program** – Many DSPs begin their careers as CNAs, and this program offers a pathway for them to advance in their careers while remaining in the workforce. By providing tuition assistance, stipends, and career coaching, this initiative helps retain essential workers in caregiving roles, ensuring long-term stability in Hawaii's direct care workforce.

By supporting career pathways into direct care roles, this bill will improve access to services for individuals with developmental disabilities, reduce workforce turnover, and ensure continuity of care for Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB714**.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

Friday, January 31, 2025 at 9:15 AM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 714
Relating to Health Care Workforce Development**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of HB 714 which appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce. Funds would be allocated to the Department of Education for health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools, and to the University of Hawai'i for education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

The *2024 Healthcare Workforce Initiative* survey conducted by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i found that there are nearly four thousand seven hundred openings for non-physician, patient-facing positions in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other health care facilities in the State. The Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Initiative, coordinated by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, has played a crucial role in mitigating this issue through various workforce development programs. Two key program types are the public high school health care certificate programs and the certified nurse assistant (CNA) to licensed practical nurse (LPN) glidepath program. Both programs aim to strengthen Hawaii's health care system by preparing new health care workers to enter the workforce and supporting the career advancement of existing workers.

Additionally, a 2022 survey by the Healthcare Workforce Initiative found that more than 1,500 existing health care job openings in Hawai'i could be filled by graduates of the high school certificate programs or CNAs who advance to LPNs through a glidepath program.

This measure ensures that these programs are continuously supported and scaled up to meet the ever-increasing health care needs of Hawaii's people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health
Friday, January 31, 2025; 9:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0714, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, 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** House Bill No. 0714, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

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 measure, as received by your Committee, would appropriate \$1,450,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same amount for fiscal year 2026-2027 for educational programs to expand the State's health care workforce from which unspecified amounts would be expended by:

- (1) The Department of Education to support health care certification programs offered in public high schools and renovate and equip public high school classrooms to make them more suitable for health care training; and
- (2) The University of Hawaii for education programs that support certified nurse aides in obtaining licensure as licensed practical nurses.

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

The same can be said for registered and practical nurses, community health workers, social workers, pharmacists, and other disciplines in the field of health care.

The HPCA believes this bill would provide a needed resources to our community by preparing students for meaningful employment, diversifying their learning opportunities, and promoting responsible citizenship. In addition, this bill would help students receive practical experience that will enable them to be productive members of our labor force. This is critical for the field of health care, especially in rural communities.

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.



January 31, 2025 at 9:15 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Chair Gregg Takayama
Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy

From: Hilton R. Raethel
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Strong Support**
HB 714, Relating to Healthcare Workforce Development

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

We write today in **strong support** of this measure, which would provide two years of funding to continue proven healthcare workforce development programs for high school students and current nurses. This request is largely similar to funding that the legislature passed in Act 89, SLH 2024, which has already been deployed to support these innovative programs and address the persistent healthcare workforce shortages in the state. We are requesting an amendment to the measure to have the funding go to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, which currently administers the program.

In our organization's most recent demand survey, we found that there are nearly 4,700 openings for non-physician, patient-facing positions in the State's hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other health care settings. The needs for entry-level positions, especially certified nurse aides (CNAs), continues to grow as our population ages. Not only are more people requiring care, but that care is often more complex and requires more resources.

Recognizing that there is a need to invest heavily in our workforce, the legislature passed funding to support high school healthcare certificate programs and an innovative CNA to Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) glidepath that has attracted significant interest. This measure would continue, for two additional years, the funding needed to continue and expand those programs. *Importantly, at the end of the next two years, the program will be funded entirely*

through private or federal funds. There are active efforts underway to achieve this—however, two more years of funding is needed to ensure that all funding streams are in place.

In 2023, the high school certificate programs supported 105 students working to get certified as CNAs, phlebotomists, medical assistants, and patient service representatives at 14 schools across the state. Students in the program saw a 98 percent completion rate with a 74 percent employment rate, which is a significant improvement from previous years due to the heavy employer involvement and wrap-around services. Over the same period, the CNA to LPN glidepath supported approximately 40 individuals to continue working full-time while pursuing their education and licensure as LPNs over a year-long course that allows them to increase their salaries by 50 percent at the end and provide higher-level support in our long-term care facilities.

Healthcare employers have also invested heavily in these programs. For example, employers have provided clinicians to teach some of these courses and have invested in hands-on training opportunities for high school students to learn in a real-life setting. Employers have also often provided stipends to students, especially in the glidepath program, to ensure that participants are compensated as if working full-time. Our organization has also provided significant staffing resources to recruit students, coordinate programs, and find federal, state and private dollars to keep everything running smoothly.

The additional years of funding in this measure will be critical to continuing and expanding these necessary, innovative programs. Thank you for the opportunity to support this important measure and for this committee's continued commitment to supporting our healthcare workforce.

We are requesting the following amendment to replace the entirety of the current Section 2, page 4 line 13 through page 5, line 9, to read:

"There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,450,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to support the glidepath program for certified nurse aides and high school certificate programs. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of this Act."



Hawaii State House Committee on Health

Friday, January 31, 2025, at 9:15 am
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

HB714 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Good morning, Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Committee on Health.

My name is Palani Smith, and I serve as the Regional Vice President for Hawaii and Guam of Liberty Dialysis. We are an affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care.

Liberty Dialysis Hawaii stands in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB714** which grows and strengthens Hawaii's healthcare workforce.

This bill is essential in addressing the current healthcare workforce shortage and ensuring that patients receive quality care. The findings of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's 2024 Healthcare Workforce Initiative survey indicate nearly 4,700 unfilled healthcare positions in Hawaii, highlighting the urgent need to recruit and train new professionals. HB714 directly addresses this crisis by providing funding for educational programs that prepare individuals for healthcare positions and support them in career advancement.

The public high school healthcare certificate program and the CNA-to-LPN glidepath initiative offer tremendous opportunities for workforce development. Together, they strengthen partnerships with the Hawaii State Department of Education and the University of Hawaii and Hawaii's healthcare providers. These initiatives help train new healthcare professionals while supporting the career advancement of those already in the field. Programs' outcomes benefit the entire spectrum of healthcare providers and more importantly the communities and families we serve.

Liberty Dialysis Hawaii truly appreciates all those who introduced this key bill and respectfully urges you to vote in favor of HB714 to grow and strengthen Hawaii's healthcare workforce. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

To: The Honorable Greg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: January 31, 2025

Re: Support for HB714: Relating to Health Care Workforce Development

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB714, which appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce for health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools.

As a member of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, we have seen firsthand how support of various HAH workforce programs helps drive local students into the healthcare workforce pipeline. Queen's supports the efforts of the HAH and the DOE and has committed to providing both resources and healthcare professionals at all levels to mentor and teach; we look forward to continuing these efforts into the future.

These public-private investments in our workforce are critical to ensure that the ongoing shortage of healthcare workers does not continue. The most recent workforce projections from the HRSA National Center for Health Workforce Analysis indicate ongoing demand across healthcare disciplines but, fewer professionals to fill positions¹. Fortunately, Hawaii is taking a proactive approach to the shortage – investing in the medical loan repayment program, funding workforce development projects, public-private partnering at all levels, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB714.

¹ <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/workforce-projections>



Government Relations

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

January 31, 2025
9:15 a.m.
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 329

Re: HB 714, Relating to Health Care Workforce Development.

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 714, which appropriates funds to the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii to continue support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 714.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 271,000 members in Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the people living in the communities we serve.

In January 2023, Kaiser Permanente, UNITE Here! Local 5, and the University of Hawaii Maui College launched their Practical Nurse Trainee Program, an 18-month program for current Kaiser Permanente employees who wish to pursue a career in the nursing field. The program's inaugural cohort consists of 18 students, of which 11 are employees from various Kaiser Permanente departments and disciplines, including medical assistants and hospital aides.

The program's curriculum builds and enhances technical skills in primary and specialty care areas. The goal of the program is to provide a pathway for employees to become licensed and fill open Kaiser Permanente Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) positions across the state. Kaiser Permanente

continues to support this effort by providing clinical sites in our ambulatory setting and are considering a second cohort in 2026 with a focus on the neighbor islands.

HB 714 would continue for two additional years, and the critical funding needed to continue and expand those programs. Importantly, at the end of the next two years, the program will be funded entirely through private or federal funds.

We concur with the amendments requested by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii to have the funding go to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, which currently administers the program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.