

‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

Support for H.B. 955

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Honorable Members:

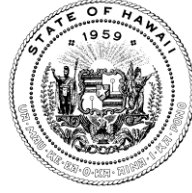
The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women **supports H.B. 955**, which would allow for an additional, rigorous, and nationally-recognized pathway to midwifery licensure.

In 2019, the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women was tasked by the State Legislature to chair the Hawai‘i Homebirth Taskforce, which led to a year of intense facilitation and report drafting between diverse stakeholders. HSCSW ED also serves as the President of the Board (unpaid; volunteer) of the National College of Midwifery. With our direct and in-depth involvement as a mediator between contesting perspectives and interests related to birth-related health care, we believe this bill is a fair and important compromise that would improve consumer safety and reproductive choice. In hindsight, Act 32 (2019) was an overcorrection for public safety that should have provided the Portfolio Evaluation Process-exam path to licensure.

Childbirth is more than just a medical event. The fight for “my body, my choice” should extend to a woman’s decision where and how to give birth and access to more involved care, especially in light of negative outcomes linked to medical sexism and racism in the United States.

Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committees pass H.B. 955.

Mahalo,
Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Friday, February 3, 2023
8:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
H.B. 955, RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department), Professional and Vocational Licensing Division's (Division) Midwives Licensing Program. The Department offers comments with concerns on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) make permanent the existing exemption for birth attendants to continue to practice without a license, under certain conditions; and (2) expand qualifications for licensure to include the North American Registry of Midwives portfolio evaluation process.

The Department is concerned with the amendments to page 5, lines 16-21, the exemptions provision, which deletes the requirement that a student midwife must currently be "enrolled in a midwifery education program..." and that the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) preceptor is not a "midwife," or that a Midwifery Education

Accreditation Council (MEAC) qualified preceptor is also not a “midwife.” The NARM website provides that:

A NARM Registered Preceptor is a midwife who meets requirements for supervising CPM candidates and has current, approved registration through NARM. The Registered Preceptor must be credentialed as a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Midwife (CM); or must be a licensed practitioner legally recognized by a state/jurisdiction to provide maternity care. A preceptor must have an additional three years of experience after credentialing or fifty primary/co-primary births beyond entry-level CPM requirements. Additionally, they must also have ten continuity of care births beyond entry-level CPM requirements. A preceptor must have attended a minimum of ten out-of-hospital births in the last three years.¹

The suggested language in this bill is inconsistent with the standards set forth by NARM. Further, it is unclear whether these amendments would meet MEAC standards.

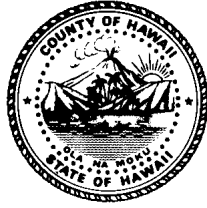
Page 6, lines 4-5, the deletion of the repeal date for the birth attendant exemption of July 1, 2023, the Department takes no position on this amendment. However, it should be noted that prior to this chapter being enacted, the Department expressed concerns with the inclusion of an individual who may practice midwifery as a birth attendant, but not be subject to the same licensing requirements of this chapter. The Department does not believe HRS chapter 457-J is an appropriate chapter for these exempt birth attendants based on the Hawaii Regulatory Reform Act’s policy set forth in HRS section 26H-2.

Finally, on page 9, lines 7-16, the Department feels that completion of additional pathways towards a recognized national certification for certified professional midwives would meet the minimum qualifications for midwife licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

¹ <https://narm.org/preceptors/>

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

DATE: February 1, 2023
TO: House Committee on Health and Homelessness
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB 955

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in strong support of HB 955. This is an accessibility issue for those across our State but specifically in Hawai‘i County. As the largest island with the most rural population areas we need to be providing more freedom and options for those with limited resources to birthing support in ways that meet their unique needs. Under the exemption (Act 32 (2019), Section 457-J, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes), that currently allows birth attendants to attend births without State licensure, traditional and indigenous midwifery practices are protected from risk of criminality or, worse, cultural erasure. If this exemption is allowed to expire on July 1, 2023 it will be a direct hinderance to birthing people’s rights to choose where to give birth and who they want as their preferred birth attendant. These choices are integral to providing safety, care, bodily autonomy, and comfort during birth. This is of significant importance to our State as maternal mortality outcomes are disproportionately high among Black, Filipino, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander birthing people. Also of note are that the requirements for licensure detailed in Act 32 (2019) are prohibitively difficult for many local families to achieve because there are currently no Midwifery Education Accreditation Council schools in Hawai‘i. Thank you for taking these concerns into account in your deliberations on this matter.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenn Kagiwada



Hawaii Homebirth Collective
1188 Bishop Street Suite 1509
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Testimony of the Hawaii Home Birth Task Force Chair
And Board President of the Hawaii Home Birth Collective**

**Before the House Committee on Health
Monday February 3, 2023 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Via Video Conference HB 955, Relating to Chapter 457J**

Aloha Chair Belatti and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Kristie Duarte and I was the Chair of the Hawaii Home Birth Task Force created by Act 32 (2019). I am also the Board President of the Hawaii Home Birth Collective, a home birth midwifery organization dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation, and diversity of home birth practices and autonomy in home birth midwifery care. We continue to offer full **support of HB 955 with additional comments on this bill.**

As the Chair of the Hawaii Home Birth Task Force, I want to stress how important this 2023 session is. On July 1, 2023, birth attendants with different cultural skills and practices will become illegal unless we pass new legislation this year. Act 32 (2019) stated “By the end of the three year period, the legislature intends to enact statutes that will incorporate all birth practitioners and allow them to practice to the fullest extent under the law.”

The Hawai'i Regulatory Licensing Reform Act states that “**regulation must not unreasonably restrict entry into professions and vocations by all qualified persons**”. Hawaii's midwifery law currently leaves out a nationally recognized pathway to certification which would allow for more local midwives to obtain licensure through an approved educational route of entry provided by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) through the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP). People certified through this educational evaluation process have completed a rigorous approved educational route and attended at least 55 births under the supervision of a registered preceptor, demonstrated clinical skills, and passed the same exam that is required for certification of those who attend a MEAC accredited college (which is not available in person on island). Although a few of the MEAC accredited colleges are available online, this does not make it accessible for those who do not have steady online access (like our rural areas) and for those who are not financially supported. Requiring only the MEAC accredited pathway is causing a disproportionate hardship for people who live in Hawaii, especially women of color and people who live in underserved communities.

The Hawaii Regulatory Licensing Reform Act also states that:

*“Regulation in the **form of full licensure or other restrictions** on certain professions or vocations shall be retained or adopted when the health, safety, or welfare of the consumer may be jeopardized by the nature of the service offered by the provider”.*

Regulation of the birth attendant through use of “other restrictions” other than licensure is found in the requirements set forth in HRS 457J (6)-5, which outlines informed consent disclosure forms and very specific conditions under which the birth attendants are allowed to practice. These restrictions on the birth attendant has allowed the community to still have access to culturally appropriate care and still have a choice when it comes to their reproductive rights. **Ultimately, the health, safety and welfare of the consumer is protected through the regulations set forth in HRS 457J(6)-5.**

We are open to exploring any amendments that may allow the community to continue to access culturally appropriate care provided by the (1) birth attendant and (2) the CPM who has obtained certification through the educational route of entry through the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP).

Respectfully,

Kristie Duarte

President, Hawaii Homebirth Collective



Pacific Birth Collective

pacificbirthcollective@gmail.com
pacificbirthcollective.org

PBC Board

Sonya Niess
President

Kiana Rowley
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Haley Rabago
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Ki'i Kaho'ohanohano

Makalani
Franco-Francis

Pahnelopi McKenzie

Wyonette Walleth

Kristina Statler

To:

Chair Belatti and Committee Members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness

From:

Pacific Birth Collective
Vice President Kiana Rowley

Date: February 3, 2023

Re: Strong Support for HB955

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Pacific Birth Collective strongly supports HB995 and we urge you to pass this important piece of legislation.

PBC serves women, families, and birth and wellness service providers throughout Hawaii. We support autonomy in birth choice, whatever that choice may be. We support this resolution because as a birth organization working throughout the Hawaiian islands, we personally know the positive impact our traditional midwives have on maternal health in our communities. This resolution is a good step toward respecting cultural traditions, protecting the autonomy of women and families, and not policing women's reproductive choices.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. We support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J. These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.



Pacific Birth Collective

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After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

We do recognize that midwifery licensure was a positive step toward better maternity care for Hawai'i's families. Though there were good intentions behind the law, the exclusion of traditional midwives is rooted in historical injustices that cannot go unrecognized and unremedied. For too long, Native Hawaiian and other cultural traditions and practices have been controlled, dismissed, and lost to history.

Families in Hawaii always have and will continue to seek out prenatal, birth and postpartum support from traditional midwives as they have for many generations. To take that choice away from them is oppressive and infantilizing.

Hawai'i's women deserve autonomy in their choice of childbirth provider. Choosing where and with whom to give birth is a basic human right. Families in Hawai'i have always sought the care of traditional midwives, and it is essential that they are able to continue doing so. Continuing to regulate women's reproductive health by limiting their choices in prenatal and birth care is not safe, because women will continue to access these services even if it is not legal or recognized by the state of Hawaii.

Many women in Hawai'i seek care outside of the medical setting for childbirth. Reasons are many, but some cite safety. Maternal health outcomes in Hawai'i are on par with American maternal health outcomes, which is to say they are not good. [Cesarean rates in](#) Hawai'i are 26.8%, with one out of ten babies being born preterm. The [WHO reports](#) that 1 in 6 women in the US experience mistreatment during childbirth, and their findings suggest that mistreatment is experienced more frequently by women of color, when birth occurs in hospitals, and among those with social, economic or health challenges. [Another survey](#) of over 2,000 doulas, nurses, and childbirth educators found that almost 90% had witnessed a healthcare provider



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conducting procedures “without giving a woman a choice or time to consider,” and nearly 60% had observed providers performing procedures “explicitly against the wishes of the woman.” Numerous studies show that women, particularly women of color, are less likely to have their medical concerns taken seriously by doctors.

We respectfully ask that you pass HB995 for all of these reasons.

Mahalo,

Kiana Rowley
Pacific Birth Collective Vice President

**Testimony of Laulani Teale, MPH
Ho‘opae Pono Peace Project**



In SUPPORT of HB 955

February 2, 2023

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

Aloha Kākou,

Ho‘opae Pono Peace Project is a cultural peace resource focused on building cooperative solutions in the context of Aloha ‘Āina, human rights, and genuine perpetuation of Indigenous well-being and cultural continuity.

We support HB 955. It is imperative that the risk to mothers and babies created by the looming termination of legal traditional practice on July 1, 2023 be addressed. While far from a complete solution to the problems in the current law, this measure is an important step toward setting this matter right, and preventing a disaster resulting from sudden criminalization of many of the best clinically trained midwives in Hawai‘i. HB 955 is an absolute minimum protection for many birthing families to avoid being forced into underground or unassisted birth scenarios unprepared.

Please note that other problematic aspects of Act 32 need to be addressed as well; if this measure cannot be amended to protect deeply traditional practitioners, including extended family and culture bearers without realistic access to required forms or procedures, then this will need to be done in the future, as it is a serious matter of racial and cultural injustice for which the current law holds no effective mitigation.

Traditional midwives are keepers of some of the oldest and deepest aspects of ancient cultural and spiritual practice. These practices need protection, not persecution, and should be exempted outright. While HB 955 does not achieve this, it at least provides protection to clinically trained midwives who meet PEP standards, so that many families will not lose access to birth support entirely. This is important.

Birth practices are one of the oldest women's rights issues in history, all over the world. Excessive regulation of midwives has historically been linked to misogyny, racism, violent persecution, forced assimilation and Indigenous extermination, largely in the name of safety and modernization. This history must be turned.

While it does not rectify many of the problematic aspects of Act 32, HB 955 at least helps many who would otherwise be harmed by its effects. For these reasons and more, Ho'opae Pono Peace Project asks that this measure be passed by this committee.

We are available as a peace resource for continued dialogue in the building of genuine understanding based on true respect, peace, and pono. Please contact me at any time.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laulani". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Laulani Teale, MPH
Coordinator, Ho'opae Pono Peace Project
<https://www.eapono.org>

HB-955

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 11:24:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makalani Franco-Francis	Pacific Birth Collective and Malama Na Pua O Haumea	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony today in support of HB955/SB1047 the Sovereigns Law Bill, on behalf of two organizations- as a board member of The Pacific Birth Collective and as a Traditional Midwifery student apprentice of Malama Nā Pua O Haumea. I am also testifying in support of these bills as an Indigenous Hawaiian home birth mother of three keiki who chose to birth all of my babies at home under the care of Traditional Midwives.

I ask all of you to please support HB955/SB1047. This bill will preserve different pathways for birth practitioners, like myself who have dedicated our lives to apprenticeships under the strict guidance of exceedingly knowledgeable, and experienced traditional elder midwives. This bill would preserve the freedom of choice for people like me and my mother and grandmothers before me who actively seek out and prefer different types of homebirth providers. Traditional Midwifery has been actively filling in the unique birthing needs of Hawai'i's rural areas and we need to protect Traditional Midwifery knowledge that had been passed down for generations.

Mahalo for your time,

Makalani Franco-Francis

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:55:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakiaweawe Kanekoa	HHBC	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Classical midwifery must be protected as each persons and/or cultures' right of self determination. Not only classical Hawaiian (pale Keiki) but the many indigenous child birth practices which thrive here in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:43:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Stewart	The Ark Christian Church	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a Biblically based Christian Church Pastor, I am in favor of the passage of HB955 for the protection of the traditional practice of MIDWIFERY from State interference and control. THE OFFICE OF A MIDWIFE is a Biblically Christian MINISTRY that has been in practice for thousands of years in the Jewish and Christian religion and churches worldwide. It is in the Bylaws of our Church to have women ordained in the "Office of a Midwife" as it is named in the Book of Exodus. As such we hold to the First Amendment's protected Right to practice our religion without interference or restriction by any Government entity including the State of Hawaii. To tell the Church that we cannot function in any of our ministries is Constitutionally abhorrent and we reject that 100%. Furthermore, allowing the "Hawaiian Cultural" religious practitioners to continue their midwifery practices while restricting Christians and others religious practitioners is clearly pure discrimination. As a historical note, Christianity IS a Cultural Hawaiian Religion. The "kapu" System in Hawaii was abolished, at the time of the founding of the recognized Kingdom of Hawai'i, by High Chiefess Kapi'olani, during the reign of Kamehameha the Great whose High Priest, Hewahewa, was also a Christian. Christianity WAS ALWAYS the religion of The recognized Kingdom of Hawai'i from it's founding (see The Constitution for The Kingdom of Hawai'i-1840) and should be seen as such regarding Hawaiian Cultural Practices. Midwifery was the ONLY form of attended births during the days of The Kingdom of Hawai'i. Again, I stand in support of Traditional Midwifery and HB955.
Respectfully, Dr. Russell Stewart

HB-955

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:06:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulnix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair & HLT Committee Members,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters statewide, I stand in Strong Support of HB955 That makes permanent the existing exemption for birth attendants to continue to practice without a license, under certain conditions. Expands qualifications for licensure to include the North American Registry of Midwives portfolio evaluation process.

Please pass this important legislation.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulnix, Cofounder & Statewide Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:34:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Marsh	UpCountry Doctor	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Naturopathic Doctor and retired Certified Nurse Midwife, I am supporting the legitimacy of Hawaiian Traditional Midwives. In the Hawaiian Islands we have a tremendous shortage of Medical Doctors and nurses. Midwives provide an invaluable service to women in hospitals and in their homes, providing safe births.

The Hawaiian community has the right and need to have traditional practitioners for all stages of their lives, especially birthing.

Unfortunately many people have overlooked traditional medicine and this gives them an open door back to forgotten compassionate practices.

please do what is pono to support traditional midwives,

Dr. Bonnie Marsh

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:52:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Strong	Pacific Birth Collective	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Mariah Strong. I was born and raised with my seven brothers and sisters in Pauwela, Maui. I have two daughters, born safely at home with traditional midwives. I am a senior midwifery student that is working towards getting my CPM (Certified Professional Midwife) license. I am one of the founders of Pacific Birth Collective (PBC) nonprofit, and a current board member. For nearly a decade PBC has focused on advocacy, education and support in the birth community, serving the entire state of Hawai'i.

I support SB1047 and HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES; Supporting the PEP (Portfolio evaluation) process as a licensing option as well as the continuation of legal access to traditional birth attendants, therefore upholding female reproductive choice and cultural representation in health care for Hawai'i for generations to come.

My mother has been a traditional birth attendant on Maui for 4 decades. She has helped hundreds of 'ohanas welcome their children safely. I always knew I would follow the same work as my mother and aunties. I've witnessed the huge need in all areas of our island for birth workers, and how much our community requests and honors their care and service.

I have first hand experience as a Hawai'i resident trying to get a CPM license on the island and know how impossible it is. Due to this, I have had to make the heartbreaking decision to move off island to continue with my education. With intentions of returning and continuing to serve our birthing community. I have actively been working on obtaining this westernized midwifery license for a decade now. These programs are not short term, they take many years to complete. I have driven thousands of miles, been away from my young children for weeks on end, and spent many thousands of dollars to continue my education out of state. These are privileges that many are not afforded and therefore do not have access to this education pathway. We must support midwifery advancement in Hawai'i, and address these barriers to licensure, especially for native and BIPOC people, not create more.

There is NOT an accessible midwifery training path in Maui, or in the state of Hawai'i, to obtain a CPM license. I can personally attest to the fact that by training with midwives in the mainland they have no understanding of our values and lifestyle on the islands. They don't know how to care, support and honor our people and their beliefs. When I graduate, I will need to actively

forget this westernized programming I've spent years attaining for testing, to appropriately care for our unique community.

There are solutions being presented to address this oversight, one being the "Sovereign's Law" SB1047, allowing traditional birth attendants to continued to legally serve our community after July 1, 2023 and the recognizing of the PEP process. Maternal health and midwifery care are connected, and have been for thousands of years, home birth attendants an integral part of our community wellness. The future of midwifery in Hawai'i deserves proper attention and care to protect our unique way of life, traditions and most importantly, our people. Please hear our voice.

Mahalo for your time,

Mariah Strong

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:13:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gomez Creative Collective	Gomez Creative Collective	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support the bill HB955, for the following reasons: We believe it is our constitutional right upheld by the freedom of speech, expression, and religion, that we should have the ability to choose whether or not individuals should elect to have a safe, traditional, and legal homebirth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:01:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JB Entertainment Corporation	JB Entertainment Corporation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families!! We STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:38:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Reddekopp	Hawaiian Vanilla Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Vanilla Company I would like to be in support of midwives and home births. I believe women should be allowed to birth as they feel comfortable weather that be at home or at a hospital. Please do not take their rights away.

Mahalo

Ian

January 31, 2023

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health & Homelessness
Friday, February 3, 2023
8:30 A.M.
Via Videoconference



RE: **HB955** Relating Chapter 457J (**Support**)

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce testifies in support of HB955, which makes permanent the existing exemption for birth attendants to continue to practice without a license under certain conditions and expands qualifications for licensure to include the North American Registry of Midwives portfolio evaluation process.

As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting employees, consumers, communities or the environment, we urge this committee to pass HB955, allowing consumers of midwifery services greater choice in selecting their birth attendant, while ensuring that midwives have credible and accessible pathways to obtain certification.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:28:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi	Songbird Birth Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support HB955.

Songbird Birth Services covers birth support, birth education, and postpartum support. We have supported births in the hospital setting and at home, and we have seen the physical and psychological impacts of births that did not go as expected in either setting. Regulating home birth does not make it inherently safer. Traditional midwives have the ability to work safely with mothers who wish to birth at home with someone who understands physiological birth, its variance of natural, and when to intervene with medically-necessary skills or transfer.

Sometimes the best support for a particular woman comes in the form of a traditional midwife. Please allow women this very important resource for birthing safely at home. We support women of Hawai'i and their future generations to choose who they feel most comfortable attending their birth, without restriction or regulation.

Thank you,

Songbird Birth Services

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:15:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Langan	Loquat Co LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I and my business, Loquat Co, strongly support hb955 and the right for women to choose midwife support during childbirth.



February 1, 2023

Re: HB 955 A BILL FOR AN ACT: RELATING TO CH 457J, HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES.

Senators Maile Shimabukuro, Senator Henry Aquino, & Gilbert Keith-Agaran

Representatives Natalia Hussy-Burdick, Terez Amato, Elle Cochran, Sonny Ganaden, Jeanne Kapela, Mark Nakashima, Amy Perruso, & Mahina Poepoe

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this draft legislation regarding the Bill. The executive board of the Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (HAA, ACNM) has reviewed A BILL FOR AN ACT. In 2019, HAA provided testimony relating to the licensure of midwives and is attaching that with supporting documents. HAA is not in support of this bill, as it stands.

Regarding Section 1 (page 4 line 3) HB 955 states its purpose:

“(1) Permit persons acting as birth attendants after July 1st, 2023, to practice midwifery without a license: and (2) Include the North American Registry of Midwives portfolio evaluation process as proof of a successful completion of a formal midwifery education and training program for certified professional midwives (CPM).”

The HAA executive board seeks to point out that although this is the stated purpose of A BILL FOR AN ACT there is mention of certified nurse-midwives (CNM) and certified midwives (CM) within this draft of legislation regarding the Bill:

In the **Exemptions** of Section 3 (page 5 line 11), CNMs are mentioned regarding practice without a license. In the State of Hawai'i all CNMs who practice must be licensed and are currently regulated by the Board of Nursing (BON).

HAA moves for removal of CNM mentioned in this bill.

Under the **Application for license as a midwife** of Section 4 (page 8 line 12) CMs are mentioned regarding obtaining license under this chapter. HAA seeks to reiterate that CMs are distinct from CPMs and Traditional birth attendants in their certifications and scope of practice. As stated in the previous HAA testimony of 2019, midwifery as practiced by CNMs and CMs is defined by American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). These midwives are educated in programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) and must pass a national certification exam administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB).

HAA moves for further debate regarding statues of SB 1033 to address the distinctions of CNM, CM, CPM, and Traditional Birth Attendants.

Sincerely,

HAA Executive Board
Annette Manant, PhD, APRN, CNM, Interim HAA President
Connie Conover, CNM, HAA Vice President
Sharon Offley, CNM, HAA Treasurer



January 2, 2019

Re: A Bill for an Act, Draft 11-25-18 Relating to the Licensure of Midwives

Dear Senator Rosalyn Baker, Elizabeth Kent, Le'a Minton,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this draft legislation regarding the Bill. The executive board of Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (HAA, ACNM) has reviewed the Bill for an Act. The HAA board recently invited HAA members to provide feedback as well. A summation of comments from the HAA board and members is as follows:

For the protection and safety of childbearing women, newborns and families, we support licensure of Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs). We also support a woman's right to choose her place of birth and access to birth providers.

The bill is entitled "a bill for an act relating to the licensure of MIDWIVES". MIDWIVES is a generic term that applies to different types of midwives with different education, training, and scope of practice. CNMs (certified nurse midwives) are midwives as well who are already licensed by the Hawaii State Board of Nursing (as the proposed bill states), so this bill does not apply to ALL "midwives" and should be clearly written in the title: a bill for an act relating to the licensure of certified midwives (CMs) and certified professional midwives (CPMs).

The current proposed bill would be more clearly described if there were two distinct sections; one for CMs and one for CPMs. The definition, education, certification, scope of practice, location of practice, continuing education, prescriptive authority, and authority to use legend drugs are not the same for CMs versus CPMs. Therefore if CMs and CPMs must be in the same bill in order to attain licensing in the State of Hawaii, we recommend dividing the bill into two sections that specifically focus only, wholly and completely on definition, education, certification, scope of practice, location of practice, continuing education, prescriptive authority related to CMs, followed by a section that addresses definition, education, certification, scope of practice, location of practice, continuing education, and authority to use legend drugs as it relates to CPMs. We support CM legislation that includes scope of practice compliant with ACNM (*Definition of Midwifery and Scope of Practice of CNMs and CMs*) and we support CPM legislation that includes scope of practice compliant with US MERA (United States Midwifery Education, Regulation, and Association) agreements.

Sincerely,

HAA Executive Board
Colleen Bass, President
Carmen Linhares, Vice President
Celeste Chavez, Treasurer
Annette Manant, Secretary
annette.manant@gmail.com

Comparison of Certified Nurse Midwives, Certified Midwives, and Certified Professional Midwives

Clarifying the distinctions among professional midwifery credentials in the United States

International Confederation of Midwives' Definition of MIDWIFE	<p>While the profession of midwifery has developed differently in each country, we share a common understanding of the midwife internationally. The International Confederation of Midwives' definition is:</p> <p>The midwife is recognized as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwife's own responsibility and to provide care for the newborn and the infant. This care includes preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in mother and child, the accessing of medical care or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures. The midwife has an important task in health counseling and education, not only for the woman, but also within the family and the community. This work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and may extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and childcare. A midwife may practice in any setting including the home, community, hospitals, clinics, or health units.</p>
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NATIONAL MIDWIFERY CREDENTIALS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFE (CNM)	CERTIFIED MIDWIFE (CM)	CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE (CPM)
EDUCATION			
Minimum Degree Required for Certification	Graduate Degree		Certification does not require an academic degree but is based on demonstrated competency in specified areas of knowledge and skills.
Minimum Education Requirements for Admission to Midwifery Education Program	Bachelor's Degree or higher from an accredited college or university AND		High School Diploma or equivalent
	Earn RN license prior to or within midwifery education program.	Successful completion of required science & health courses and related health skills training prior to or within midwifery education program.	Prerequisites for accredited programs vary, but typically include specific courses such as statistics, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, and experience such as childbirth education or doula certification. There are no specified requirements for entry to the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) pathway: an apprenticeship process that includes verification of knowledge and skills by qualified preceptors.
Clinical Experience Requirements	Attainment of knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors as identified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Education.		Attainment of knowledge and skills, identified in the periodic job analysis conducted by NARM.

NATIONAL MIDWIFERY CREDENTIALS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFE (CNM)	CERTIFIED MIDWIFE (CM)	CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE (CPM)
	<p>Clinical education must occur under the supervision of an American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)-certified CNM/CM or other qualified preceptor who holds a graduate degree, has preparation for clinical teaching, and has clinical expertise and didactic knowledge commensurate with the content taught; >50% of clinical education must be under CNM/CM supervision.</p>		<p>NARM requires that the clinical component of the educational process must be at least two years in duration and include a minimum of 55 births in three distinct categories. Clinical education must occur under the supervision of a midwife who must be nationally certified, legally recognized and who has practiced for at least three years and attended 50 out-of-hospital births post certification.</p> <p>CPMs certified via the PEP may earn a Midwifery Bridge Certificate (MBC) to demonstrate they meet the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) standards for minimum education.</p>
EDUCATION PROGRAM ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION			
	<p>The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) is authorized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit midwifery education programs and institutions. Midwifery education programs must be located within or affiliated with a regionally accredited institution.</p>		<p>The Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) is authorized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit midwifery education programs and institutions. The scope of recognition includes certificate and degree-granting institutions, programs within accredited institutions, and distance education programs.</p>
SCOPE OF PRACTICE			
Range of care provided	<p>Midwifery as practiced by CNMs and CMs encompasses the independent provision of care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period; sexual and reproductive health; gynecologic health; and family planning services, including preconception care. Midwives also provide primary care for individuals from adolescence throughout the lifespan as well as care for the healthy newborn during the first 28 days of life. Midwives provide care for all individuals who seek midwifery care, inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations.</p> <p>CNMs/CMs provide initial and ongoing comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. They conduct physical examinations; independently prescribe medications including but not limited to controlled substances, treatment of substance use disorder, and expedited partner therapy; admit, manage, and discharge patients; order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests; and order medical devices, durable medical equipment, and home health services.</p> <p>Midwifery care as practiced by CNMs and CMs includes health promotion, disease prevention, risk assessment and management, and individualized wellness education and counseling. These services are provided in partnership with individuals and families in diverse settings such as ambulatory care clinics, private offices, telehealth and other methods of remote care delivery, community and public health systems, homes, hospitals, and birth centers.</p>		<p>Midwifery as practiced by CPMs offers care, education, counseling and support to women and their families throughout the caregiving partnership, including pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period. CPMs provide on-going care throughout pregnancy and continuous, hands-on care during labor, birth and the immediate postpartum period, as well as maternal and well-baby care through the 6-8 week postpartum period.</p> <p>CPMs provide initial and ongoing comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. CPMs are trained to recognize abnormal or dangerous conditions requiring consultation with and/or referral to other healthcare professionals. They conduct physical examinations, administer medications, and use devices as allowed by state law, order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests.</p>
Practice Settings	<p>All settings - hospitals, homes, birth centers, and offices. The majority of CNMs and CMs attend births in hospitals.</p>		<p>Homes, birth centers, and offices. The majority of CPMs attend births in homes and/or birth centers.</p>

Prescriptive Authority	All US jurisdictions	Maine, Maryland, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Washington, DC	CPMs do not maintain prescriptive authority; however, they may obtain and administer certain medications in select states.
Third Party Reimbursement	Most private insurance; Medicaid coverage mandated in all states; Medicare, TRICARE	Most private insurance; Medicaid coverage in Maine, Maryland, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington, DC	Private insurance mandated in 6 states; coverage varies in other states; 13 states include CPMs in state Medicaid plans
CERTIFICATION			
NATIONAL MIDWIFERY CREDENTIALS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFE (CNM)	CERTIFIED MIDWIFE (CM)	CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE (CPM)
Certifying Organization	American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)		North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)
	AMCB and NARM are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies		
Requirements Prior to Taking National Certification Exam	Graduation from a midwifery education program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME); AND Verification by program director of completion of education program AND Verification of master's degree or higher <i>*CNMs must also submit evidence of an active RN license at time of initial certification</i>		Graduation from a midwifery education program accredited by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) OR Completion of NARM's Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) OR AMCB-Certified CNM/CM with at least ten community-based birth experiences OR Completion of an equivalent state licensure program All applicants must also submit evidence of current adult CPR and neonatal resuscitation certification or course completion
Recertification Requirement	Every 5 years		Every 3 years
LICENSURE			
Legal Status	Licensed in 50 states plus the District of Columbia and U.S. territories as midwives, nurse-midwives, advanced practice registered nurses, or nurse practitioners.	Licensed in Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.	Licensed in 35 states and the District of Columbia.
Licensure Agency	Boards of Midwifery, Medicine, Nursing or Departments of Health	Boards of Midwifery, Medicine, Nursing, Complementary Health Care Providers or Departments of Health	Boards of Midwifery, Medicine, Nursing, Complementary Health Care Providers; Departments of Health or Departments of Professional Licensure or Regulation
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION			
	American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)		National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM)
<i>Note: This document does not address individuals who are not certified and may attend births with or without legal recognition.</i>			



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February 2, 2023

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Group Testimony in Opposition of HB 955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

'Ahahui o Na Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated the health of the people of Hawai'i. We recognize that there is mistrust among Native Hawaiian and other indigenous communities towards western medicine. There is still much western medicine can learn from traditional practices to improve the health of our *mākuahine* and *keiki* (mothers and babies), as physicians have moved away from outdated practices such as

immediate umbilical cord severance or separation of mothers and babies after birth and have made traditional practices such as skin to skin bonding between mother and infants immediately after birth now the standard of medical care. Such practices can co-exist with life-saving standards of care in modern medicine, particular in the early recognition of complications during pregnancy, labor or neonatal care where timely referral to advanced medical care services can prevent permanent disability or death.

A recently published study in 2022 based on data from the state of Hawaii and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children demonstrated that infants with hypoxic brain injury were three times more likely to have had a planned home birth in Hawai'i. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35037395/>. Our *mākuahine* (mothers) in Hawai'i have the right to decide where to give birth and with whom as their birth attendants. They have the right to seek Reproductive Justice, defined as the human right to personal bodily autonomy and have children in a safe community. This proposed bill seeking to allow any person to practice midwifery without a license completely undermines the Hawaii midwife licensure law's intent to ensure that home birth occurs as safely as possible with appropriately licensed and skilled providers and thus undermines the ability of *wāhine* (women) to seek Reproductive Justice. While there already is a provision in the original bill that exempt Native Hawaiian healing practices, this proposed bill seeks blanket exemption to allow any lay-person midwife to manage a woman's pregnancy, labor and newborn birth regardless of their education/training/skills.

While creating pathways through which individuals may obtain licensure is necessary, more information is needed to determine whether including the North American Registry of Midwives portfolio evaluation process as proof of successful completion of a formal midwifery education and training program is sufficient. Additionally, more information is needed regarding whether the supervisors of the portfolio activities would include currently unlicensed birth attendants and whether they would be able to effectively provide appropriate supervision and apprenticeship to midwifery trainees in Hawaii.

Rejection of HB 955 will ensure that *wāhine* (women) who choose to have a home birth will be attended by competently skilled providers with the *'ike* (knowledge) to both embrace traditional cultural values and advanced medical interventions when needed to achieve *Mauli Oli* (optimal health balance of spiritual, physical, mental and social wellbeing).

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Ahahui O Na Kauka

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:09:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angel M. Willey, MD	ACOG Hawai'i Section	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: House Committee on Health and Homelessness

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 3, 2023

FROM: ACOG Hawai'i Section

Angel Willey, MD, FACOG, Chair

Re: HB 955 – Relating to chapter 457J, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Position: OPPOSE

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) represents more than 200 obstetrician/gynecologist physicians in our state, and we oppose HB 955. This bill would create an exemption to the midwife licensure law that was recently passed by this legislature.

We support every birthing person's right to make informed decisions about their pregnancy and delivery. We believe that people should be informed that several factors are critical to reducing maternal and perinatal mortality and achieving favorable community birth outcomes. These factors include appropriately identifying circumstances that may make community birth riskier for either mom or baby; the availability of a midwife whose education and licensure meet International Confederation of Midwives' (ICM) Global Standards for Midwifery Education, or a physician practicing obstetrics within an integrated and regulated health system; ready access to consultation; and access to safe and timely transport to a hospital.

We also acknowledge the critical importance of protecting and preserving indigenous traditions and birthing practices. The current midwife licensure law already has an exemption for practitioners of Native Hawaiian birth practices.

The majority of births occur without major complications, whether they occurred in the hospital or out of the hospital. However, we do know that complications occur. It is critical that when they occur, the providers attending the birth are trained and competent to recognize it. In a recently published study in the [Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health](#),¹ investigators looked at records from the neonatal intensive care unit at Kapi'olani Medical Center of newborns who had been admitted for hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy – a brain injury that occurs during the birth process – and compared them to Hawai'i statewide birth data. The newborns in the neonatal ICU with this brain injury were three times more likely to have been planned home births compared to the normal neonates. This emphasizes that complications during birth occur, and it is critical to have trained, licensed healthcare providers capable of recognizing and managing these complications wherever that birth is occurring.

We understand and appreciate the important role of midwives, as defined by the midwife licensure law, in healthcare delivery, especially to rural and underserved areas of Hawai'i. We were pleased that the Hawai'i State Legislature recognized the importance of midwives, and the rigorous training they have undertaken and expertise they hold, by granting them the opportunity to be licensed health care professionals. Licensure of midwives was critical to making community (or out of hospital) births in Hawai'i safer. Licensure of midwives was also important for future efforts at promoting a more integrated maternal health care system, similar to those seen in western Europe where maternal and neonatal outcomes exceed those in the U.S.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-955

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 11:23:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori kimata	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Honorable legislators,

Please support HB955. As a home birth practitioner for over 30 years and over 3000 babies I know how extremely important it is to have different practitioners available to the families of Hawai'i. As we know, Hawai'i is a melting pot of diversity and we must honor, respect and listen to the voices of our community, while still taking serious consideration of safety for all. Please allow the birth attendants to continue to practice and honor the PEP process for CPMs who seek licensure through this path.

I strongly support HB955 as it stands.

Sincerely, Dr. Lori Kimata

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:14:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Veasey	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support HB955 because I am a current pregnant person in Hawaii and I value the ability to choose my care team for my labor and my child's birth. I value everyone's ability to make an autonomous decision on who provides them with care during labor and birth. I believe all certified professional midwives should be eligible for licensure.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:03:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Amey	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a student midwife living in maui hawaii, labor and delivery nurse, and a white woman I personally support this bill to expand access to midwifery education/accreditation and acknowledge my privilege that has made it possible for me to become a CNM (certified nurse midwife) that many others living here do not have equal access to. There are many barriers to becoming a midwife here in Hawaii, especially for indigenous and native hawaiians. There is a clear racial discrimination amongst native hawaiian midwives that prohibits them from providing culturally appropriate and safe care to people birthing in hawaii. Midwives are shown to improve birth outcomes for both mom and baby and this has been widely proven; WHO (world health organization) for example. If the state of Hawaii is making requirements for midwives, we need to provide equal and unbiased access to education and acknowledgement of indigenous practices that are the foundation of midwifery in Hawaii. I stand for equal access to becoming a midwife, support and acknowledge native hawaiian midwifery training, and recognition of the exceptional care hawaiian midwives have been providing for thousands of years.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:24:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pahnelopi McKenzie	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To: Chair Belattii
Vice Chair Takenouchi
and Members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: HB 955

Thank you for this hearing today for HB 955. **I stand in full support of HB 955 and I ask you to please support this essential Bill to protect Midwifery and Birthing families options. HB 955 protects a families right to culturally appropriate care to choose a Traditional Birth attendants and the Portfolio Evaluation Process, which allows a person to sit for the national accredited test to become a Certified Professional Midwife.** These essential exceptions continue the possibility of Global Midwifery education and training to be legal in Hawaii. Standard accountability in education and modality of training for the Traditional Cultural Midwife adhere to the national and global standards of NACM, UNDRIP, and MANA definition of Traditional Midwife. Midwifery on all levels must remain legal, this is foundation reproductive health care that needs to grow. The Collaborative Midwifery workforce, education pathways, and access to birthing spaces with practitioners that honor brilliance, safety, and culture must be accessible. Hawai'i must work collectively to grow Midwifery as standard of practice not criminalize and erase cultural brilliance. HRS 457-J without amendments will uphold the American domination of education and poor outcomes in Maternal health.

‘Sovereign law‘ HB 955 is in alignment with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People. UNDRIP Articles 3; 4; 8-1; 11-1; 12-1; 20-1; 23: 24-1 run alongside the PEP process for Certified professional Midwifery education routes and Traditional Midwifery here in Hawai'i. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Articles 1-1; 2-c,e; 4-c; 5-e, iv, v, vi; 7 must be acknowledged. Sovereigns Law exemptions in HRS 457-J are at baseline what we need to protect Traditional Midwifery practices in Hawaii.

As we sit here debating about the less than 10% Midwifery workforce, the domination 90% Obstetrical monopoly continues to harm, neglect, and disrupt the majority of Birthing people. Currently, America is the most dangerous industrialized nation to give birth in with 60%-80% unnecessary deaths (ACOG Data) , with the least amount of accessible Midwifery care.

Why would we uphold these horrific statistics for Maternal health care providers in Hawai‘i. Versus the humanitarian Hawaiian Kingdom, birth was a normalized sacred process along side of exceptional Collaborative Prenatal, and Postnatal care. We can see with Kukaniloko, cosmology of Haloa, wellness protocols of Haumea, Kapi‘olani Maternity home, and much more Hawai‘i has always been invested in Maternal and Infant health. American laws outlawing of Cultural practitioners from the past have had devastating long term effects. Hawai‘i and Midwives have always been about the collaborative well being of the future and safety. Midwives from the Bible have stood for life respecting autonomy with cultural birth practices over a system of death and. “Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiprah, and the other was named Puah; and he said, ‘When you are helping the Hebrew woman to give birth and see them upon the birth stool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.’ But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. So king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said to them, ‘Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?’ And the midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew woman are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous, and they give birth before the midwife can get to them.’ So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. And it came about because the midwives feared God, that He established households for them.” Midwifery will never disappear regardless of the laws or consent to death sentences commanded of the ‘Pharaohs’. HRS 457-J with out exemptions in HB 955 will uphold the command of death based on race and culture while removing competent Midwives that choose pathways out side of oppressive domination.

The data shows globally when Obstetrics is used for emergency care and Midwives are used as standard of care; there are much better outcomes for the families and the Maternal Health workforce. As long as surgeons (Obstetrical) are the baseline care for Healthy pregnancy people the morality and morbidity will never shift. As long as White supremacist domination of inaccessible and biased education is the standard we will continue to harm current and future Midwives. The Medical model data shows the continued rise of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, often in a spectrum based on race, routinely neglects pregnant people and infants. Quoted from White Coats for Black Lives, *“Health justice means being committed to dismantling medical racism and exploitation both within and outside of constructed national borders, transferring stolen power back to our patients and communities, crediting and compensating healers for their knowledge, and prioritizing the knowledge and perspectives of patients and their communities in the understanding of health and delivery of healthcare.”* Hawai‘i must remain dedicated to anti-racism, true health care, and honoring the rich variations of brilliance from culturally congruent practitioners. Traditional Midwives and Birth Attendants are cornerstones to healthy society. Midwifery criminalization is not the answer!

I hold the stance that Community Midwifery led Maternal Health care is a cradle of support encouraging experts in their fields, including families, while facilitating best outcomes. I ask for your support in shifting the Maternal health crisis by amplifying Midwifery accessibility. A Diverse unified Maternal Health Care system must include Midwives, in all forms, as experts of Birthing peoples healthcare. The cornerstone of humanity is the continuation of birthing practices. Community led collaborative care has been the standard of care for most Human existence. Can we return to an equitable system placing the family first with experts focused on their gifts? Or, will systematic racism, greed, and violence continue to dominate in Industrialized

birthing spaces? The continued division of care providers, a colonized model, keeps women at high risk. The exemptions of HB 955 protect traditional Birth attendants alongside the Portfolio Evaluation Process that allows a person to sit for the national accredited test to become a Certified Professional Midwife. Pregnancy is not a sickness. Women's bodies are not a problem. Babies deserve to be born in to safe respectful spaces. We are all affected by the Maternal health of our society. Reproductive health care starts in the womb and the right to choose, how, where, if, and with whom someone chooses to grow their family. **Please support HB955 and carry it through all bill passing into law.**

Thank you for all the work you do for the wellbeing of Hawai'i
In Gratitude, Pannelopi Mckenzie

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:46:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Thompson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Families deserve the right to choose for them self. Home births have a much lower need for interventions, Caesarian's and way lower fetal and maternal death rates. Traditional midwifery saves lives and births. It is the right of people to seek traditional pathways for themself and their children.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:08:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara DiGrazia	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

My name is Sara DiGrazia. I am a kama'aina resident of Hawai'i, psychologist, and mother of two home-birthered children. I am asking you to please support HB955. My choice of midwife was integral to the formation of my family, and during our interview process we interviewed midwives from a wide background of training, including traditional midwives. Please keep our right to choose who attends our bodies in their most intimate moments, our choice. Thank you for considering HB955.

-Sara DiGrazia, Psy.D.

P.S. I so aologize. my husband copied my testimony onto his account by accident (as he was going to add to it and edit mine) and although he supports this bill also, he would not have written what I wrote! I am calling tomorrow to see if it can be fixed.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:52:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lantana K Hoke	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti and committee members,

My name is Lantana Hoke. I was born and raised on Maui, and I am an educator at the University of Hawaii Maui College, an employee at Pacific Birth Collective, and a home birth mother.

I am testifying today as an individual in strong support of HB955.

I recognize that midwifery licensure was a positive step with good intentions toward improving maternal health care for Hawaii’s family. However, HRS 457J does not account for some very important considerations. This bill addresses two major holes in that law and is a win-win solution.

The first positive aspect of this bill is respecting reproductive choice. Through my work with PBC, I have counseled many women through making choices about their care. Many of them do not want to go to the hospital for very valid reasons. The WHO reports that 1 in 6 American women experience mistreatment during childbirth, and their findings show that that mistreatment is experienced more frequently by women of color, when birth occurs in hospitals, and among those with social, economic or health challenges. There’s also a really high c-section rate, and a growing maternal health care crisis in America largely driven by for-profit, non-evidence based institutions. I have worked with many women who refuse to go back to the hospital after a traumatic experience. We already have too few midwives to meet the demand from the community. I have worked with women who have struggled with the choice to give birth at home, alone, with no attendant, because they are so scared of the hospital and they could not find a midwife. When confronted with this reality, it is very clear that we don’t want to further reduce choices and force pregnant women into such difficult situations.

Families in Hawaii always have and will continue to seek out prenatal, birth and postpartum support from traditional midwives as they have for many generations. To take that choice away from them is oppressive and infantilizing, and in fact, impossible. Women will continue to seek this care no matter what the law says. To not include these measures will put traditional midwives in a very difficult ethical position as they try to serve those who need them. It may also cause complications with hospital transfers. There have been no problems with traditional midwives over the last few years and decades.

The second win is by providing a reasonable path toward licensure for traditional midwives. As others have testified, the current restrictive pathway does not account for the geographical restrictions we encounter in Hawaii. To go to midwifery school on the mainland is expensive and out of reach for many practicing traditional midwives, many of whom have been learning and working for decades via the apprenticeship model. The current pathway toward licensure excludes many women, especially women of color, who provide important care to their communities. The Portfolio Evaluation Process is a nationally approved educational route, and is a reasonable and attainable pathway to licensure.

At a time when much of America is whittling away at women's reproductive freedom, we have a real opportunity to be a part of protecting the most vulnerable women and children in our population. Midwives will play a major role in addressing the dire maternal health care crisis in America, and we should do everything we can to increase the number of midwives in our communities.

I respectfully ask that you pass HB955.

Mahalo,

Lantana Hoke

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:04:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaymie Lewis	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Honorable House Health Comiittee

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important piece of legislation.

Act 32 aimed to license two types of midwives to provide services to families and also states, “This Act also exempts a separate category of birth attendants for a three-year period, to allow this community to define themselves and develop common standards, accountability measures, and disclosure requirements. By the end of the three year period, the legislature intends to enact statutes that will incorporate all birth practitioners and allow them to practice to the fullest extent under the law”. Midwives across the state, the DCCA, HHA, DOH, and ACOG all went through the motions to collect data, the disclosure form was crafted and released to the public, and standards and accountability measures were discussed and solutions were drafted to address these concerns. Act 32 was presented to the legislation under false pretenses that our community was in direct danger by being supported by midwives in home births. The Hawai’i home birth task force proved these allegations were incorrect in 2019. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, there have been 3 bills presented to the legislation in order to finalize the legality of the “separate category of birth attendants” and make good on the promise that was written into Act 32.

The bills being presented this year (HB955 and her sister bill SB1047) are the work of years of conversation and compromise amongst local community members, government departments, and national organizations. They are reasonable and have working precedent in other states. If the intention of Act 32 is in the name of safety for our community members, then transparency and freedom of choice allows honest conversations to flow between caretakers should the need arise. These sister bills aim to build that bridge. Hawai’i residents have experienced and know there are more choices than what Act 32 presents and they want those choices LEGALLY protected. There are thousands of pages spanning nearly a decade offering support for legalizing the many choices midwives and “birth attendants” have to offer. Legally acknowledging and protecting the diversity around reproductive choice is basic human rights. It is the elected official’s duty to serve their constituents and uphold their freedoms.

Thank you for your respecting ALL your constituents, even the minority.

In Light,

Jaymie Lewis

Mother of three home birth babies and Birth Attendant of 13 years in Hawai'i

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:55:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Preciado	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to HB955 and I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! There is heaps of evidence that prove home births are very safe. As a mother, you should have the right to choose how your baby enters the world.

There have been numerous studies conducted over the past 40 years to compare the safety of homebirth as compared to hospital birth. The consensus from the research shows that homebirth is as safe or safer than hospital birth for low-risk women with a skilled birth attendant - a midwife.

One such study conducted by Lewis Mehl compared the birth outcomes of 2,092 women. His results showed that the incidence of interventions such as forceps, manual placental traction, episiotomy, laceration, and birth injuries was significantly higher for a hospital birth than for a home birth.

This is an extremely valid reason that we should preserve midwifery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kara Preciado

Mother of 1, safely born at home

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:10:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Scanlan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am writing to testify that I strongly support HB955 and the preservation of Traditional Midwifery. I am a seventh generation traditional Hawaiian healer and I descend from a line of female practitioners on my mothers side, my Hawai'i side. My great-great-great-great grandmother, Mānoa Kalokuokamaile, was a traditional midwife and trained her granddaughter, Luka Kinolau, in the tradition as well. I, myself, have had 3 home births and support the right of women to choose where and how and with whom they want to birth. As a woman it is our birth right to have autonomy over our bodies and be able to choose what we do with and to our body and that includes the birth of our children. By opposing this bill you are condoning and willfully participating in the erasure of a cultural traditional practice that is centuries old. Long before the healthcare system, pharmaceutical companies, and health insurance existed, children were born at home with the support of a traditionally trained midwife. Your ancestors, my ancestors, and all ancestors started with home birth. There is no reason that midwifery should become illegal other than to control women's bodies and choices. Having the right to choose home birth was so empowering for me. When our women are empowered, our entire society is strengthened; from the children, to the household, to the workforce and into our communities. Once again I strongly support HB955. Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:12:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenae Taguiped	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Reasons I had a home birth with traditional midwives:

I felt loved and cared for. I share this in vulnerability to show the deep understanding and trust my support team had for me, my baby, and the family they were caring for.

I was listened to and respected as a birthing woman.

I had the freedom to make choices without being pressured into unnecessary interventions.

I never felt pressure to birth at a certain hour or time. My baby would come when she was supposed to be here. I was confident in this and so was my support team.

I had the opportunity to move freely, as well as take advantage of multiple spaces in my home. I also ate and drank as I pleased. This comfortability allowed me to relax, open up and deliver my baby in an environment that was familiar + safe.

When birthing at home, a woman is legally entitled to have whomever she wishes at her birth. (This was not the case for me in a hospital in 2020 mid-pandemic.)

Once I gave birth; I was honored hours of uninterrupted skin-to-skin. There was no need to cut the umbilical cord, weigh or measure her, all that could wait.

The aftercare my baby received from my midwives resonated with how I wanted my child to be treated. This may be controversial, but my daughter is a healthy two-year-old who has never once visited a doctor's office + has had no need to.

Cozying up in my bed with my husband and baby after hours of exhausting labor was the most ideal situation I could imagine.

I truly believe my success as a mother has been based on how I brought my baby in to the world. I support this bill with my whole heart. Please!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:39:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Avicolti	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha nui,

As a Native Hawaiian, mother, and practicing Birth Worker I strongly support this bill HB955 because our God-given CHOICE must be honored and protected. It is not up to the government to decided who is "allowed" to attend a birth and to regulate where a birth takes place. That choice is a private and individualized decision that holds generations of wisdom, safety, health, and sacred practices that are culturally, spiritually, and emotionally rooted. We support all homebirth attendants despite licensure, to support families that value their highly trained and skilled expertise to welcome new life and care for the family. In my personal experience attending and supporting births for the last 7 years, I have seen significantly better outcomes of those that chose to have a trusted midwife/birth support in attendance, than those that birthed in a hospital. If we are FOR the people, then our freedom and right to choose must be upheld and honored. Please hear our testimonies and take them to heart, as this not only affects us now, but for generations to come. Mahalo for your time!

Testimony in Support:

HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Aloha e Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

First of all, I would like to really thank you for taking the time on your agenda to schedule this very important reproductive rights bill. As we see on a national level, our reproductive rights are being increasingly diminished and challenged, it is more important than ever that Hawaii uphold a birthing person's autonomy to make decisions that strengthen, rather than limit, our access to birth choices.

As a practicing birth and labor support professional, I deeply understand that culturally appropriate care is integral to positive birth outcomes and must reflect the multitude of needs in our community. All birthing persons should have the human right to choose their preferred birth attendant.

As outlined in this bill, please:

- Codify the existing exemptions for traditional birth attendants to continue practicing.
- Allow all Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) to be eligible for licensure by expanding the current qualifications for licensure to include the North American Registry of Midwives portfolio evaluation process (PEP) as a legitimate way for students to obtain a CPM certification and allows for a local pathway for those seeking licensure.

Thank you for your service and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laura Acasio

Former State Senator, Labor Support Professional & Certified Lactation Counselor

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:38:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sienna gomez	Gomez Media Group	Support	In Person

Comments:

I strongly support that HB955 is not taken away and is instead preserved for the women like myself who have traumatic hospital experiences. Please don't take away the freedom that women should have to choose where they feel the most comfortable giving birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:56:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kii Kahooohanohano	Malama Na Pua O Haumea	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai Kakou,

My name is Ki'inaniokalani Kaho'ohanohano and I am in strong support of HB955, which will protect pathways and cultural and religious traditions in birthing practices in Hawai'i. I have been serving Maui as a cultural practitioner of lomi lomi, la'au lapa'au, ho'oponopono, for over twenty years. It is this work which brought me to birth work and the opportunity to apprentice as a pale keiki. I have had multiple sources and Kumu, and learned by doing, the way of our kūpuna. I apprenticed and assisted one of my mentors Tina Garzero, "Maui's county's women of excellence award winner", for over 10 years until her passing. I have since continued to hold the torch, and provide full spectrum of care to women and families in Maui County. My many mentors continue through the years to support my growth and learning. This is not a job, and I don't often even get paid much. It is my kuleana... I work by donation and work often with underserved rural and often low income families. I offer free prenatal clinics from Honokohau to East Maui, birth education classes, nutritional support and more. Our approach is based on preventive and proactive care, and we expect full accountability and integrity from our families, as they do from us. We spend hours in preparing and educating our families.

The education required by the current law doesn't exist in our state, is very expensive, and requires preceptors which Hawai'i does not have. Quite honestly, medical midwifery is a model that contradicts everything I am. The 'Ike that has been passed down to me is rare, almost to erasure, and these practices are what heal women of all backgrounds, because we all are human first. We all need to regain our cultural traditions that will heal us, and to receive the care we deserve in our most vulnerable times. When folks ask me to attend their births, they choose me because of my mindset and approach to their heightened state of wellness, pregnancy. They choose me for the training and dedication I DO have, which is based in traditional and cultural practices. I know we have become other people's children in Hawai'i and beyond, adopting new traditions and practices, and for some that is okay. For some it is not. All birthing families should have bodily autonomy and medical freedom in the most sacred rite of passage, giving birth! We were born, created as wāhine to procreate, hānau...It is proven that cultural competency improves health disparities, especially in the birth process, and we fill that gap. It is shown clearly in countries where midwives/birth attendants are abundant, there are less disparities. Where as the US has the highest disparities of all "civilized" nations, with very little midwives/birth attendants. Modern medicalized birth is not anymore safe, it's quite the contrary, causing terrible harm in too many cases attempting to control a natural process. If that's where someone feels safe, that's where they should be! But the bottom line is they already have that choice. We deserve to have a choice too ❤️ Terrifying statistics just released state that most maternal deaths could have been avoided in hospitals, and black and brown bodies have the highest disparities .

I am a mother of five homebirth babies, and have been able through my own births, to heal generations of trauma. My keiki were born, gently into this world on the lands that their kūpuna were once born...prepared, held, and guided by traditional midwives each time. If you have never attended birth at home, you can't even imagine how beautiful it can be ❤️

For the past 3 years we have practiced under the current traditional birth attendant exemption, and been busier than ever since Covid! My transfer rate was less than 5%, never in emergency. When in prenatal process I discover that for whatever reason the birth is not low risk, I transfer care of mamas, but never leave their side. We care very much for our families which become like 'Ohana to us. This is what is missing in modern medicine, relationships. I have 'ohana that I have helped with all their babies, and in July 2023, if this legislation sb1047/hb955 (2023) does not pass, it will prevent them from having me, and prevent me from helping them, even though they choose me for future births. I have had multiple apprentice for years, and this will also eliminate this pathway, and our ability to share with future generations.

There are so few traditional birth attendants left, due to intentional erasure of cultural practices. Let us learn from the task force report, the report to the governor, the United Nation's recommendations, and all the very important sources that show that traditional birth attendants improve health and wellness of birthing families. Please don't let this exemption be taken away from all of us. My keiki are begging you....especially my Wailua girl who hopes to be a traditional birth attendant one day like her mama ❤️

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

Ki'inaniokalani Kaho'ohanohano
Mālama Nā Pua O Haumea
Pacific Birth Collective
Hawai'i Homebirth Collective
Task Force TM Representative
Hawai'i Midwifery Council
[808-276-3365](tel:808-276-3365)

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:16:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danny Shin	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. We delivered our first born in the safety and comfort of our home and we would not choose to have it any other way. Families should be given their rights to choose how and where to birth their child. It is their God given right!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:55:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanna Kinsey	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

February 1, 2023

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB955.

Aloha,

My name is Suzanna Kinsey and I am a traditional birth attendant who is directly affected by this bill. I humbly ask you to support bill HB955 so that I may continue to offer birth services to Hawaii families.

As the law currently stands, I will not be able to attend births in Hawaii come July 1, 2023. I have no intentions to circumvent the law. I did start schooling with an approved school based on the mainland. However, I have found it impossible to complete the out of state schooling required to become a certified professional midwife and to achieve licensure in Hawaii due to financial constraints and family commitments. My home is in Hawaii and my family is in Hawaii.

I have had many years of training and attending births and I would like to continue to do so. Many families have honored me and enriched my life by inviting me into their homes and their family births. It is a sacred experience. It is my privilege to offer traditional birth care to Hawaii's families. Please allow me to continue to do so.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter,

Suzanna Kinsey

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:40:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney hawkinson	Hawkinson designs	Support	In Person

Comments:

I believe women have FAR less trauma from giving birth at home with midwife care. Midwife care is how I gave birth to both of my babies. They are healthy and I am healthy. The trauma from a traumatic birth will only go home with the mother, no one else. She is the ONLY one who will have to live with that for the rest of her life. The doctors nurses even partners do not deal with the extreme emotional toll a traumatic birth can take on a woman. You are then isolating us and creating even more trauma. There is so much research about the hormones released during birth that help excellerate and ease birth. In a sterile bright unsafe environment our bodies shut down and do not produce those hormones... We are the key to the future. If you want us to keep giving birth don't take this RIGHY away from us! Do the right thing and give women the freedom to give birth the way we're MADE to do so. Doctors treat birth like an illness. That's what hospitals are for. Illnesses. BIRTH IS NOT AN ILLNESS

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:08:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rethabile Molapo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Rethabile Molapo and I wish to express my support for traditional midwifery practices in Hawaii as well as the expansion of the qualifications for midwifery licensure. As an aspiring midwifery student of color, I have witnessed and am currently experiencing westernized licensing requirements unfairly impact communities of color and limit the options available to birthing people. I am acutely aware of the challenges faced by aspiring midwives in the state, particularly in terms of access to education and certification.

One major barrier to becoming a licensed midwife in Hawaii is the lack of Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) accredited schools in the state. There are no options available. This makes it difficult for midwifery students in Hawaii to obtain the certification they need to practice. However, I believe that the inclusion of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) pathway in the licensure process would help rectify this scenario and provide a more accessible route for midwifery students in Hawaii to become certified professional midwives (CPMs). As it stands, only CPM candidates who have taken the MEAC pathway to certification are able to pursue licensure in Hawaii. This specifically limits the pool of qualified midwives available to families in the state and unfairly disadvantages aspiring midwives who may not have access to out of state MEAC-accredited schools.

I believe our collective goal is to achieve safe pregnancy and birth experiences while reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. I support making permanent the existing exemption for birth attendants to continue to practice without a license, under certain conditions.

Midwifery is not just about providing care during pregnancy and birth; it is about protecting women's health and sovereignty during these critical moments in their lives. Traditional midwives are experts in low-risk reproductive health care and provide a unique perspective and skill set that should be valued and utilized.

Preserving the practice and legal pathway of traditional midwifery is essential for future generations in Hawaii. It is imperative that traditionally-trained midwives are available to continue this important work and provide families with the care and support they need.

I support the expansion of qualifications for licensure to include the North American Registry of Midwives portfolio evaluation process. This will help ensure that the full range of knowledge and expertise held by traditional midwives is recognized and utilized in providing care to families in Hawaii.

I ask that you consider these views and take steps to include the PEP pathway in the licensure process for midwives in Hawaii and support the role of traditional midwifery. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:31:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Hocker	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

My name is Jordan Hocker and I live on the island of Maui. I need to outline my enthusiastic support for this piece of legislation. I have 2 daughters, aged 7 and 6 months and both were born at home with a traditional midwife or birth attendant. In both cases, my midwives had obtained training and apprenticeship through hands on, community direct care, under the guidance of a teacher. In both cases, they were/are highly respected and sought after birth professionals with decades of experience serving the community. Licensure alone, doesn't make a good midwife. Some licensed midwives who fly into our communities already credentialed cause harm because they are unaware of the context and culture of our communities. A good midwife has accountability and investment to their families and overall their overall health. They are deeply aware of the need for healthy outcomes for mothers and families. For each of my births, I had a good midwife.

We know the state of birthing in the hospital system in Hawaii is deplorable for certain groups of women. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women are dying in the hospital system due to a lack on continuous and culturally aware care. Systemic racism and lack of deep cultural wisdom like traditional food pathways for health threaten our families. A midwife for every women is the remedy to that tragedy. We know that access to care in neighboring islands can be hard to come by. While licensure at it heart seeks to make our communities safer, the lack of accessible education pathways outlined in the current revised statute poses a large barrier to midwives lacking \$40,000+ and the ability to fly to the continent to seek the education to become licensed, then there is the barrier of a certified individual to take births under here in Hawaii, which means hands on experience has to happen outside of the community as well. The current statute falls short of meeting the need of our mothers, especially neighboring islands where families may live remotely. This bill seeks to exempt the individuals who are directly immersed in their communities, to provide a midwife for every woman and helps to ensure accessibility for rural communities. I live 30 minutes from the hospital and my last active labor was incredibly short, totaling 3 hours and 47 minutes. The first 3 hours, I slept through and woke up to realize my daughter was coming very quickly. I would have certainly given birth in the car had I tried to make it to a hospital, luckily my midwife lived 15 minutes down the highway.

As the great great great great granddaughter of Louisa Painter, a traditional midwife who served early American settlers in the plains of Kansas, I implore you to pass HB955 out of this committee so that this legislation makes it closer to allowing our communities to be served by

the dedicated and qualified individuals. I implore you to protect the health of all women and mothers, but specifically those who have been classically underserved and harmed by conventional options. The strength and foundation of our lives hangs in the balance with this bill, please serve us by passing this out of committee.

Mahalo nui.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:56:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebekah Botello	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Year after year, the Hawaii State Legislature seeks to infringe on women's rights in the realm of birth choices. Again and again - Hundreds, if not thousands, of us have spoken out against bills that have sought to truncate our ability to bodily autonomy. As a mother of 4 children - all born at home - I cannot imagine not having the right to birth where I choose, in the manner I choose, and with whom I choose. Traditional Midwifery is a long established practice and needs NO LEGISLATION or governmental interference. Women who choose homebirth are highly educated and seek alternatives to western hospital medicalized birth. Traditional homebirth has more benefits than just physical ones - it satisfies deep emotional, cultural, and often, religious, aspects of birth that we deem sacred. All birthing practices need to be preserved for the women and families of Hawaii. The overwhelming statistics on homebirth show unequivocally that it is safe - safer than most hospital births. But that's not even the main point here. Censoring and censoring traditional midwives cuts off a huge avenue for women and their partners to pursue birth choices that are sacred to them and them alone. Removing avenues to home births infringes on individuals' and families' right to make highly personal and private health care choices. Protecting traditional midwifery is IMPERATIVE! My daughter and my future daughters-in-law all deserve the right to choose their own pathway to birth... my neices, cousins, friends - they all deserve this right as well. I strongly urge each legislator to STRONGLY SUPPORT bill HB 955 and protect the practice of traditional homebirth workers in our state now and forever!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:27:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Iannarone	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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Asking humbly if you could PLEASE do this before you go to bed. And ask 10 others to do t
STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices"

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:12:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skylar	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My child has was born at home! We had the best experience especially cause we got to choose what we were comfortable with! **THIS BILL NEEDS TO PASS!** We need to give our people the freedom to choose. More options are better then less and our midwives need to preserved and protected! If our people are important to any organization they would pass this bill and allow our people of Hawaii a choice on how they choose to create life in the best possible way they know how. Children were born out of hospitals thousands of years before cooperate involvement from the government. Please allow the people to have the freedoms of choice over their own body

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:38:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariezanelle Joyce Sumaoang	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support House Bill 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:33:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alohi Aea	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Mahalo to the Committee and Representative Bellati for hearing this very important bill, which will allow families across Hawai'i to continue to have access to birth practitioners whose knowledge extends beyond that taught in western and American schools.

I have chosen three times (soon to be four) to develop a birth team for myself and my family that includes birth practitioners who will be affected by this law. This law is not just about those who will be allowed to continue to **practice** beyond July of 2023 if it is passed.

This law is about insuring access to practitioners-at the heart of the law are **consumers**, women and families like mine who want to be able to choose who they birth with. The regulations laid forth for birth attendants insure true informed consent, which is a critical part of all health care decisions. The removal of the July 2023 date will allow consumers continued access. Providing for a PEP pathway allows those who want to serve our community, now and in the future, to have a more affordable and equitable opportunity to do so.

I am grateful to this committee for hearing this bill. Please continue to stand for reproductive rights and freedoms by allowing women such as myself the opportunity to make choices for our own bodies.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:06:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalu reis	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:47:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elysha Woolger	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Traditional midwifery NEEDS to be kept for the health safty of the people of Hawaii. We need them.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:35:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Kahele	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL! I am a mother of six children and have birthed 4 of them at home with a traditional midwife. Five of my children are girls and should be given the same RIGHT TO CHOOSE what kind of midwife they want to have at their birth in the future. Isn't it "their body, their choice?" As you currently THREATEN this right, My family and I are in FULL SUPPORT of HB955 to ensure that you don't eliminate and eradicate traditional midwifery.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:34:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tennessee waller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery care is extremely important and an invaluable addition to the community . Because I had a licensed midwife I was able to have a safe and supported pregnancy and birth experience.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:58:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennette Paddock	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Everyone alive today is descended from generations of women who gave birth at HOME with MIDWIVES. As long as people have been having babies, midwives have been there to provide individualized, culturally competent, experienced care.

Even though we currently live in a time when most women choose to have their babies in the hospital, there will always be those who decide to have their babies at home. They need access to the wisdom, experience and safety of a care provider who is aligned with their priorities and values.

We talk a lot these days about women's reproductive rights, and access to a full range of options. We discuss loudly how the only one who knows what is best for a woman's body is the woman herself. A woman giving birth knows what is best for her and for her baby, and she needs access to the full range of options in care providers to support her in her choices.

I will personally forever be grateful for the access I had to a midwife and traditional birth attendant who aligned with my priorities. I chose to have all 4 of my babies at home because I wanted full autonomy over my body during birth. I needed to know there would be someone there to keep watch over me and alert me if a situation was developing that might be dangerous. I received truly family centered, culturally sensitive care. My babies and I were watched over and nurtured as whole people, not just physical bodies. We were kept safe in all senses of the word.

I have 3 daughters. I do not know if they will choose to have children. But I do know that it is imperative that the option to give birth at home with a midwife or traditional birth attendant be available to them, and to all of our daughters.

There needs to be room in the law for midwives and traditional birth attendants to continue practicing in Hawaii. Women's access to this crucial reproductive, whole-woman care is no small matter.

There also needs to be feasible pathways for new midwives to rise up, be educated and become experienced to safely care for women who choose to give birth at home.

As long as women are having babies there will be those who choose to give birth at home. HB955 creates access and choice for all women in Hawaii, as well as a way forward to protect the future of this key piece of women's rights in reproductive healthcare in our state.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:00:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:16:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wyonette wallett	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in full support of Bill955. Hawaii is in an emergency health crisis including maternity care. The need for our knowledgeable and accountable community based midwives and doulas are now even greater. Allowing our practicing and future midwives to service our families along with support of you and our western medics is the answer to successful health outcomes. We need to secure this pathway and exemption! Hawaii is a unique place, in where we have opportunity to teach and share knowledge as a pathway to becoming a practioner. We are also unique that we don't have access to this accredited schools with licensure that's being forced upon many highly skilled midwives. You have over time been given many reports and data proving positive facts about midwives and homebirth. Ask now why are we still spinning in this? We have a platform and a working system to connect to..imagine what could be done if waianae, lihue, hana all these places across Hawaii nei had a team of midwivesand doulas, what a shift of vibrant health would happen!..But makes no sense it's foolish we continue this debate while only the community and families still suffer. Midwives and doulas have long time been an intricate part of our society such as the democratic system you all partake in. Tell me did any of you go to school to be a coucil member, legislature or senator? No! That university doesn't exist at all. Yet you feel competent because you have done your do justice and learning in community works, advocacy, some education. Then felt ready to a higher calling to run for office, now voted in by our community. Trusted to make life decisions for the whole. Well it's a very similar process. Midwives and doulas gain huge amounts of knowledge over their tiresome hours of service, have technical training, then will be positioned when qualified by teacher and community. Trusted also to hold lifes sacred moments. Preserve the pathways of our knowledge. Protect our birth practioners.

Wyonette Wallett

Daughter of Hawaii

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:40:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyra Kahele	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. When the time comes when I want to have children, I already know that I want a traditional midwife to assist me with my birth. I have watched my mother give birth at home and desire the same for my future family. I will continue to fight for MY RIGHT to CHOOSE this.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:21:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rabbi Rachel Short	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I will be testifying via zoom regarding to how this bill supports Jewish religious practices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:39:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elyssa	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Hi my name is Elyssa Bishaw and I support HB955

I am a wife and mother that's received traditional midwifery care throughout my pregnancies and homebirth

Abolishing these individualized and holistic services violates a woman's right to autonomy during the most sacred time of her life

Limiting her options of support to what the state deems necessary is unethical. It is not the state who will experience the woman's pregnancy and birth so it is illogical to assume one mode of care will be sufficient for every pregnant woman

Traditional midwifery fosters a mothers intuition and comes alongside her to support the mental, physical, and spiritual preparation necessary to bring forth life. This kind of care is just not accessible within our conventional healthcare system

Pregnancy & birth is as personal as it gets and is not to be politicized or medicalized

Thank you

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:52:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Burbage	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in SUPPORT of HB 955.

My son and his wife chose to have a homebirth using a midwife this past Oct. The level of care (body and soul) they received was amazing! It laid many of my fears to rest as I saw how the midwife cared not just for my daughter-in-laws physical health but cared about her whole person, emotions, family life etc. and really walked them through what was happening and what was to come. This midwife was very professional and far beyond any obstetrician that I've used or heard of, and I had 4 babies.

I strongly feel this type of health and wellness care should be more widely available to pregnant women.

Mahalo,

Lora Burbage

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:45:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Surya Nguyen Tybuszewski	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Hello, my name is Surya Nguyen Tybuszewski and I am 9 years old. My mom is a naturopathic doctor but she is also a traditional Midwife. She has taught me at a very young age that it is important to have the phrase "my body my choice" in your mind. My body my choice means you are in charge of your own body, not the government. I want you to have that phrase in your mind too. Thank you for your time, attention and consideration. I support HB955 and so should you. Have a nice day! And thank you once more.

In January of 2022 I gave birth. My son came after two years of trying to conceive and one miscarriage. My husband and I were following the model of most before us, assuming the medical community would guide us through an enriching pregnancy journey.

The very negative experience I had with a miscarriage in 2020 led me to leave the gynecologist I'd been with for twelve years and seek out new support in my fertility journey. I joined a practice at Kapiolani and was once again met with a cold, sterile environment where I was shuffled from seat to seat with no connection or feeling of wellness. I would sweat, shake and freeze up at every appointment and I knew from my first check up with baby that this team was not aligned with my health needs. I have always felt a deep connection to homeopathy, nature and relate to more indigenous practices regarding medicine. I had to break from the system my insurance provided and seek out alternative options.

I dove deeper in researching birth and quickly learned it is quite natural to birth in your home environment and that medical admittance only became relevant when male doctors realized they could commoditize the experience using fear tactics. I highly recommend delving into the disturbing history behind gynecology and modern maternal care.

Women have handed over the most magical power in living beings, the ability to birth independently; allowing the medical community to litter the most perfect portrayal of a miracle with interventions based on unsupported myths and unthinkable practices driven by greed, and allowed by an absolutely clueless population.

I made the choice that a birth modeled after native practices, guided by a CPM and mid-wife students, in my home, was the safest and most ideal way to meet my son.

On a Sunday in January, at 42 weeks pregnant, after managing contractions for 6 hours at home alone with my husband, my midwives arrived at my home and gently encouraged my child to greet his mother.

My birth team created the most amazing experience for us without even being noticed. My husband literally pulled my son from my body that day, not just cutting the cord, but holding the most precious life in his hands as he took his first breaths of existence. My husband coached me through delivering my baby in my bedroom, and it was the most natural thing you could have ever witnessed. I felt so connected to God in that experience and it has not left my body since.

After only five months of gently monitoring my health and progression I welcomed these women into my home. I felt their love, their warmth, their innate passion for welcoming existence, a feeling that unfortunately, hospitals have no time for. I felt their strength as educators, practitioners, mothers, and I inherently became my own - creator, deliverer of life- a mother.

On that day I experienced the most empowering euphoria. Without home birth options, without native practitioners, I would have been robbed of that God Given Right that all womb bearers were gifted. Women have the right to know there are other options.

Home birth, mid-wife supported birth, unsupported birth, they are all exceptional ways to birth. It is for the creator of life and the new life within to decide how, when and where they will meet.

BIRTHING is none of the state's business.

Thank you so much for the time and space. Please support HB 955.

Sarah
Salt Lake Resident
Honolulu, Hawaii



Holistic Womb Arts -
Midwifery Services
md44@hawaii.edu

Aloha honorable Representative Bellati and committee members,

Thank you so much for scheduling a hearing for this bill.

I am in strong support of SB955 and urge you to pass this bill as is.

I have lived here since I was 10 years old. I'm a licensed midwife currently serving the island of Oahu. I did the majority of my training on Oahu starting in 2017 and opened my own practice about 1.5 years ago. **Here are my insights from my experience as the "boots on the ground" in the home birth community.**

There are currently 28 licensed midwives in the entire state. There are only 2 licensed midwives on Oahu that are actively attending home births. Some licensed midwives don't even live here, and some of those only got their license here in order to be preceptors for students who do live here. So not all licensed midwives are actively attending home births, and some don't live in Hawai'i. I offer this information to contextualize the reality of what "28" licensed midwives actually looks like right now. At least 3 of my colleagues will no longer be able to continue practicing on Oahu if the TBA exemption expiration date is not lifted. One of these is my teacher. She taught me how to become a midwife - yet she herself will no longer be allowed to practice ?

There are two components to this bill.

1- Accept the Portfolio Evaluation Process as a valid pathway for CPM's to access licensure. This makes sense because the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) supports this pathway. NARM is the national certifying agency for midwives. Its standards are what Hawai'i licensure has been based on. Yet, even though NARM certifies midwives who have gone through a MEAC accredited school **OR** those who have gone through the PEP process, Hawai'i doesn't. Hawai'i only currently recognizes the MEAC accredited school pathway. You can read more about the PEP process on the NARM website where they clearly state PEP as one of the options for achieving the CPM credential: <http://narm.org/certification-recertification/> . Why use NARM as the standard for licensure but then pick and choose which aspects of NARM the state supports ? It's an illogical discrepancy truly.

2- Permanently exempt Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA's). NARM is also in support of this. Preserving TBA's are a way of preserving cultural birth practitioners and **THUS** preserving culturally appropriate options

****Why is culturally competent/appropriate care important?****

I've seen what happens in states without integration of cultural practitioners. States where MEAC accredited based CPM's are the only option. It creates a limited situation where women only have licensed midwives available to support them at home. Many women distrust these providers, and without culturally appropriate providers available, they turn to unassisted birthing.

They birth on their own without a trained/experienced attendant because they feel they have no other choice. They birth on their own not necessarily because that's their first choice but because they don't have access to their own cultural providers that they can trust. I know this because I'm part of community groups both locally and nationally where women are planning their unassisted births.

This is a national and international contemporary phenomenon- women are running the extreme opposite way of western providers.

They're running from OB's, Certified Nurse Midwives AND Licensed midwives. Why? Because OB's and CNM's are part of a maternity system that has the worst neonatal and maternal morbidity and mortality rates out of all industrialized nations. AND those rates are increasing despite the US also being the country that spends the most amount of money on our maternity system. How do Licensed midwives fit into this? Although their outcome statistics are better, their field has become regulated by western culture and western authority. This is where the distrust from the community grows. For those whom western culture is not their own, they need access to providers of their own culture. Cultural providers who have been around for thousands of years, long before the western version of midwifery. *The MEAC accredited CPM pathway is a culture.* And it's not everyone's culture.

By supporting TBA's and the PEP pathways we can offer Hawaii's womens more options to avoid the polarized extreme situation that pushes women to choose unassisted birth out of fear. I've seen this first hand while studying in California and Texas. States with longstanding licensure. Let's learn from their experience and let's give the ohanas of Hawai'i choices.

Licensed midwives and birth attendants can coexist AND compliment each other. It's the minority that chooses to birth at home. It's the minority who chooses a midwife. It's the minority who chooses a birth attendant. Today I ask you to vote in support of minorities.

Respectfully,

Daniela Martinez Guzman

HB-955

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:34:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in support of HB955.

This bill would help to preserve different pathways for birth practitioners and maintain freedom of choice for people who actively seek out and prefer different types of homebirth providers. As birthing people we need this type of atonomy and choices for ourselves.

Support HB955 and pass it!

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-955

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:00:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Mor-Hamoy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen I've experienced tremendous help from midwives and birth assistants in Hawaii, they've helped throughout my pregnancy as well as supporting me in my own health journey.

Much of this support and help would not have been available to me if the schooling requirements to practice in Hawaii were not exempted.

I urge you to adopt a permanent exemption for Birth attendants and an apprenticeship pathway for local women to become licensed midwives without being required to attend prohibitively expensive midwifery schools.

Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:01:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Edwards Hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support any and all efforts to give women in and around our islands to have access to health care, and midwifery is not to be excluded from that definition. As a mother of two children who were birthed with the help of a midwife and doula, I recognize and value midwives. I also know that areas like our rural Puna and island of Molokai are among the many places in the islands that need midwives, in order to facilitate remote births. This is a choice, and sometimes a necessity, for us moms out here in paradise. Please recognize and support this very tradition approach to reproductive health. Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:12:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Stewart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Hawai'i 2023 Legislators,

My name is Ashley Stewart and I was born and raised on Maui. I support SB1047 and HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

I have birthed two healthy children at home on Maui w/ the support of midwives, doulas. and birth attendents.

Access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all Birthing people and their children. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i. This is important in an environment where midwifery care is limited.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Indigenous women, kanaka maoli, and families in poverty.

Kind Regards,

Ashley Stewart

HB-955

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 11:09:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maegan Hartman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Without my choice of birth my son would not have been born safely without intervention. Having my midwife with me in our own home allowed us to honor our personal beliefs and be supported in every way needed.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:24:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donnellyn Dominguez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have owned a birth center and worked as a profession licensed midwife in the state of Texas for 18 years. I have delivered over 1000 babies, including most of the children for a beautiful family who lives in Hawaii. This bill just came to my attention through them. Having the right and option to choose out of hospital birth assisted by professionally trained midwives is so very important to society in our country. Women should not loose this option for any reason! Midwives only accept healthy, low risk women in their practice and the attention to health and education for healthy outcomes is unmatched. If they, at any time, no longer fall into that category, they are transferred to a medical facility with an OB/GYN. Please do not take freedom of choice done legally and safely away from Hawaiian women! That could be disastrous for mothers and babies as well as take away the opportunity for women who want to serve as midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:14:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Schmidt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please leave the midwives alone, women have the right to choose how and with whom the give birth!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:45:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dawn alba noble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

traditional midwifery needs to be respected and preserved, traditional birth attendants need to be able to continue serving the families of Hawaii

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:07:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Riggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery, also known as traditional birth attendants, has been a valuable part of the birth culture for generations and continues to play an important role in many communities. It is important to respect and preserve traditional midwifery for several reasons:

1. **Cultural Significance:** Traditional midwifery is a deeply rooted cultural practice that holds significant meaning and value for many communities. It provides a sense of comfort and security to expectant mothers and families.
2. **Expertise:** Traditional birth attendants have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience over generations and often have an intimate understanding of their community's needs and challenges.
3. **Accessibility:** In many low-resource settings, traditional birth attendants are often the only available source of maternal health care, especially in remote and rural areas.
4. **Affordability:** Traditional birth attendants often provide services at a low cost or for free, making them accessible to families who may not be able to afford medical care.

Therefore, it is important to acknowledge the role of traditional midwifery and to work with traditional birth attendants to ensure that they are respected and valued, and their expertise is preserved and passed down to future generations. By integrating their skills and knowledge with modern medical practices, we can provide safe, accessible, and culturally appropriate maternal health care to all women and families.

Dr. Lori Kimata and Sacred Healing Arts is a long-term professional group that provides alternative care to pregnant mothers who want natural childbirth in their homes. I have three healthy grandchildren from their care.

I respectfully ask you allow Bill HB955.

Freedom of choice, especially when it comes to the birth of your child, should never be suppressed, manipulated or removed. My name is Lucy Molina, Hawaii resident, and I am in full support of HB955 which would allow traditional midwives to continue to practice in Hawaii permanently. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and made available to all Hawaii families. It is safe, it is a personal choice, and it is for future generations.

Traditional midwifery has been practiced safely throughout the world for over thousands of years. The practice came to the United States in the 1700's, when doctors at that time, were not formally educated in birth, so midwives were utilized in childbirth because of their greater, and more extensive knowledge in this area. Midwives are exceptionally educated and undergo an enormous amount of training in both literature-based study and hands-on-experiential practice.

Childbirth, whether in a hospital with a doctor or in a home or birthing center with a midwife, is a matter of personal choice. A woman has the right to choose the place of her delivery and who will facilitate this birth without the infringement of the government. To remove the choice of midwifery, and to deem traditional midwives illegal, would be government overreach and unconstitutional.

As a mother of 7 children, who also utilized a midwife for the home births of my children, I strongly support traditional midwifery and the continued practice of traditional midwives in Hawaii. My oldest daughter, who is now 15 years old, has an immense passion to help pregnant women in rural and impoverished villages around the world, and to help them deliver their babies through the traditional midwifery approach. Hawaii is her home and the only place of her training. To remove midwives in Hawaii would mean to remove her training and would demolish her dream to serve women in this capacity. Traditional midwifery must be preserved for the future generations of incredible midwives that will deliver millions of babies safely through their extensive knowledge and safe practices.

The HB955 Bill isn't just about allowing traditional midwives to continue their practice in Hawaii, but it's also about the freedom of pregnant woman to have a choice where and with whom they will deliver their baby. Without traditional midwives, the future generations of midwives from Hawaii that will reach other parts of the world will have no home for their training. I urge you to pass HB955 Bill as I strongly support it for the benefit and betterment of our future.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Lucy Molina

817-798-0819

Kailua, HI resident

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:57:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 955 and ask the legislature to pass this bill. In recognizing that traditionally trained birth attendants of all cultures are valued and preferred by some consumers and that the type of birth attendant utilized at a birth should be the birthing person's choice, our State takes the step of honoring and giving those people their individual sovereignty to choose. In reading the bill, this section: "The type of midwifery provided by certified professional midwives meets the needs of some, *but not all, birthing parents*. More traditional models fill the gap by meeting needs which are not met by obstetric or certified professional midwives care. *All models are still in demand, which has been demonstrated*. Reminds us again that Hawai'i is unique and our laws and ways should reflect an understanding and support of all.

There are many parts to this bill and explanations but in this testimony I wanted to highlight the uniqueness of Hawai'i and the people who live here and that we need to honor, respect and support them in their choices.



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repeatedly through large amounts of public testimony supporting uncertified birth attendants.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:03:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Stacey Moniz and I am from Pukalani, Maui.

I am writing today in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 955: RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

First a **HUGE MAHALO** to the mana wahine legislators for introducing this bill (special shout out to na wahine from Maui).

Please read the report, “Traditional Home Birth in Hawai`i,” and the Report to the Governor from the Hawai`i Home Birth Task Force from 2019. These are rich in the knowledge and expertise of Hawai`i’s midwifery community and the fact that midwifery and homebirth are extremely safe.

While Hawai`i attests to being a progressive, pro-choice, pro-women state, our current midwifery law goes against the fundamental rights of choice and continues the perpetuation of advantages to white settler midwives and criminalizes traditional cultural midwives. This must change.

I believe the regulation of midwifery pits 2 groups of predominantly women in honorable professions (Midwifery and Obstetrics/Gynecologists) against each other while the industrial medical complex run primarily by white men makes money off women’s bodies, again. This world is wide enough for both to exist in harmony.

Finally I’d like to share excerpts from the Hawai`i State Commission on the Status of Women’s statement, “Commitment to the Revitalization of Midwifery and the End of White Supremacy in Hawai`i:”

“... medical racism, sexism and classism exist throughout the American healthcare system including Hawai`i and ...childbirth is a physical, emotional, and cultural process, not a medical event... midwives continue to be marginalized by the patriarchal, hierarchical American medical system...and white supremacy decimated midwifery and birthing support in Hawai`i... **BE IT RESOLVED** by the HSCSW that a thriving midwifery profession is recognized as necessary for women’s equality.”

Sincere mahalo for taking time to read my testimony on this very important topic.

Peace and love,
Stacey Moniz

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:15:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Gueco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support House Bill 955 to protect traditional Midwifery in Hawaii. We must preserve the right to practice our birthing choices and traditions. Midwifery wisdom and skill has been around much longer than hospitalized birthing practices and is a safe and healthy way to birth our children. Please support HB955 and the people's right to choose how we would like to birth our children and bring them into the world.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gueco

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:26:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GIANNY N NAVAS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gianni Navas, and I am a student midwife here on O'ahu. I am doing an independent study program that is not MEAC accredited, and I am doing the PEP route. Like the states of Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and more, these all allow PEP students to become legally practicing midwives in their state; and the PEP route, and traditional midwives can be quite similar in how they learn. I chose the pep route not because it is "easier" or "less expensive" - heck, almost all student midwives pay for additional educational programs that aren't MEAC accredited anyway to go along with their clinical training. I chose the PEP route because it is the route most similar to what midwives have been since the beginning of mankind, passing down their wisdom from one generation to another; learning with their hands with guidance from a senior midwife; learning through observation of real birth, not a class room; being able to take away an important topic from a birth, and go home to study it from every obstetrical and midwifery textbook I have, and applying it to this real life woman, her birth, and situation that will stick with me forever. A PEP student doesn't necessarily mean they will become a traditional midwife. PEP students vary in their style of practicing midwifery - from being traditional if they learned that way, to deciding they want to be a more medical midwife. PEP students have different preceptors which vary in styles, so they can have as many tools under their belt, be well-rounded, and practice the way that fits best for their birth philosophy when the time comes. This is tested in the NARM exam. What's the difference between a MEAC graduate and a PEP student if both pass the NARM?

A traditional midwife is not a nurse-midwife, or a labor nurse, or an obstetrician. She is a homebirth midwife who practices differently than a hospital medical provider. Pregnant women choose her for a reason, not because they are ill-informed. Traditional midwives, and PEP route midwives give informed consent, because that is what they learn early on in their apprenticeship; to give women informed choices to make the best decision for them.

You can not expect a nurse-midwife to go to a naturopathic nursing school where they teach herbs, diet, exercise, and physiology, as their main form of treatment, to then practice in the hospital setting for patients who expect the medical midwifery model of care. This is the same for traditional midwives. A traditional midwife who practices one way that is expected and WANTED by a certain community, should not be forced to go to school to learn western medicine and then practice it. THIS IS THEN NO LONGER A TRADITIONAL MIDWIFE. Traditional midwifery in Hawai'i is sacred, limited, and should be honored, and kept safe. Please keep traditional midwifery safe for our state. Please allow future generations of midwives to

practice the way their ancestors did, to serve the women who CHOSE and had this service since the beginning of time.

I have attended births with both, very medical midwives, and very traditional midwives, and they were all beautiful births, because the women wanted these midwives for a reason. Both were safe with the different methods used. Midwifery is not medicine, and it does not need to be practiced with just medicine. It never was medical, and never should be. We should not change this role and medicalize it. They have made a medical midwife... it's a CNM, so this is an option for those wanting to pursue this because THEY think it is best. But they should not eradicate the other (traditional midwife).

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:41:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ivana Burbage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the ability to keep traditional midwives in their practice. It has changed my life, as well as my families as it continues to grow here in Hawaii. To be able to have the choice on how I would like to give birth. Traditional midwives I have allowed me to give birth safely, and I've educated me more than any doctor has on the subject of birth. Traditional midwives need to be protected and their ability to practice. Taking away their ability to do so is unfair to have freedom of choice on how you prefer to birth your child. I have had a homebirth with my traditional midwife team, and will be doing it again for my next pregnancy. I would be devastated if that couldn't be with my traditional midwives, and would most likely have to travel to give birth if they aren't allowed to practice in Hawaii.

I've never felt so strongly about the choice as a woman on how you feel safe, giving birth. It's your instincts, it's what you are designed to do. And midwives curate that for you as a woman and a mom. I've never felt so safe in the care of my midwives, as well as my husband. Protecting midwives, traditional education is a right that should not be taken away.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:48:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marci Putman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Re: HB955

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved for all Hawai'i families. I would like to respectfully submit my testimony as a mother of nine who has received midwifery care for each and all of my children and birthed eight at home. The one not birthed at home was attended by a competent and experienced midwife whose care for me was so complete that she diagnosed a severe complication and followed every protocol to have me transferred to a local emergency labor and delivery unit where I received care from the attending physician. My diagnosis: prolapsed cord after dilating to nine. My midwife was fully trained and competent to attend me and, indeed, took steps to save the life of my baby.

I have used a total of six midwives during the course of my childbearing, which spanned 18 years. Each one was fully competent to care for me my during pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period identifying and supporting NORMAL, natural physiological birth. In the case of something that falls outside of normal, midwives are trained and competent to identify this and transfer or collaborate with a higher level of care. Midwives are trained health care professionals and deserve to have legal status to practice in Hawai'i.

Women and their families deserve to have the choice of a traditional midwife to attend them for their pregnancies, births, and postpartum period up to six weeks. To deny women the right to choose their health care provider goes against everything women have been fighting for in regards to bodily autonomy.

Thank you for your time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:50:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexa Helge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alexa Helge and I am testifying in support of HB 955.

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:54:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Airabella Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwives are so important and we need to preserve birthing options in Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:07:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Burbage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to make it clear outright and upfront that I, my family, my ohana and community SUPPORT HB955!!!! I cant believe that we are in a place in time where I am having to take time out of raising my family, whom of which my child was born via a tradional midwife delivery and was a beautiful brith experience as well as she is a very healthy baby, to ask our state to allow us to continue having children born in the way we as Ohana and parents see fitting. As a culture and as a poeple we talk so much about peoples choice, constantly being brought up in not only our community but more so now then ever in the politcal arena. As the government I am pleading with you to allow us our constitutional and God given right to use a tradional midwifery as our and every other Ohanas who deems it fitting, birthing choice. AOLE E OLE! This bill must be passed because it is the peoples voice whom you represent that must sway your decision, not a special interest or some one with a grudge, THE PEOPLE who elected you, who will not just standby the wayside but will get up and fight for our rights and testify. I plead with you once again to pass HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:17:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate L Curtis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill seeing as I am studying to be Certified Nurse Midwife. I think it is wise to expand birth attendant options to our many rural health care systems to relieve some of the burden and interventions to the hospital systems by having more healthcare providers attend birth in homes and out of hospital settings. These healthcare providers are very capable, knowledgeable and are supportive of a natural physiological process and can support cultural birth practices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:39:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NICOLE CRISTOBAL	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One of the greatest concerns of mine as a Native woman on a rural island in deciding to have biological children is the lack of support for midwives and traditional birth practioners. The demand for midwives and traditional birth practioners is growing and becoming more public. Our western medical model is strained by a deficiet in the amount of medical providers and the systemic lack of health care that is woman-centered and culturally-responsive. Pass this bill and women like myself will feel empowered throughout the birthing process instead of harmed by it.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:42:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:12:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rena Blumberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to support SB1047 and HB 955,, which will allow the existing exemption for birth attendants to continue to practice without a license.

I birthed my son at home and though it was a perfect birth, my husband and I would have benefitted from a birth attendant.

I later trained to become a certified birth assistant. I never charged for these services. I took every training available, including First Responder and EMT.

I support the right of women to make their own birthing choices. Birthing is natural and sacred. Please allow mothers to birth in the ways that serve us best.

Birth is a natural event for many women. It does not need to become a surgical event nor a medical emergency. Let us birth in peace!

Sincerely, Rena Blumberg

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:35:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsea Klein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:00:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is critical to the rural areas of Maui County where the nearest hospital can be over an hour away or where you need to go to a whole other island to give birth like Lana'i. There is really no valid reason to end the exemption and women have been delivering babies in this way since the start of time. Please do not make things harder on our local families than they need to be.

Maui County Councilmember Tamara Paltin

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:20:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelia Ensign	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support traditional midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:21:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
flamie salsedo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955! Traditional midwifery absolutely needs to be available in Hawaii

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:40:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haley Callahan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Haley Rabago Callahan from Pukalani, Maui. I come from a lineage of Puerto Rican birthkeepers and have been practicing birthwork on Maui for eleven years. I am also a student at a MEAC-accredited college, working toward my midwifery degree.

I full-heartedly SUPPORT HB 955, as it allows choice--a fundamental, legal right for women and humans in our country--for families regarding their reproductive health and birthing choices and experiences. It gives families autonomy and options for the normal, physiological event that is birth.

HB 955 allows people from our community to continue their cultural birth practices without fear of being legally reprimanded, and allows us to stay in our communities to practice, rather than having to uproot our lives to get the western education that is valued over indigenous knowledge. I can say from personal experience as a student at National College of Midwifery that they do not and can not understand what birthing in a community like Maui is like, and therefore --while the western knowledge I am receiving is valuable--it does not correlate with the world in which I am practicing birthwork here on Maui.

By valuing indigenous and cultural practices, we are able to have culturally-competent, local practitioners, better outcomes, longer, more holistic community support, and overall stronger communities and families.

With deep respect and trust that those placed in power will do what is just for the bodies effected by this bill,

Haley Rabago Callahan

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:41:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Hay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If abortion is legal, women should be able to choose to keep their babies and deliver them how they so choose. My body my choice. Keep midwives in practice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:43:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Brillhante	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have had two life changing beautiful births with a traditional midwife. I am in support of this bill because I believe that future generations absolutely should have the right to choose where they birth and who to have their prenatal care with.

many women choose traditional Midwifery because of the unique experiences they provide. By protecting traditional midwifery you are also protection indigenous practices sacred to our islands/people that wouldn't be available in hospitals. There is absolutely a need for traditional midwives in this state. And I stand in total support of this bill.

please protect the future generations of Hawaii choices by keeping traditional midwifery alive.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:43:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Eck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Amy Eck and I have had 2 wonderful births with midwives.

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to ALL Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:45:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dallas Fatseas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As this bill pretaines to Midwifery and non-traditional birthing measures, I would urge the court to reconsider banning natural and homebirthing practices. Birth and pregnancy are EXTREMELY personal experiences and the women of Hawaii deserve to choose the methods that best fit them, their families, and their needs. Criminalizing homebirth/midwifery is inherently prejudiced against the cultures these practices are rooted in. Furthermore, taking this option away from families will not result in enhanced safety. On the contrary, this prohibition will simply criminalize the the practice and drive a further wedge between western medicine and natural medicine, when in reality, we need both.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:54:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katarina Bieck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone who has worked with midwives throughout my own pregnancy I cannot imagine this option being taken away. I went to a midwife after trying the hospital care route and for me the midwifery care was immensely better. You cannot take away this incredible option for prenatal and birth care. I would say everyone who has a low risk pregnancy should be working with midwife's, it is so much more in tune with natural childbirth than what our hospitals offer.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:55:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Stoffel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:55:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brienne Lacaillade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to support HB955.

Birthing people have the right to choose who they would like to support them and their babies.

Birthing people's values and preferences are essential for their health, well-being, and empowerment.

I am a parent who chose traditional midwifery support for the birth of my child.

I would do it all over again, the same way and hope that opportunity will be available to all, continually.

Sincerely,

Brienne Lacaillade, Master of Public Health

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:59:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annalisa Buller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keeping midwives as a resource will provide more support and resources to individuals seeking birthing services and be able to make their own choices and not be confined to the policies and regulations of a hospital. Hospital staff are trained in limited ways to support birth that at times can be contrary to how the body is created to give birth and in doing so, do procedures that protect the hospital and staff and not the mom and baby. Please do not take away the rights of a family to decide how they want to bring their child into the world.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:03:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clea Jordi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly agree mothers should be able to decide where they want to deliver their children whether that be in the comfort of their home or in a hospital. Midwives are highly educated and are given the resources and education they need to be able to continue homebirthing. In fact homebirthing is becoming increasingly popular as more women look into natural birthing methods. Many mothers have had many positive home births and if a mother feels that they want to birth their child at home they should be more than allowed to. A few reasons home birthing should be continued is that some women want an unmedicated birth, lack of intervention as well as the desire to give birth in a comfortable and familiar place. Birth is a very special and sacred experience and many women want to have their own control over their own birthing experience. Midwives have so much love and devotion towards educating and knowing the process of birth. Many women want to continue having homebirths for their future children.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:04:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families!
I stand in support of HB955.

As an Polynesian woman who has birthed 2/3 of my babies at home, I can speak from personal experience as to why this is so important for women to have the sovereignty to decide what is best for their families.

If the concensus in Hawaii is my body my choice, there should be NO different when pertaining to birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:07:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tami Winston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have given birth twice and both times with a Midwife, once in the hospital and once at home. Midwives are at the core of what 'ohana is all about. I respect and support them in everyway. Please pass this bill so they can continue to do their good work here in our islands.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:08:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:11:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Fitzgerald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother, Hawaii resident, and someone who has successfully birthed at home with a traditional midwife, after having an extremely traumatic hospital experience with my first child. We **MUST** allow the freedom of choice when it comes to how women decide to bring their child into this world. Labor is **NOT** a medical event. Not every labor needs a medical intervention. Stopping midwives from being allowed to practice will also not stop people from laboring at home, it will just give them less pathways to do it safely. "Big brother" needs to stop micro-managing people's personal lives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:14:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makenna Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a young woman looking forward to bearing children naturally and in a comforting state, I am in utter shock that it is even in question to revoke these rights. The countless stories of hospital births and the worry of the "time frame" being more prominent than that of when the baby and mother are ready to birth are concerning. The switching of babies, the denial to take home your own placenta that came from YOUR body. There are so many reasons that women should feel afraid to have the most sacred moment of theirs and their child's lives be performed in an operating room with strangers. The amount of knowledge and compassion that midwives have and the amount of help and preparation that they provide to new mothers is nothing short of a miracle. The stress that a hospital birth can have on a mother and the newborn is unimaginable and there is absolutely no reason to force a woman to perform this sacred time in such a state filled with anxiety, discomfort, and forcefulness. It is OUR body, OUR baby, OUR livelihood and OUR right to choose how we bring a new being into this world. Midwives are the most qualified and reliable individuals to be present for this miracle of life and knowledgeable on the before, during, and after.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:19:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Acosta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved for all Hawaii families. I am a licensed physician, assistant in emergency medicine. I have worked with professional midwives and certified nurse midwives. These midwives have made a tremendous impact on the birth experiences of so many women. That should be a right for all mothers, should they choose. I strongly support HB 955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:21:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Kwiatkowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:23:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Anastas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL... Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:41:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery needs to be available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955.

Thank you for your time,

Joy Foster

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:42:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Cravalho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony being submitted by Rachel Cravalho- (747rachelcravalho@gmail.com)

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:43:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:44:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah LeMieux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am expecting and I couldn't imagine having this right taken away from me at this time!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:45:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Koenigs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My testimony here today is that I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955 that Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

Mahalo,

Lindsay Koenigs

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:54:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Pereira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. Women have the right to choose how and with who they want to birth their babies. Cultural/spiritual/religious birth practices need to be available for those who want it. I support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:55:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Leilani Dudoit Huihui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native Hawaiian, a Hawai'i resident and the mother of three happy, healthy boys who were born at home with a traditional midwife. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:56:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane DePaolo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Mothers should be free to choose who will attend to their child's birth. This is America, after all.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:58:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Stuebben	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no question that selecting a midwife for a home birth is a decision to be made by families, not their government. I SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:10:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Eveland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. We should have the right to choose what kind of birth we want

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:11:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosalyn Ardoin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:11:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantelle Fernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Chantelle Fernandez and I am born and raised in Hawaii. I currently live in Maui with my husband and two children. My son was born at Maui memorial hospital and my daughter in our home. Her birth was attended by midwives and was the most incredible, safe, and peaceful birth compared to my sons which was stressful and traumatic. My midwives provides all of my prenatal and postnatal care and I can't even begin to describe what a night and day difference it was compared to my experience of prenatal care at kaiser, birth at the hospital, and the ONE post natal visit I had 6 weeks after giving birth. My midwives shared so much knowledge, guided me towards the best actions for me and my baby, and genuinely cared for my physical and mental health and well-being and well as my baby's. Their knowledge and thoroughness of care was above and beyond what I ever received from the doctors at kaiser. Midwifery is not only safe but dramatically improves the health and safety outcomes for women and their children. My midwives who attended my birth will not be able to continue to legally practice in Hawaii unless this bill goes into law and a permanent exemption is put in place.

I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955. These exemptions allow for midwifery to continue to grow and to increase accessibility of safe care to birthing women. The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for preserving cultural and religious freedom in Hawaii. Birthing knowledge and care is an integral part of the Hawaiian culture and to prevent midwives from providing this care to local women is a crime. Furthermore, these exemptions preserve the rights of birthing women and their choice to have the care and attendance that they desire for their pregnancy and birth. Please uphold the rights of midwives to provide safe care and for local women to have more choices and access to such care. Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:12:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Nicolaisen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Home births are a right to human existence. Home births are beautiful and spiritual journey to being the children we carry into this world. Home births are safe when guided by people with experience. The hospital setting for births are scary, on doctors timelines, expensive and pressured. My home birth experience 6 years ago was the greatest experience I could ever asked for.. I don't want my right to choose how I bring a baby into this world to be legally taken away. Midwives are amazing and valuable members of the health care field. I strongly support Midwife's rights to assists births in Hawaii. I strongly support House Bill 955. Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:14:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret hamby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT THAT THE MIDWIFES SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRACTICES TRADITIONAL WAYS AND HELP TO GIVE EVERYONE WHO WANT A HOMEBIRTH A SAFE AND NATURAL BIRTH.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:15:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery
needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state!

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:16:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Schoen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had 7 home births in two countries and three states. I am a registered nurse and highly value that as an American woman I can choose my care for pregnancy and birth based on my personal needs and health status. I want my daughters to grow up to have the option to choose the type of provider that meets their and their family's needs for care as well. My 10 year old daughter has been at all of my births and desires to pursue a career in caring for women and children as a midwife. Please protect her ability to study and be certified via multiple pathways so that she may serve her community in this way. Thank you for supporting HB955 and to all of those who have worked so hard to get it to this point!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:19:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallie White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:21:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Van Bergen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I stongly support HB955. Through Covid we were told that the hospitals were over loaded and there was not enough medical staff to deal with all the needs. Why would we not support home birthing if what we were told by our government was true. Thank goodness we had our Midwives through the pandemic to alleviate the hospitals and not expose our new mothers to Covid.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:22:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hana Feiter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A women should have the full right to give birth wherever she wants. If you claim to support "my body, my choice" than a women should have the full right to give birth at her place of choice and with the support of midwives if she chooses so. Even though I am not a resident of Hawaii I want every women who lives in Hawaii to have that choice. I plan on giving birth at home and using a midwife and knowing that a state in America wouldn't allow that to happen is beyond belief. You should all listen to the women and mothers and hear from their own experiences how beautiful it is to bring their child into this world in their choice of place with a midwife.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:25:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cait Costello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be widely available, I strongly HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:34:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayti-Ann Bowman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to be able to have the choice, Traditional midwifery is vital to our culture. I have two boys that have been delivered and cared for by a tradition midwife. One is two years of age and my oldest is Ten. I support the choice to be able to use a Traditional Midwife. Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:34:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malay Barajas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want more than anything for mamas to be to have the most beautiful & comfortable birth experience. In order for that to happen we need our midwife's to lead us with there widsome & comfort of our own home. We have these powerful and beautiful bodies to birth these babys and we have the right to choose how we want to deliver them. Please continue home births in the beautiful islands of Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:36:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tina ah puck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 955. Families need and want to have the option of using a native Hawaiian birth attendant (midwife). They have been proven to be safe and they provide a higher quality of care than we can find in the hospitals. Additionally, cultural practices surrounding birth are necessary to keep in place to ensure a culture survives. Please do not criminalize these practitioners who are highly skilled and have been helping families for centuries.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:39:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Hahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support having a midwife be legal in Hawaii. If a individual chooses to have a midwife during pregnancy then so be it. An individual has supreme right on how they want their baby being born.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:40:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Soleil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Traditional Midwifery and that it needs to remain available to all Hawai'i families as a personal choice. Do not limit our freedom on this matter!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:41:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Gilman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

I have had three home births in the state of Hawaii under the care of a Midwife. It was the best decision I have ever made. When you receive care from a midwife you are seen in a safe environment, the whole family is able to be involved and the well-checks/care are much more in depth than anything you get from a doctors office. Midwife appointments will last at least an hour where doctors offices rush you in and out without ever truly listening to your needs or concerns. In addition to the advanced personal care midwife's provide giving birth at home allows the mother to be in a safe environment. Home birth lessons the exposure to harmful sicknesses that are associated with hospitals. Home birth allows the family to be involved with supporting the mother. During Covid many mothers could not even have the father in the room for support at the hospital. Home birth allows safe & supported bonding for the mother and baby. Midwife's also provide much more in-depth care in regards to nursing support, after birth care, and well-ness support during postpartum. The midwife comes to the home the very next day and as needed until the mother and baby are fully ready.

This level of support is above and beyond. Midwives provide a huge amount of support for mothers, babies, and their families. It embraces a full circle of support. Mothers should always have the freedom to choose how they feel most comfortable birthing their child. Mothers should have the freedom to choose if they would like a midwife. Banning them will only create unsafe practices. When people are allowed to choose a midwife it provides them with safe choices of licensed midwife's. It is truly important that families are given the choice to have the experience that they want. We already have limited OB-GYN's in the state and minimal hospital services. Being able to choose a midwife gives mothers another safe choice.

I have had 3 home births, 3 healthy babies, and zero complications. I felt beyond supported at all times. I was always given the top care possible from my midwife. Birth is not a medical emergency, complication or sickness. It is a natural process. As long as it's a normal/healthy pregnancy the body does not need to be "hospitalized". Midwife's do an excellent job of monitoring and providing close care all throughout pregnancy.

Let the mothers choose, Do not take away this option and opportunity.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:47:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clare Clapsaddle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. My entire family and extended family STONGLY support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:49:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mya Featherston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:01:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, HB 955, for these reasons: I witnessed my sister have a safe home birth, financially, it is more affordable for individuals to plan for a home birth than it is to take the hospital route to deliver a baby, and lastly, if a woman is given the choice and freedom to make decisions with her body, such as having an abortion, she should equally be allowed to decide where and who she wants to deliver her baby.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:04:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mari Stewart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs Traditional Birth Attendants to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families.

Please remove the current standing June 30,2023 deadline for traditional birth attendants to allow them to continue to serve our island families, and please reinstate the North American Registry of Midwives Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP Process) as a pathway for midwifery students to become Certified Professional Midwives and thereby qualify for licensure.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:07:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Gomez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill, HB955, for the following reasons: I believe that freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion are all represented in my and my family's choice of whether or not to have a safe homebirth or hospital birth. I view the act of making homebirth illegal as unconstitutional and this action would inevitably enable illegal homebirth which poses more of a risk to our community, mothers, and families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:04:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Reddekopp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support of midwives and the right to choose how you birth your children!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:05:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Botello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families!
I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:06:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Reddekopp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please let us be free to choose to have a homebirth or a hospital birth. It is our right to choose!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:12:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenn Ellenburg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The right to have a home birth absolutely should remain with the woman and her family. I was fortunate enough to have 2 beautiful and SAFE home births here in Hawaii, along with dozens of my friends. Women today, tomorrow, and in the future should be granted this same choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:13:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved for the Hawaii communities and the state of Hawaii!! I STRONGLY support BH955!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:14:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ollie hope	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LET IT BE A CHOICE FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES TO CHOOSE HOW THEY GIVE BIRTH!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:16:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karla cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family recently experienced home birth in Hawaii - it was the perfect way for our daughter to be born. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL - the right to choose care must be maintained. If midwives are banned it will be a terrible terrible loss for us and our children, not only girls but their partners and their children too. Traditional midwifery must remain a choice. Please uphold our rights.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:16:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Botello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit to you my support for HB955.

Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:19:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Noel Alohilani Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that women should be given a choice on how they want to bring their newborns into this world. These are ancient practices that should not be denied because the modern medicine industry wants to control it. As a woman I have looked forward to a natural home birth my whole life and do not feel it is fair to have my birthright taken from me. These midwives need our support!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:21:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother to a healthy baby I support and encourage preserving traditional midwives. I see they are crucial to promoting healthy pregnancies births and baby's. With the current obgyn medical model I don't see the optimal health of mothers and or babies. I strongly support direct entry midwifery and allowing families choose their provider and health care model. Health encompasses more then our physiological bodies and includes the kind and soul which entry level midwives and traditional midwives honor and focus on.

I strongly support traditional midwifery!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:23:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:29:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura A Stanton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwife services need to be preserved for Hawaii - I strongly support HD955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:31:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Kissack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again that you STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:31:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Rollins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. Thomas Jefferson put it best, " If people let government decide which foods they eat and medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as are the soul of those who live under tyranny.". Midwifery is based on facts that prove its worth and value to women, children, fathers and families. To deny women the right to chose a midwife birth is a huge overreach of government. I fully support this bill and encourage every Hawai'i representative to do the same.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:33:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mana Place	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

As a father of 6 our last 2 babies were both

delivered using a midwife. Using a midwife made me realize that you really want that bond as a father with the experience of delivery. We had a wonderful midwife that put us through boot camp . Being that when the time came I was ready . Long story short I'll gladly support HB955 bill that supports the use of a midwife . Thank you

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:35:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Richey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT HB955!!

Women should have the autonomy to have the birthworker of her choice provide care to her and her baby prenatally, in the postpartum period, and during the cycles of her life. This RIGHT should be understood and upheld by law as it is by nature. No one should have the care they need or desire withheld from them. No one should be allowed to infringe on this right of women, and the government of Hawaii, a state in the United States of America, should certainly uphold and protect this right by law. The World Health Organization has stated that the profession of Midwifery is the most needed profession in the world for the protection of mothers and babies. A hospital is not necessarily the safest birth place for every woman and child, and women themselves are the best persons to know what is best for them and their children. Please SUPPORT HB955 and protect the rights of women in the State of Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:36:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Sovereign Bill. I had a beautiful sovereign home birth on September 9 2019, and I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. I felt safe, and supported by my midwives who were skilled and attentive. Protecting cultural midwifery is crucial, and support of this Sovereign Bill is so needed to protect this important aspect of a persons life.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:40:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hillary Sasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. For this reason, I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:41:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that midwives should have the right to continue their birth practices and home birthing with families who choose that method of birth. Taking this away affects not only them, but the mothers who feel that home birthing is in their own and their baby's best interest. It is also a very beautiful and natural practice that highlights a very special part of the pregnancy journey and allows women and their families very personalized education on their bodies and the season of life they are entering.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:43:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adia Awana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women already have to go through enough to have children, let alone paying outrageous hospital bills. Why are you trying to take away mothers rights to have home births and further deprive natives and locals or jobs!? If you guys can come up with a plan to foot the bills midwives use their income to pay or to pay the hospital fees then sure, fine. Go ahead. But don't be surprised when people starts to fight back. How does a woman having a home birth or a midwife affect you? News flash people, IT DOESNT!! It disgusts me that when, where and how a woman decides to bring her children into this world is even a topic for political discussion. Why can't you guys focus on bigger issues like fixing our water supplies or the potholes that cause accidents left and right!? Ooo or I know maybe the rising costs of living!? Maybe the homeless problem? Funny how you guys care so much about what women do with their bodies or who delivers their babies yet you don't go out of your way to ensure that said babies and women have a safe home to go to, clean water and money. This is ridiculous. I'm 19 years old and I have to come here and tell grown adult this!? Get it together. Stop making bills just to make bills. You're wasting time, and resources that could be put to MUCH better use!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:39:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jae P	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill! ALL woman should have the Freedom to birth how they choose and who they want present at their birth!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:44:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaydee Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and again I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:46:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Statler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I am writing to you to express my strong support for HB955. I am a Maui resident of 30 years and have birthed and raised my three sons here, two born at home with traditional "direct- entry" midwives. These were the people I chose to be at my birth and I feel my health, and the health and safety of my babies, was in the best of hands. I also trained for many years as a student with these and other local midwives and can attest to the fact that apprenticeship learning from an elder is the best education possible when it comes to such a heart centered profession. I am strongly in favor of protecting traditional midwifery and the paths to attaining this unique and cherished vocation. Maui County is like a small rural town in many ways and we have a need for midwives that live, learn and practice here.

It is critical to maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Yours sincerely,

Kristina Statler

Haiku

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:46:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Napua Rasay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian woman and new mother, who had a traditional home birth in March of 2022, I strongly support and testify in support for HB955. Traditional midwifery and access to practice traditional midwifery is a cultural right. It would be akin to restricting Kanaka Maoli from accessing our shoreline - it is in our ancestral DNA to engage these cultural practices and it is in our right and free will. Please note how disruptive it would be to ban the use of traditional midwifery in this state - it would be an astronomical threat to women's health and Native Hawaiian lives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:04:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen Christine Pettis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:05:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Kocivar MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. We have a severe shortage of healthcare practitioners in Hawaii. Women should have alternatives to conventional medical practitioners and any experience is better than no experience or access to care when it comes to childbirth which cannot be delayed or avoided once labor ensues. Please help the women of Hawai'i . Our maternal death rate in the United States is unacceptable and is a reflection of the bias against women in our country.
Jane Kocivar MD

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:07:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane Hookano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:07:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
faith rawlins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support our human right to go through home births using traditional midwives of Oahu. There is no reason to take away this right. Midwives traditionally are meant to hold space for the mother giving birth and to assist. Mothers should have the right to give birth however she pleases in a way that can be safe and comforting for her. If you take the legality away you could be jeopardizing your people.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:08:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonyen Colunga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:10:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:10:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Mizuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:10:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:11:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Horwitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:12:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:13:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert L White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:13:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Sims	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Personal choice in healthcare is important! Traditional, cultural, or whatever reason - my body, my birth, my decision. Having this choice enabled me to be a healthier and better mother to my babies, with sincere thanks and gratitude for these trained birth attendants! Please support this bill!! Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:14:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Tarasewicz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please continue to allow birthing people to utilize this method of delivery.... support the right to choose.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this choice.

Aloha, cathy

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:15:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura soto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:19:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melani Sunia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:20:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support a woman & her family's right to choose WHERE and HOW they want to give birth. Let the MOTHER make an informed & educated decision about her birth plan and birth choices. The government should not be making this decision for ANY WOMAN.

I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:22:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenta Russell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Hawai'i 2023 Legislators,

My name is Jenta Russell, and I have lived in Hawai'i for 35 years (my whole life). I support SB1047 and HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

As a mother, who had the privilege and comfort of having a home birth, I believe that access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all Birthing people and their children. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023 the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing Midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of Midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Support maintaining active pathways for the perpetuation of traditional practices of health and healing in our communities.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jenta Russell

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:22:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Naify	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families! I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:24:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Essman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. When birth is accomplished gently and safely at home, with the appropriate medical backup, we create a gentler world. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom in Hawaii.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawaii.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of color families today and for future generations.

Please support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawaii. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their communities.

Thank you for reading this testimony.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:24:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayriele Nygren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:27:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elissa Minamishin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:27:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherise Fukumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:29:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Hayes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery should be preserved and readily available as a choice to Hawai'i people, and I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:32:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malavi Suresh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery is a practice that needs to be preserved. The rights of these women practitioners are vital to the health and heritage of the Hawai'ian Natives. I strongly support HB955 as it endeavors to protect the rights and liberties of women who preserve practice that are centuries old and vital to Indigenous Hawai'ians.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:33:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:34:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nicole scanlan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I strongly support traditional midwifery to be available as a womans choice here in Hawaii. It should be my right as a woman to choose how I want to birth. My home birth was empowering and a beautiful experience. My children are ages 8 and 12 and were both delivered at home. When my eldest was born my grandmother said that it was a joy that I was able to experience a right that was taken away in her day. My homebirths started a trend in my family and as of today we have 8 healthy nieces and nephews all birthed at home.

When I first got pregnant I had an awful experience at the hospital. I felt like no one cared. Through my job I learned about a woman who was having a home birth. I started to research only to discover that down the line it was a family tradition. My great great great grandmother practiced Hawaiian midwifery. Meeting my midwife and her team boosted my confidence. Things that my doctor brushed off were explained to me and I was able to manage my pregnancy beautifully. My first labor was 7 hours, my second was 2. I believe this was due to being empowered by my family and birthteam in the comforts of my home. My midwives schooled me on everything. They were not against the hospital. I was prepped for what if something went wrong. Because I had healthy pregnancies homebirth was right for me.

I support this bill because I am a woman and just like everything else it should be a righ tfor me to choose home birth. My body, my choice. Midwives have been around for centuries. My father was born in his family kitchen in Kaneohe in 1947. Midwives are a blessing. Traditional Midwifery needs to be available and preserved to all families in Hawaii. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:35:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Onuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:35:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having had two safe and sacred homebirths I strongly support HB955. The freedom to choose your birth plan to include traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and made available to all Hawaii families. Again, I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:35:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Eng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:35:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allyn wijnveldt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:36:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kepueli Sunia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:37:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celene Kobayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 955 and the practice of traditional midwifery. Birth is a natural process and each mother and family has the innate right to choose who aides them in this sacred moment of new life. If this bill does not pass our growing family will no longer be able to turn to the woman who aided me in birthing my children in 2014 and 2019 within a rural community of the big island, Hawaii. Midwifery is an art and a trade and should be treated as such. In doing so we honor our ancestors and their practices, and we say thank you for passing this knowledge on for the benefit of the mothers of the present.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:37:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa tapuala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a mother of 4, soon to be 5, I am extremely passionate about this subject. I want the choice to birth at home or at a hospital. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support bill HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:37:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support HB 955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:38:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB955 and believe Native Hawaiian's deserve the right to practice Traditional Midwifery and preserve it to be available to all families. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.**

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:41:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manaia Carr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955! Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:41:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Griggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families as I strongly support it.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:41:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Maui County and am also a certified nurse midwife since 1994. I have delivered over 3000 babies in my career and cared for many thousands of women before, during and after the perinatal period. I have not practiced midwifery in Maui as there are rare opportunities to practice as a CNM here. I strongly believe in a woman's right to select her place of birth and be attended by qualified, safe practitioners of her choosing. I am writing in support of this bill that ensures this right. Women all over the Hawaiian Islands need greater access to a variety of healthcare practitioners and birth care by traditional midwives will always be sought. As it stands now, many Hawaiian women are denied choice in childbirth. This has a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of women, babies and families. Please consider this bill as a tool to correct some of this imbalance in access to care. Much more needs to be done but this is an important step.

Thank you, Sara Edwards PhD, MN, MPH, CNM, FACNM

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:41:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Diaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery deserves to be preserved and available to all families in Hawai'i. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:43:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tahiti Huetter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill and a women's right to choose how she wishes to give birth to her child. Please support mothers and families in making safe access to caregivers and midwives that provide excellent support for the arrival, delivery and post partum treatment of our keiki.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:44:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Conti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support! Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all families and birthing people in the state of Hawai'i! It should be a birthing persons choice to decide where she feels most safe and comfortable to birth a baby. Its their right!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:45:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa McGovern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY supporting HB955. Native Hawaiian midwifery should be preserved, not suppressed.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:45:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan Olivarez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I STRONGLY support HB955. It allows women to choose who they want to attend their birth. As a woman who fortunately had the right to choose, I want the same for others. The government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choice. The United States maternal health care is already in crisis. Birth outcomes are poorer than almost any other developed country on Earth. With only 1% of women birthing at home, where do you think the crisis lies? Please place your focus on the obvious. I urge you to research the statistics. Research the statistics of local hospital interventions (unnecessary inductions, episiotomies, record high caesareans, miscellaneous augmentations) and birth outcomes. Research the likelihood of developing a postpartum mood disorder. 1 in 5. Women are dying and it is from lack of support from the horrendous system we have in place. Do not pin this on Traditional Midwives. It is shameful to take away a woman's right to an informed, safe birthing experience.

Respectfully,

Morgan Olivarez

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:50:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystle Carter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955! Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:46:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marisa wriston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am passionately in support of HB955 as a mother of three children all birthed beautifully and safely at home under the care of a traditional midwife. How and with whom we birth are deeply personal choices that no woman takes lightly. Like many, many other women I chose to birth under the care of a traditional midwife because it is how I felt safest and best supported. Home birth is not for everyone just as hospital birth is not for everyone. I deeply value the opportunity to choose my midwife and the depth of knowledge and wisdom she held as a traditional practitioner. Feeling safe and supported during birth is essential to having a safe and empowering experience and every woman deserves the right to choose exactly what that looks like without the control of outside sources deciding for her.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:50:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momo Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. As a birth doula, I see the effects of traumatic birth firsthand, and it often happens in hospitals. Traditional Midwives are essential. Every family deserves the right to make the choice that is right for them when it comes to bringing their baby into the world, whether that is in a hospital or at home. It is necessary for families to have several options. Making traditional midwifery illegal would not stop people from birthing at home. It would make people who choose to birth at home and their babies less safe, because they wouldn't have the option of having the support, knowledge, and experience of a traditional midwife. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:47:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maggie cassidy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:49:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devi Argi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I truly believe that Hawaii midwives should not be banned. Hawaiian culture has been degraded with excessive tourism, and this law is only continuing the destruction of the culture. It is our responsibility to maintain the health and security of the citizens of the US, no matter who they are.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:48:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Worth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families- I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:47:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To infringe upon a people's history and culture is to erase a nation. Not allowing indigenous women *their right* to practice traditional medicine not only takes away hundreds of years of tactic knowledge, it also robs forthcoming generations this right of passage. The practice of midwifery is a bonding experience that strengths a community. Banning it is theft of an indigenous people that have been robbed of enough.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:48:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ev Leyva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:54:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Richardson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:54:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
hannah murphy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available for all families in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:55:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Roden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support hb955, the state of Hawai'i deserves access to traditional midwifery. Individual persons have the right to choose how they wish to undergo the birthing process and whom they receive medical assistance from.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:55:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maranda Valentin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important for traditional midwifery to be preserved and available to all families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:54:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Lynn Giubardo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bill HB955 ! Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available in the state of Hawaii! In every state !

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:56:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mackenzie Priest-Heck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:55:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haley sykes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:57:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Pulluaim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery MUST be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. It is unconstitutional to take this right away from American citizens and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:58:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Piilani Schneider	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because there should be options for pathways to becoming a certified midwife and traditional birth worker.

I also support this bill so our community has the opportunity to choose their birth environment.

I am a native Hawaiian who is currently in a 2 year program with an unaccredited program for midwifery, learning everything an accredit program would offer. I've chosen this program because of their other offering surround tradition practices that have been used for thousands of years that other programs don't provide.

Without this support I can not legally serve my community or women who choose not to attend a hospital for their labor ans delivery of their child.

this is a basic right for all women to choose and to not have someone to support you in that is unjust.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:58:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lillian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives play an UNBELIEVABLY important role in a pivotal point in so many people's lives. Outlawing this would be wrong on numerous levels and inhumane to the families who rely on their services. I hope that you can find it in your hearts to listen to those who need this.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:58:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dia Day	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:58:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonette Kaiawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:00:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nainoa Joy Kameyo Nakasone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955 to preserve midwifery for all Hawai'i families. This is such a beautiful, intimate experience that should be available for the families that want it. I strongly support HB955.
Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:00:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to express my support for this bill. Banning traditional midwives in Hawai'i is wrong. We are a community made up of people embedded in commitments to living by cultural values and practices. Our primary healthcare systems should agree, since they prioritize ensuring that people are able to have free choice in selecting the care that is best for their personal needs and values.

Traditional midwifery is practiced safely worldwide. This is not an area of "risk" that needs to be banned.

Mahalo,

Danielle Surface

Honolulu, HI

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:01:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alisa Hamasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preset and available to all Hawaii Families. This allows choice for all families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:01:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hedder Pascua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:03:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

Since time immemorial, women have been birthing children and midwives have been an integral part of the process. Traditional midwives carry lineages of wisdom that mothers in Hawai'i should have access to, if they so choose.

One day, when I birth my children, I would like the choice between traditional midwifery or opting into a more allopathic route. I strongly urge you to support HB955 and preserve traditional midwifery, making this option available to all families in Hawai'i.

Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:03:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Ossadchaya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaiian families

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:03:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inez Faggard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Everyone should have a choice on how to birth their baby regardless if its at home or at the hospital. So with that being said, traditional midwifery needs to be preserved to all of hawaii families and state again.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:06:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Sung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:07:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blue Tippett-hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955 as it is essential for traditional midwifery to be available, accessible, and safe for all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:07:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mathew Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaiian Families

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:07:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Rockquemore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choice

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:09:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Parmida samia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all hawai'i families and I strongly support the HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:23:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshimi Gomez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Home birthing should be an available choice for all women who wish to do so. Taking this choice is a violation of human rights and should not be accepted. As a woman, I am deeply disappointed that the state of Hawaii is trying take this choice away from women.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:21:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmen Loi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support HB955 as families should have the care that they choose.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:26:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arlinda Ibezim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:23:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Giving birth is not a medical condition; It's natural. Protect life by ensuring first responders are available or police when needed for emergency purposes. My wife and used a licensed midwife but we know there are capable midwives without medical licenses in Hawaii. Make this the mother's option, not the state.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:09:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Bronkhorst	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Everyone should absolutely be able to choose how they want their baby to born into this world.. the difference between the horrific birth experience I witnessed with my first niece at the hospital compared to the beautiful experience at the birthing center with my latest niece is irrefutable proof to me that we need midwives in this state! Not everyone has the same birthing plans and we deserve the right to choose ! Please don't take away something so beautiful!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:26:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Becky Sibner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery is a vital service and the knowledge of traditional midwives must continue to be available and accessible

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:09:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Buendicho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery is an important part of Indigenous Hawaiian culture and therefore needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955 and hope that the Native Hawaiian midwifery practice will not be suppressed and outlawed

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:20:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gracie McCooe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT Hb955. We must continue to protect and uplift indigenous knowledge.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:20:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I was born and raised on Oahu, and now am a mother of two young boys - both were birthed at home under the care and protection of midwives.

There aren't enough words to express how tremendously impacted my life has been because of my choice to birth at home. Too many women are afraid of birth and are not properly educated about how the body is naturally made for it. When we, as women, are empowered, fully supported, and educated about it, we are shown how BEAUTIFUL of an experience it is for us.

Birthing at home was truly one of the best decisions I could have ever made for myself, and I can't imagine not being able to have that choice in the future.

Please protect the incredible people who have truly put their whole hearts and souls into supporting mothers as they birth at home --- the midwives.

I am more than happy to share my experience on a call if need be.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:09:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Dahl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am on track to becoming a midwife, and having family in Hawaii, I STRONGLY believe you should allow women the CHOICE to give birth in the way they wish. If a woman wishes to give birth with a tradition midwife, that is HER choice and no one should decide that for her. So many women want to have home births, and their wishes for a traditional midwife to attend there homebirth should be GRANTED. If traditional midwives in Hawaii are taken away, women will still give birth at home but most likely in a extremely more unsafe condition. Taking traditional midwives away will only hurt women and personal birth choices, as well as birth practices. Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:10:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Belmarez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to encourage and protect human rights to birth freely and outside of the medial framework. Birth is natural and should not be regulated, only as necessary do women need to use medicine related to birthing.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:17:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steffani McQuerrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all families in Hawai'i. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:28:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Tsukamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support the practice of midwives in Hawaii. It is a choice that women should be able to make based on their own research, comfortability, and convictions regarding the type of care they receive when bringing a new life into the world.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:11:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Support HB955. I had a wonderful homebirth surrounded by a team of professional, knowledgeable, and competent birth team I hand selected and put together. It was clean, safe and exactly as I planned.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:11:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Badayos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955! As a native Hawaiian and a native to this land I stand with the practices of natural home births. I believe that woman were created to give birth in a natural way. It is a woman's right to have the choice on where and how they desire to give birth. As a state we allow people to decide what gender they would like to identify as. We allow women to have the choice on pro life or pro choice. It is sad that we are trying to take the choice away from Midwifery being practiced; therefore not allowing woman who want the choice to have a safe home birth with the wisdom, knowledge, experience and support of a midwife.

I believe that if we take midwifery away, it can lead to woman making the choice with no extra support to have a home birth in secret.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:27:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marina Tourinho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:12:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Alvarez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

my name is audrey alvarez, a homebirth mother of 3 ages 13, 11 and 7 and i'm writing in strong support of HB955.

my midwife was a traditional midwife for over 40+ years. she helped me bring forth my 3 children and thousands of other babies into this world. if that isn't enough credibility i don't know what is. she believed in me and i believed in her and together we safely brought forth my greatest blessings in the comfort and peace of our home.

i believe in protecting birth sovereignty, bodily autonomy and our traditional midwives and their practices.

again, i STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

mahalo nui.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:17:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Puanani Marleen Leal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and remain available to ALL Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955. Please, we have already lost so much. Not this too.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:13:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebeka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:15:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Gama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support hb955. Women should have the right to choose who they want in their birthing process. The government does not have the right to dictate or limit her choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:15:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jamin hiebert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. As a native Hawaiian I have the right to birth my children in our traditional ways.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:15:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merlin S.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery is important to support. Some people feel safer going this route. Not to mention that midwifery helps with lowering Black maternal mortality.

Let people have options. Keep midwifery legal.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:30:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooklinn Leimomi Lee Hooser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a blatant attack on Native Hawaiians and our culture. This will not be tolerated. Why in this modern day and age do grown people believe that they must be so superior as to erase, terrorize, steal and attack others? This is a life giving aspect of our culture. Stop taking away the lifeblood of our culture, it is your hands that are bloodied.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:16:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mélodie Paquet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB956, because traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. Thank you

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:31:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support House Bill 955 and hope that it will be passed. I believe that traditional midwives should be allowed and that residents of Hawai'i should have access to a traditional midwife legally.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:16:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Enola Moske	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery has been historically more effective in protecting the lives of mothers and newborns than traditional medicine. Even with advances in modern medicine the tradition and the community surrounding Traditional Midwifery remains effective in the care for pregnant women. Traditional Midwifery needs to be protected and available to Hawai'i citizens and states and I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:31:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Guevara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:30:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:17:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meryl Abrams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our midwives have incredible experience and have been traditionally trained. Especially in our state of Hawai'i, we appreciate traditional training and wisdom of elders. These midwives have made a huge difference for me personally, as I have had four children. Three were born at home. The one that was born in the hospital had a severe problem with bilirubin, caused by a doctor's poor instructions (the doctor was later fired). Hospitals are not guaranteeors of healthy children. Continue to support our traditionally trained midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:32:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Cleghorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai' families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:33:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara S Bell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:38:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:37:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grietje Emmen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please allow Traditional Midwives to continue to operate. It is vital for pregnant people to have access to good pregnancy care. I fully support midwives and implore you to let the people keep their traditional midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:36:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle andrews	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe I should have the right to birth however I please. If I choose to birth at home with a midwife or even by myself. We should have freedom of choice as womens. Any and all birth workers should be free to support woman as they please if a birthing mother so chooses.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:35:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tori Saludez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Traditional midwifery must be preserved in Hawai'i. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:35:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donia Khalifa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Donia and I live in Hilo. I'm incredibly lucky to have birthed both of my children at home via midwife. Both of the births were beautiful and the care I received was as good as it gets. I feel very blessed to have gotten to work with the two midwives I worked with.

During my first pregnancy I ran into several challenges as a result of midwives not being able to be officially "licensed" and I assert that it would make a huge difference for birthing people if midwives could be licensed here in the state of Hawaii. From insurance coverage, to getting blood work done to obtaining a medically necessary rohgam shot, the lack of ability for my first midwife to be granted licensure personally caused me many challenges. Paying out of pocket for my two home births was not easy and was disappointing. People who avoid straining the already understaffed and overburdened Hawaii medical care system should be granted insurance coverage rather than punished with a fully out of pocket bill. Midwife licensure would allow for this. Also, the hospital in Hilo was nearly at capacity when I gave birth this past October. I was able to avoid taking a hospital bed, and occupying nurses and doctors who were needed for other patients by delivering at home. In the UK most non complicated pregnancies are done via midwife, and I can't understand why Hawaii wouldn't encourage this given the medical professional shortage on the island. Please let the care providers who are highly trained and knowledgeable focus on doing what they do best, and make it legally uncomplicated by allowing midwives to be licensed.

I also want to stress the importance of allowing traditional birth attendants to continue practicing as different cultures and different people seek different types of care. Any birthing person should be allowed to pursue the type of birth they desire as long as it is safe and basic precautions are taken. Birthing is a scared journey. Birthing people need to be given freedom of choice. Let us respect and give legal rights to and protection for the tradition of birthing that has been relied on for hundreds of years.

Ultimately I want to be clear that my two birth experiences were otherworldly and magical, due to the powerful skills of certified midwives. The gave me all the time I needed and provided calm, nurturing care putting my needs above all. Whereas, hospitals are run as a business (see the film the Business of Being Born should you have any doubts about that) and midwives carry

out their work because they are passionate about it and highly trained in it. If a birthing person does not need to deliver in a hospital and would like to work with a certified midwife or a traditional birth attendant they should have full legal rights to make that choice for themselves. Licensure would enable both midwives and birthing people to have many benefits they are currently denied under the system in place now. Make the change. Make this easier on our cherished and dedicated midwives and the families that seek to work with them.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Donia Khalifa

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:34:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyleigh Stennis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and readily available for families who want a choice, who want to follow their innate primal calling, to transition from maiden to mother in the comfort of their own home. To feel safe, loved, and supported, everything that's needed for birth. I support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:34:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Blackwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important for the health of the community to keep traditional midwifery as an option for home births. I strongly support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:33:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Mayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a woman who is trying to conceive and wants to birth my children with a midwife at home, I want to have the choice of a provider that aligns with my values and beliefs. I believe traditional midwifery is not only a safe choice, but it is more respectful to the mother, the child, the family and the community as a whole.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:41:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel LaBuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:41:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanna Reiter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. It is both essential healthcare and an indelible part of Hawaiian culture. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:42:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JAZMINE ANCHETA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery need to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:43:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Belle Li	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:45:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Dorman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices"

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:45:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaelene Kuulei Kamakaala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mom who birthed a very healthy child at home, where my child's grandparents were birthed, I share my testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB955. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:46:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Price	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must preserve the practice of Traditional Midwifery and keep it available for all families in Hawai'i. I strongly, and wholeheartedly, support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:47:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB955! America leads in deaths among birth at a staggering 26.4% death per 100,000 lives birthed and climbing. (See attached image.) Less than 10% of birth in the US are performed by a midwife. Overseas midwives account for 75% of all child birth. They have some of the lowest deaths at birth than the US where 90% of birth are done in a medical center or by an OB. Per 100,000 live births UK is at 9.2% babies deaths at birth, France at 7.8%, Sweden at 4.4% and Denmark at 4.2%. Twenty five percent is an alarming number coming from the US when it comes to babies dying at birth. (Source The Lancet, 2015)

What is the point of these stats? Our babies have a higher survival rate if birthed at home with a midwife than having them at the hospital with an OB. Why would you force/stop this practice that clearly has a better success rate than the practice you are trying to put into law? If we don't support bill HB955, parents will now have a 16% risk increase of losing their baby at birth. The medical benefits of having a home birth outweighs having one in the hospital by a "qualified" doctor. I have 7 kids and had the pleasure of enjoying this great benefit of home birth with a midwife. Please do the right thing and allow our right to choose what is best for our family!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:47:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alamanda Bayly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had both of my children at home with traditional practicing midwives here on Maui. Truly, these births are the highlights of my life. I was also born at home here on Maui. I couldn't imagine if this option was not available. These women are incredibly wise, superbly equipped, and without a doubt some of the most needed individuals. Indigenous people should not be limited to what they can and cannot do by foreign laws and concepts deemed "superior". This is racism hardly disguised when traditional practices are eliminated due to outside standards being set and deemed as "right" or "better". Midwives practicing the ways of their ancestors have incredible knowledge and connection to people, to women's bodies, to the earth and how to facilitate birth in ways no doctor or licensed professional ever could, and as a woman, I will do everything I can to ensure we get to choose how we'd like to give birth. Safety has never been a factor. Please pass this bill and let these amazing people keep doing what they do, for the betterment of all. Mahalo nui.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:48:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarissa Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955! Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a women's birth choices!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:48:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasa mcdonald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, homebirth may not be an option for everyone, but from myself, it was the best experience i had to 2 salve homebirths, as women we need the option to have a birth at home with our loving families and support that hospitals do not have.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:49:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Angell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Shannon Angell, support HB955 and declare that Traditional Midwifery be reserved and available to all Hawaiian Families, I strongly support this bill. The availability of a traditional, cultural birthing experience and pregnancy care should be supported, available and promoted to all individuals in need or request of such Traditional Midwifery Care here and now, and into the future indefinitely.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:50:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiani Akiona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tradional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families!!! This is ridiculous that banning tradional midwifery is even being considered! We strongly support bill HB955!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:52:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian Russell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery should be preserved at all costs. Skills inherited through traditional and cultural practices are not for the government to outlaw. You cannot outlaw a way of life simply because it doesn't benefit the current narrative. Hawaii's culture is sacred and has been trampled on enough. Allow culturally taught midwives to continue practicing. Allow communities to exist.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:52:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Torres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:53:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Langley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY** support HB955. Women must retain the ability to choose who they want to attend/assist their birth process. There is no reason for the State Government to restrict their freedom to control the birth of their children.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:53:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB955.

I support the opportunity for mothers-to-be to select the birth path that they feel best fits their worldview, beliefs, and cultural values. I personally know mothers who have had home births and have gone through midwifery training, and they all feel that it is a fulfilling and healthy experience. I believe this should continue to be an option for anyone having a birth in the future and well beyond the July 1, 2023 deadline.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:54:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tori Daguio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:55:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Macintyre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:57:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and protected as the Hawaiian people are not. As a Hawaiian woman herself I am ashamed to see that this practice is trying to be taken away.

Protect traditional midwifery, I support the HB955.

Allow us, the Hawaiian people, the Hawaiian women the right to choose how we bring our children into this world.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:58:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bibiana mandujano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:58:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren McManus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:00:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:00:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Greway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:01:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I delivered my son at home. I would do it all over again. To think that that right would be stripped with our bills like this is heart breaking.

My 10 year daughter witnessed her brother delivered at home and she as well wants a home birth on the future. Not only did she get inspired to do that, but also to become a midwife in the future.

mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:01:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again that you **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.**

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:02:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Roberts	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

My name is Sara DiGrazia. I am a kama'aina resident of Hawai'i, psychologist, and mother of two home-birther children. I am asking you to please support HB955. My choice of midwife was integral to the formation of my family, and during our interview process we interviewed midwives from a wide background of training, including traditional midwives. Please keep our right to choose who attends our bodies in their most intimate moments, our choice. Thank you for considering HB955.

-Sara DiGrazia, Psy.D.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:04:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xi-Xi Figueroa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiians have sacred cultural traditions that they wish to abide by, and imposing american laws & customs on traditional hawaiian midwives in hawaii is unjust and disrespectful to their customs.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:04:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Renee Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and provided and accessible to all Hawaiian families, I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:04:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Sterner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families!

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:07:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nevaeh Fukui-Stoos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to protect the woman/mother's right to choose how she wishes to birth her child. We cannot take away the options of women who want another alternative rather than going with an OBGYN/hospital birth. Midwives have been around for hundreds of years, taking away the opportunity that might work best for mothers/woman is an atrocity. Tradional Midwifery needs to be perseved and available for all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:07:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Schieber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a woman who has firsthand been able to experience a homebirth I strongly support that we need to keep traditional midwifery alive. Child birth is such a sacred and precious thing and that's something you cannot get in a hospital. It should be the mothers choice to birth where ever she wants as it is all about what makes her most comfortable. My midwife made me feel so relaxed and safe and I would do it all over again!!!! This should not be illegal!!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:09:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Conde	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. I believe women should be allowed to choose who they want to attend their birth whether that's in a hospital or home setting. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:09:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rae Swanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am the result of a Midwife birth. My 4 siblings are a result of midwives. I've spoken to countless other mothers who have had their children at home who wouldn't have it any other way. We raise our children at home and teach them everything there is about life and our connection with Mother Earth. Why should that journey have to start in a hospital instead of in the comfort of our own home with experienced midwives. I hope to have my own children at home and wish all others who have the same dream to be able to. If you decide to make midwives illegal you take away that freedom to choose what's best for the mother and her child. I implore you to support this bill to protect a long honored tradition and to protect the choices and dreams of future mothers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:09:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 1, 2023

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering my testimony regarding HB955.

As the proud father of two children who were both born at our home of the time in Oregon, it is very important to me that legislation like this be supported and passed, since we must ensure that all healthy options are on the table, so to speak, for all mothers.

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

Honaunau, HI

Colehour Bondera

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:10:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Eller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Both my children were delivered by midwives. My 1st in a hospital and my 2nd at home. They are quite capable of delivering a baby safely in this world. If a pregnancy is high risk, they will send Mama to a reliable OBGYN. Make having a baby affordable. Let's keep our Midwives!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:10:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I hearby confirming I am in favor of protecting the traditional Hawaiian culture through the continued use of their foundational midwife system. Before there were certificates or governments discerning the ethics of people, people, skills, culture, and progress were passed through word of mouth. As the system of being a midwife is rooted within these statutes, the people understand well and are capable of finding the necessary experts and resources for such a legislation against it to not be palpable. Thank you for your time and please consider my testimony with the utmost good faith without bias.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:11:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly in support of HB955. I've never had any children but many people in my family & community have opted for the gift of natural birth in their homes. It's something I hope to be able to utilize & a process I'd like to embrace while bringing my future children into this realm. I've heard only good things about the presence & knowledge of traditional midwifery & I believe it is an option that needs to be preserved & available to all Hawai'i families moving forward. Again, I strongly support HB955 & encourage the bill to be passed for the greater good.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:11:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MaileR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:12:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robi Nitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved here in Hawaii as we should all have freedom on how we birth. We need to keep and support this bill HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:13:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katja Bajema	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is to show support for HB955 in support of various midwives and birth attendants. This bill captures the importance of a woman/s right to choose her birth attendant very well, while also ensuring that she is properly informed of her birth attendants training and credentials. It is HER choice with whom and where to birth.

I am in support of this bill.

Katja Bajema, mother of 3, one born at home.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:14:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kysha Rae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha... my name is Kysha Rae Pacheco-Paglinawan and I oppose to the HB955 referring to the illegalization of Mid Wifery, practice of home birth..

we as women and Hawaiian natives and generations to choose what we want to do with our bodies nonetheless bring life into this world....

OUR BODIES OUR CHOICE

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:14:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:18:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meleana Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am not in support of HB955.

A woman's body was perfectly created to give birth naturally. With interrupted births from hospitals and doctors who do not specialize in giving birth, more deaths have occurred. This is a woman's choice to make a decision on how she wants to birth her child. I do not feel comfortable in a hospital so i do homebirths. If Hawai'i starts forcing choices on women's bodies, it is no longer an aloha state. Stop mandating laws on people's bodies and peronal choices. The death rate for hospital births are way more than home births. Do not dent the truth. I can only imagine the mana wahine who are kū'ē and will stand against this bill. I am one of them!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:18:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ursula V Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to Hawai'i families. Banning it will be another act of the continuous desecration and oppression of the native people.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:18:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julius gutierrez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe it is our undeniable human right to have sovereignty over our bodies and what we choose to do with it. Additionally it is a cultural right to be able to birth our children how our ancestors did, whichever heritage you come from.

Keep midwives in Hawaii!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:19:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie-Louise Muae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditions Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state and i strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:19:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlin Duquette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Caitlin Duquette. I have lived in Hawai'i all of my life, my family has been here since the late 1800's. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Caitlin

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:21:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Montero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need ro preserve traditional midwifery in Hawai'i. I urge you all to strongly support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:22:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Treseder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support traditional midwifery being preserved and available for all Hawaii families. The colonization has already ruined so many traditions. Birth and women's rights need not be another loss.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:22:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Kaaihili Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not take away the traditional birthing of this place. Pale keiki or traditional midwives are a critical part of the birthing process. Please support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:24:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kysha Rae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha..

My name is Kysha Rae Pacheco-Paglinawan

I submitted earlier my other gmail, but I meant to press support. But as I stated I am all for Mid Wives and their practices with child birth... women always have a choice regardless what they want to do to bring life into this world... OUR BODIES OUR CHOICE

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:25:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steele Asing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:25:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Campbell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for considering my plea,

I've had 4 home births. All because after doing much research, I felt the risks of a hospital birth outweighed the risks of a home birth. This was my choice as birth is the most personal and intimate experience a woman will ever go through.

The choice of where to birth and whom to birth with comes with a lot of thought and responsibility, it is not taken lightly. This choice should never remain in the hands of the government or any authoritative agency. To control birth is such a way is unjust and inhumane.

This is in support of HB955.

Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:27:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maryann Solmirin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i persons and ohanas I strongly support HB955. Our ohana had a homebirth this past year and we had the best experience of all of our children's deliveries. Not everyone wants to be in an institutional environment with interventions and invasive procedures as well as pressure for rushing or hurrying the process. Our bodies are made to naturally know what to do. Women are told so many things they can't handle or do. God designed our bodies to know exactly what to do. Midwives have a protocol for emergencies and know when a mother needs to have a baby in a hospital or be transferred. Women should always have a choice in how they want to experience their birth. I strongly support HB955. Mahalo nui for your consideration. - Solmirin Ohana

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:27:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beckley Dye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT of HB955. Please vote YES.

Thank you,

Beckley Dye

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:28:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Dye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

Please Vote YES for HB955. I am in SUPPORT for HB955.

Sincerely,

Robert Dye

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:31:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devyne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families, I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:33:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
F	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:33:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Munoz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to start my comments by stating that in no way do I mean to discredit academic institutions or standardize education. Midwifery is a practice that has been around since the beginning of time, and it is more than just a medical field of practice. It is a community and culture that I was never exposed to until my best friend became part of it. In the future, I look forward to having a traditional midwife, and I will make the decision not based on the educational curriculum but based on experience and competence-- both of which are not necessarily correlated with a standardized educational system. I embrace how midwives have the ability to learn from each other, and seek wisdom and intuitiveness to deal with individual mothers. I also love that it gives women voices in how they can have whoever they want on their team on the day they will bring their child to the world. I think it should be the woman's choice in who she hires to be her midwife. Taking away this ability from women is like taking away a part of their culture just because some think they are thinking of "the best for their own sake."

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:35:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Librojo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be a service and a right preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955 to allow Hawai'i residents to make their own health, birth, and family making decision.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:36:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Dericks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear State Representative,

I am in SUPPORT of HB955. I have chosen to birth my babies at home and I want the same choice for my children.

Please vote YES for HB955.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anne Dericks, ND

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:37:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Simone Derow-Ostapowicz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support Bill HB955 because it's important for the community to have the option of legally delivering their child with a traditional midwife. The freedom of choosing a delivery care provider needs to be protected. Traditional midwifery needs to be respected and preserved, traditional birth attendants need to be able to continue serving the families of Hawaii, and I ask you to please support HB955.

Mahalo,

Simone Derow-Ostapowicz

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:41:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Hokenson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:42:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Fiorito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a doula serving families in labor and birth, I strongly support HB 955 and implore you to make sure traditional midwifery can continue in the great state of Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:42:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawailehua Kahalehau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Where we choose to Birth is and always should be determined by the woman who is doing so along with the support of her husband. I've have 3 of my births safely and comfortably at home with my amazing midwife and would not change anything.

Midwifery has been a part of life for thousands of years and should not be made illegal for a woman to chose this route for her birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:43:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekapala Dye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote YES for HB955. Thank you!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:44:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keana Aniya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support HB955. I wholeheartedly feel like traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all 'ohana in Hawai'i. It's vital that we learn and practice this tradition now and for future generations to come. Otherwise, just like 'ōlelo Hawai'i was once banned, it will be lost. Our keiki are our future. Help bridge the past to the present & don't stop there. Continue bridging to the future.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:44:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Targa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:45:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
a.c.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your time and for taking my testimony into account.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:47:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssandra Dove	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am a resident of Kona, Hawaii and 29 years old. As a woman who will be likely having a child in the next few years, I would feel safer with the option of having a homebirth or at least having the choice to have one. I have had multiple friends who have had homebirths, and I feel it is my right to have the choice where and how to birth my child. Please allow this to pass to preserve my right to bodily autonomy and to help me feel that I have the choice of a caregiver who knows me will, and that I can birth in the comfort of my own home. Mahalo!

Aly Dove

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:47:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laiana Kanoa-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou, I am writing this testimony In support of the bill HB 995 on behalf of myself and my four children. As a parent of four keiki who were born at home with the support of amazing midwives and dulas we are proud proponents of Midwives and the important work they do. I believe every family should have the opportunity to choose how they want to bring life into the world. The gift of giving birth at home creates an amazing connection between the child and family to their birthplace, in Hawaiian the phrase "'One Hānau" refers to the sands of one's birth, a sense of pride in the land that you are born. Please support this bill for the future generations of families who want to give birth at home with the support of our midwives.

Mahalo nui,

Lāiana Kanoa-Wong, Ha'aipo Kanoa-Wong, Kealoha'āina Kanoa-Wong, Puamana Kanoa-Wong, Kekia'i Kanoa-Wong

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:48:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sayaka Blakeney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is a beautiful place where many cultures co-exists and many different traditional midwifery deserve to be preserved and protected.

Not everything about birth needs to be under the control of western medicine.

let wisdom of mothers and grandmothers protect humanity.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:49:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to ALL Hawai'i families and women. I STRONGLY support HB955. This is an attack on native traditions and values that MUST be protected!! This is impeding on the rights of women.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:50:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denisse Figueroa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:50:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabrina Basile	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. As a person who works in healthcare I'm well aware of the benefits when people are given access to the care of those who reflect themselves, their culture, and their values. Simply put, patients receive better outcomes when their provider looks like them! Hawaiians deserve access to traditional midwifery which will provide this benefit. I strongly support HB955 and call on the legislature to pass this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:49:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rochelle Felipe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:54:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Kenney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill. I am an advocate for the opportunity to have homebirths. Home births will happen regardless and this bill will help ensure that the women who chose to home birth are safe.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:53:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendra Michel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a proud Dene Tha First Nation's woman, I support this bill to make permanent the existing exemptions that allow for the continued practice of traditional midwifery for the Hawaii'an peoples. This is their right to continue their way of life, to learn and practice, to pass on their teachings, as they have centuries prior to colonization. Current medicinal practices have learned much from traditional teachings and that is to be respected and honoured, not restricted through policies or barred from certain peoples.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:55:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Olivia Espinosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

the people of hawaii should be allowed to continue to practice their relied on cultural traditions.
the elimination of traditional midwives would be cruel to a people who have lost so much due to colonialism

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:55:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to Hawai'i families! I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:55:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Alvarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a women's birth choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:56:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronika Skala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:01:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hokulani Alcon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and made available to all Hawaii families. As a resident of Molokai, we have no consistent OB/GYN. One has to be flown in a few times a month to service our Wahine on Molokai. Molokai General Hospital has always had 1-3 Midwives available to assist our moms to be during the pregnancy and birthing process. Whether it be a hospital or home birth, one was always available to our Molokai moms. Having a midwife available consistently here on Molokai made our moms to be comfortable knowing that they were just a phone call away should they have any questions or concerns about their pregnancy. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 955 and I hope you find it in your heart to allow this form of birthing assistance to continue in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:58:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samara Archibald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery is wholeheartedly apart of the culture of indigenous Hawaiians and should be allowed to continue like it has been for centuries. Having access to Traditional midwives is allowing for culturally competent care to be given to all birthing people in Hawaii. As a registered nurse, I know that one of the top priorities for healthcare providers is to provide culturally competent care that allows the patients to feel as comfortable as possible so that a trusting relationship can be built. Traditional midwives are trusted by their indigenous communities more so than modern-day OBGYNs, so in order to provide the best healthcare possible, access to these traditional providers can not be taken away from the people of Hawaii. So with that said, I completely support HB955, and hope that everyone will support as well so that we can create a better healthcare system for everyone.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:01:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sophia Costa and I am a mom of two. I strongly support HB955.

I immigrated from Brazil to Hawaii 18 years ago and one of the most striking things is the fact that home births are an option here in Hawaii. Coming from a country where 99% of babies are born via elective cesarean, having the choice the birth my babies based on the choices me and husband made was paramount in forming who I am as a mother, as an adult and in my profession.

Today I work in our community as one of the most experienced birth and maternity photographer and I can attest to the importance of families having the choice to birth at home with the support of traditional midwives.

I hope that this choice will not be taken away and that families can continue to make choices that align with their belief systems.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sophia Costa

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:04:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexia Ibarra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:05:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:07:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to Hawai'i families. By not passing this bill is only taking another piece of people's lives, who have already lost enough. So, I back HB955 with 100% of my support.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:07:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Bryn Gordon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This tradition is important to the culture of the state and community. Women and people who give birth rely on this for a safe delivery and culturally connection

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:05:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leyla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Leyla and I STRONGLY support Homebirths and traditional midwifery!!!

On June 5th, 2022- I'd given birth to my beautiful twins, a boy and a girl. These two were also my first kids. I never thought that I'd be able to have twins because of my tiny petite frame. Even less did I imagine I'd be having them via natural/vaginal birth. No epidural or anything. I luckily started at a good time and not in the middle of the night to bother anyone. It was one of the most beautiful days of my life weather wise somehow. And event wise of course too. I woke up at 8am to take my millionth piss of the morning, and on the way back to the bed- my water broke. I woke my husband up, who had been up all night still building and setting things up in the baby room we had created for the two. He held my hand and took me downstairs slowly, where I sat on my yoga ball to ease the pressure a little bit. While finding ways to feel a little less in pain, my husband called my doula/midwife and told her about my water breaking. While she was on the way, she stayed on the phone with me telling me about ways I could relieve pressure and how I should stand so it benefits me and helps with the dilation. After arrived, she had lots of many herbs and herbal scents prepared for a better atmosphere while being sensitive to smell still. She and my husband filled the mini pool we had built a few nights prior, with warm water and warming essential oils to make me feel more calmed. My midwife helped me into the water slowly as my husband started contacting the family friends and family members I wanted to have there during the births. From breathing techniques, to different frequencies played in the background, to slow exercises in the water- she was there every step of the way. Treating me like a mother would treat her daughter during a first birth, which was so important to me since I'd lost my parents (my mom rather recent), and I wanted someone I felt safe with, within the comfort of my home. She did everything with so much love and so much care. Every detail was just so abundant. Even postnatally. She checked in and gave tips and advice for the recovery of my body, as well as for the growth for the babies.

I strongly stand for traditional midwifery because, from experience, it was probably the best way I could've gone. Homebirths are peaceful and so much more rewarding, and having a trusted foundation between midwife and mother is just so important!

I STRONGLY STAND FOR TRADITIONAL MIDWIFERY

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:09:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kawailehua pakjake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:09:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members,

I am testifying in support of this measure. This bill is very important to support. Hawaii has a long standing history of midwives and specific cultural practices assisting with births. Subjecting everyone to a license is not appropriate nor does it actually protect the health and wellness of birthing people. This is also a fundamental issue of choice for a family who plans to have children. Please support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:09:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Syndee Taira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:14:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:15:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Oyama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women should be allowed to choose who attends the births of their children. The government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:11:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kavi Neva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be preserved so it can be available to families of Hawai'i. I STRONGLY support this HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:16:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Casil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:17:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reyhana Rachel Leibel-Kolba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am available to further testify over the phone as well at the number provided; +1 514-562-2566. I do not support the removal of Tradition Midwives as it is a long-standing cultural practice that has been done for many generations long before Hawai'i was colonized ! It should not be the decision of outsiders to enforce their practices on ways that have been done for centuries and have proven to be a continued and well preserved practice! To take away a tradition from a culture that one does not know or is from, should not have the right to make the decision of what can or cannot be done by the people of that culture ! It is a right of culture, a right to practice culture , and preserve the cultural knowledge. One has the right to their own body and no one has the right to make a decision regarding what they chose to do with that body or who is to help them with it ! We are not of a generation who should enforce laws that are imposing and domineering! If you believe your country is as it states ' Land of the Free' so apply it to your laws , Hawai'ins have the right to be FREE to practice Midwivery without interference.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:18:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harmoni Akao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've given birth three times-- one in the hospital and two at home. My body, my choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:18:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Bryant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let Women choose who they want at their birth! Government has no right to determine how a woman chooses to deliver their child!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:21:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zackery Solmirin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Preserve traditional Midwifery! I have 4 kids and my most recent child was a home birth and it was the best experience I had out of all my kids, our midwives are awesome! Being in the comfort of our own house without Dr's and nurses coming in and out all the time was great. I believe women should have the right to choose home birth or in a hospital. I support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:22:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Muromoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved for the women and families of Hawaii. We all have the right as humans to choose which medicine we take, and which treatment plans we choose because we ultimately honor our right to full autonomy over our bodies and the choices surrounding them. Removing traditional midwives and thus option of safe home births not only infringes with an individual and a families right to choose what's right for them. It also discounts the deeply rooted cultural feelings, values, practices and motivations that may, and usually do, sourround a person(s) choice to choose birth at home/traditional birthing practices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:24:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill support

Aloha,

My name is Laine Hamamura and I am a voting resident of Oahu in the city of Honolulu. I strongly SUPPORT HB955. My testimony for supporting this bill is that I had traditional midwives at my children's births, at Kapiolani hospital and at home, and it was a crucial support for my husband and I in our beautiful birthing experiences.

My first born, was at Kapiolani hospital, and we chose to have doulas who were being trained by traditional midwives and an OBGyn at our son's birth. Being that this was my first time giving birth, I felt so nervous. However, having birth workers that I had developed relationship with and who were knowledgeable about birthing options, changed my nervousness to feeling supported and empowered. I have many friends and family who come to me asking about my birth experiences because I have had the support of birth workers.

My second, third, and fourth sons were all planned home births. These births were beautiful and harmonious as I labored and birthed my babies with confidence in what my body was doing and complete trust in my birth team.

Traditional midwives are essential to supporting the mother and father. Let's pass this bill so Traditional midwives are able to continue passing on their wisdom and offer the much needed support to families who are birthing the next generation. I strongly support HB955 and believe the Government has no right to control women's birth choices.

Mahalo for your consideration and service to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Laine Hamamura

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:24:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John P Gerry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that support midwiferiy in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:27:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth bischoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1.) Write in the Comment Section stating that Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state again that you **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:27:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
McKenna Rodriguez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state again and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:28:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexei Girod	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery should be perserved so that Hawai'i families have access to this vital resource. I strongly support HB 955 and urge the Legislature to pass this bill!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:28:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana McCartt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery should be preserved because cultural practices are sacred. I strongly support HB955 because of the importance of keeping these traditions for future generations.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:31:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eris Buritica	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955! Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and all Hawaii families deserve the choice to choose how they birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:32:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Mau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is so important for the health and well being of women and babies that traditional midwifery is preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:33:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stiven Buritica	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. The government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:37:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Ruggaber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery must and needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i o'hanas and families, I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:04:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Terry	Traditional MidWives	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to ALL families in the State of Hawai'i.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:17:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darby Partner CPM	Hawaii Holistic Midwifery	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I have been practicing as a birth professional on Hawai'i island for a decade. I am eligible for a midwifery license and will have one by or before July of 2023. However I am in support of HB955 because I believe in traditional midwifery. I believe my sister traditional midwives deserve to practice. And that families in Hawai'i need their care. Although I went ahead to get certified and soon, licensed, many of my teachers were traditional midwives & they are amazing. I believe indigenous midwives deserve to practice in Hawai'i and their knowledge preserved.

Please look at states with excellent laws such as Utah & Oregon & you will find that they have welcomed traditional (non-licensed) midwives & it has worked out very well.

Thank you for preserving choice, and indigenous healers in Hawai'i.

Mahalo, Darby Partner CPM

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:54:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehi Kuailani	Malama Na Pua O Haumea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to testify in support of HB955 that would help to preserve different pathways for birth practitioners and maintain freedom of choice for people for those who actively seek out and prefer different types of homebirth providers. This is to protect traditional and cultural ways just as much as we need to protect traditional and cultural practitioners especially.

I first hand know and have seen what it is like to have the opportunity and blessings to be able to choose and do homebirth, not just once but twice. Very safely and very efficiently, my babies and I were guided with knowledge, strength, stability in knowing that this is the work of women and the work of our ancestors, and being comfortable in our space of choosing, along with the choice of our birth practitioner(s) present.

Knowing and growing through both experiences and learning from and under Ki'i, I myself was blessed to be chosen to assist some home births as well. Making the connections and continuing my family's practices as well. It may have skipped a couple of generations but traditions and still alive and growing.

I highly advise that you pass this bill to help exempt and protect all traditional and indigenous birth practitioners, give freedom of choice to those who wish to carry on these traditional practices, especially in such rural areas with limited to medical facilities.

We need not be erased from history for we still thrive today. Our kūpuna did not have license to practice but the knowledge to practice and the aloha to hand it down to us, so we should be exempt from licensure because what we learned cannot be taught through books and be credits by someone else without this knowledge.

Mahalo nui loa

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:42:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Loo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. If abortion is legal, then women deciding who can deliver their baby should be legal as well.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:05:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moani Hibbard	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:42:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Schieber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Māhealani Schieber, strongly support bill HB 955!

Mahalo!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:44:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I truly believe at home birth are so necessary and is a human right to women, and midwife's should be able to practice and educate new mothers with the license they have gained

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:35:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor R	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is our innate right to feel comfortable in our bodies and birthspace. When us pregnant women feel our child's entrance to the world is soon to come, we put our energy into the space. We nest and begin to create the positive and familiar environment for us as we soon transition together, as we get to know and grow together.

My homebirth this year was pure bliss, I was comfortable in my home walking around my room, taking a shower in my shower, eating my own food and laying with my son in my bed after he was born in his own room.

I hope you understand that homebirths and midwives are important to many peoples spirit, beliefs and journey, if their only option is a hospital you're taking and forcing so much on **them**. And to add a birth **isn't** a medical treatment it's a natural phenomenon that you think us woman can't navigate on our own Or with the help of an experienced midwife.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:53:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need the option of traditional midwifery. Please stop taking away our God given rights to support our bodies in its most natural ways. Natural ways most times lead to faster healing, less complications, healthier babies. Hospitals are not the only answer. Please keep traditional midwifery legal and alive in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:43:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Olmos	Elevate Your Birth, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a birth worker and childbirth educator, I support women in their choices of how they wish and with whom they wish to bring their babies into this world. Home births are safe (I've had two myself with the support of a magnificent midwife and anticipate having a third home birth in September with the birth of our third child) and midwives provide not only medical support but also emotional support to the birthing woman, something that is absent within our society's "traditional" medical system. They take more time to understand and care for the birthing woman's needs (a visit with a midwife is typically 3 times as long as a visit with an OB/gyn), are more attentive to details, and provide solutions to bring comfort and calm to a beautiful and joyous occasion. Birth is NOT always a medical event however in this society doctors seem to be looking for a means to speed it along. This in turn causes a normal birth to be turned into a medical birth, no thanks to their cascade of intervention. I support our midwives and I support home births to keep the birthing mom and baby safe and free from unnecessary interventions!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:44:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Dentinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to preserved and available to all Hawaii and I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:45:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Reardon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is highly important to preserve Hawaiians right to their traditions and choice of childbirth delivery. I strongly support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:47:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zakeri Media LLC	Zakeri Media LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955 for the protection of traditional midwifery in the state of Hawai'i. For all Ohanas. Women should have the right to choose. Where they go and what they do with their birthing preferences.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:47:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Dentinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to ALL Hawaii families!

Entirely unfair to force a WOMAN to have a hospital birth and take away her right to home birth.

Home birth is safe!

I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:48:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quincie Long	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support of HB955. Traditional midwifery is essential to the community and needs to be preserved and protected as well as available for all Hawaii families. Traditional midwives are an essential part of my family's life and the lives of so many others.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:39:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Maes, LM, CPM	Nightbloom Birth LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I am a CPM and Hawai'i Licensed Midwife, practicing on Kaua'i. I have been a CPM for 17 years and also have been registered/licensed in both Colorado and California. Both of these states recognized the legitimacy of my apprenticeship training and experience. I also qualified for my current Hawaii license based on the foundation of that training and additional academic credits (NARM Bridge). I am an apprenticeship-trained midwife and acquired my CPM credential via the PEP process in 2005. If it had not been for this educational pathway, I would not have had the financial ability to become a midwife in the underserved community where I lived. Experience is powerful education. More valuable than any book or on-line classroom. Creating financial and educational hoops which remove us from working in our communities is not the answer.

Please let traditional midwives demonstrate their skills and competency and continue the irreplaceable service they are already providing. Support safe practices by encouraging registration, collecting statistics on out-of-hospital birth outcomes, offering continuing education, and furthering integration with EMS and public health programs.

We need more midwives not less! Midwives serve our community in a life-changing way and provide services that are not otherwise available to birthing families. I would like to see fewer barriers for student midwives, with the hope of creating increased access and more diverse cultural representation in midwifery care.

There are currently very few licensed midwives on Kaua'i. Further restrictions to licensure and access to homebirth will not improve outcomes for anyone. It will simply encourage illegal and dangerous practices. It is essential to the safety of mothers, birthing folks, and babies for birth attendants and midwives to feel safe when transferring care to a medical provider as necessary, without fear of legal repercussions. Outlawing traditional birth attendants will not improve safety, as families will continue to choose these providers. It will simply lead to an increasingly hostile and unsafe environment for all.

I choose to be licensed because it broadens the scope of care I can provide by ordering labs and ultrasounds, and carrying and administering life-saving medications and oxygen. I don't, however, believe it is my license that defines me as a good midwife. We are all accountable for our own decisions and actions, and directly accountable to the families we care for. I do not believe that all licensed midwives are safe or skilled, or that unlicensed midwives are not. We are all individuals, each with different levels of skill, experience, and practice style, and each with different reputations in our communities and amongst colleagues. This issue is multifaceted and has existed across the ages. Please grasp this moment and opportunity to listen to birthing

families express what they need and want. Please support licensure for all CPMs in Hawaii. Please support the PEP process. Please allow traditional birth attendants to continue to serve their clients. Please allow the long cultural tradition of gentle birth in Hawai'i to continue.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:49:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allie Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery in Hawai'i MUST be preserved. Not only must it be preserved, but it must be available and accessible to ALL families in Hawai'i. I strongly support HB995 and will continue to until it is absolutely certain that Traditional Midwifery is preserved and readily available.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:59:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mieko aoki	Aoki Birthing Care	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Modern technology, methods, ideas cannot duplicate nor replace Traditional Midwifery practices. They are not the same. There is a need to coexist rather than an erasure of a methodology. We all gain from ancient wisdom. Your grandmother taught you in her own way and passed on to you with purpose and trust that you will uphold this family/cultural tradition. This bill can support you, your daughter, granddaughter and your family line. Stop boxing up traditional ways, traditional cultures to fit your own idea of what is better for others, especially without ever asking them or even if you ask them, this is not your right!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:50:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ovia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i's traditional practice of midwifery must be protected. This practice must be preserved and available to access by all Hawaiian families. I strongly support the preservation and protection of this practice, and the preservation of native Hawai'ian culture.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:51:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
caitlin kryss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rep. Della Au Belatti, and Vice Chair Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness,

Mahalo for considering HB955. I support this measure. I have been fortunate to have been able to have both of my daughters born under the supervision of capable midwives here in Hawaii. Their births were a source of empowerment due to our ‘ohana’s ability to choose our care providers, a strong bonding experience for my husband and I and our children, and an extremely positive experience that created life-long memories and stories for our keiki. We value having our personal desires honored by our community, and the midwives we worked with were capable, competent, and extremely professional. They are a gift to all mothers, fathers, children and extended family here in Hawaii and I wish nothing more than to mahalo them by legally recognizing them and protecting their practice. I also want to acknowledge that this bill will help to pave a path for aspiring students of midwifery medicine, and they deserve a future when the public desires their service. Please support this measure and protect midwifery in Hawaii.

Mahalo nui,

Caitlin Kryss and family

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:54:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Colmus	Summa Sea LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and want to have children in the comfort of my home.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:54:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Babatunji Heath	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

traditional midwifery needs to be respected and preserved, traditional birth attendants need to be able to continue serving the families of Hawaii, and ask the legislators to please support HB955 and submit your testimony.

the current law has created a crises

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:34:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Llanes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery has been in practice for centuries and generations and giving birth at home was considered the norm. It's a women's right to choose how to birth her baby and in the setting she feels most safe with the support of those she chooses. She shouldn't be forced into a hospital system that she does not feel comfortable with. Let women do what they've always done - birth in the way their bodies know how to naturally and in where they feel best.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:33:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mel	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives must stay legal. People should be given the choice on how they wish to bring life into the world and they are responsible for that choice and who they choose to assist them.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:55:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Labanon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved to all Hawaii families and I strongly support HB955,

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:56:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Pasion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955.

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:59:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalia Guiteras	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives have existed across every culture. These traditional midwives are an integral part of the community. What these practitioners require is support.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:59:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyce Hosoda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:59:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Lake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:00:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alaina Craft	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery is important, needing to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families in all circumstances. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:59:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Almost all of my children and grandchildren have been delivered by midwives and mostly at home. Midwives are an essential part of the birthing process and should only be supported in their essential work by those who choose to utilize their services.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:05:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Dentinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a woman who has chosen both the medical obstetrician and traditional midwifery routes when giving birth, I **STRONGLY** support HB955 in favor of allowing women to choose traditional midwifery as an option in their birth plan.

The personalized care of a midwife was life-changing for me as my midwife encouraged me in every season of pregnancy. She was more invested in my physical and emotional well-being than that of my obstetrician and made a strong impact on my medical decisions by providing the resources and knowledge I needed to make informed decisions for myself and my baby. It is crucial to me that I am afforded the same opportunity to use traditional midwifery in all my future pregnancies as I have been able to in the past. To deny women the right to choose traditional midwifery, you are narrowing the prenatal care without considering the plethora of unique birth situations and needs. Every birth is different and has different needs and traditional midwifery is simply another amazing option for women to consider while making the best decisions for their pregnancy and birth.

I **STRONGLY** support HB955 and believe traditional midwifery **NEEDS** to be preserved and available to every Hawai'i family. I stand with the thousands of women who have not only had incredible home births assisted by traditional midwifery, but with every woman who desires to have the same experience for themselves. I support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:05:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenessa Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 955! I have had two home births and they were the best days of my life. Women should have the choice to birth how they feel is best for them. Traditional midwifery allows mothers to give birth in a safe and calm manner. By taking away this choice, we remove the option of having a professional at a home birth. Traditional midwives are trained, highly specified health professionals who know more about birth than many obstetricians in hospitals. Keep Hawaii safe and keep the freedom of choice!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:09:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louise Dineley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:10:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Langton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I respectfully submit my testimony as a Hawaii resident and as a woman. How a woman and her partner decide to bring a child into the world is a personal matter. His is not something that should be controlled or interfered with by the government.

S

Midwives have been delivering babies for eons. Midwives are now even more skilled and trained than in decades passed. They have often times more experience than the attending staff. There is no logical reason to disallow this practice. Home births do not have a higher instance of complications. To the contrary these are much less stressful and therefore less dangerous to both mother and baby. Midwives are prepared for unexpected complications and well trained.

My grandson was born on Big Island with a midwife on a farm. This was the most calm and safe birth I have witnessed.

Please keep the government out of our personal decisions.

Mahalo

Laurie Langton

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:11:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daryl Learned	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955 in favor of allowing women to choose traditional midwifery as an option in their birth plan.

The personalized care of a midwife is life-changing for women (and men as the husband!) It seems midwives are more invested in the physical and emotional well-being than that of obstetricians and made a strong impact on my wife's medical decisions by providing the resources and knowledge she and I needed to make informed decisions for herself our keiki. It is crucial to me that we are afforded the same opportunity to use traditional midwifery in all our future pregnancies as we have been able to in the past. To deny women the right to choose traditional midwifery, you are narrowing the prenatal care without considering the plethora of unique birth situations and needs. Every birth is different and has different needs and traditional midwifery is simply another amazing option for women to consider while making the best decisions for their pregnancy and birth.

I STRONGLY support HB955 and believe traditional midwifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to every Hawai'i family. I stand with the thousands of women who have not only had incredible home births assisted by traditional midwifery, but with every woman who desires to have the same experience for themselves. I support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:12:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Carter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 955. Midwifery is vital for many communities, especially those that are working class, black, and brown. Traditional Midwifery needs to be persevered and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:12:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amberlene Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i 'ohana. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:12:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:12:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn Ewald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to families in Hawai'i. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:13:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Palmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

I have had three perfectly healthy home births! I'm so grateful I had the choice!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:14:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Giles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support a woman's right to choose what she wants to do for her body. This means she can choose how she wants to give birth. Midwives provide so much emotional support and stability for so many families. This eases the birthing process. Please let this practice continue.

Aloha, Janice Giles

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:15:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariella Pelekai-Wai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state again that you **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.**

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:15:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaricia Downes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery must be protected, and available to all Hawai'i families. I FULLY SUPPORT HB955. Midwifery is an important on preserving Hawaiian culture, and safety.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:17:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephany Guerrero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support that traditional midwifery should be available to the families in Hawaii. Every family, especially the mother planning the birth of her child, should have the choice to seek different types of homebirth providers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:17:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Paer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT HB955. Families in Hawaii should have the right to use Traditional Midwives to deliver their children. Their bodies, their births, their children/families, their choice. It is not right to interfere with those intimate decisions.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:17:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Fickes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to have the option of midwives for expectant mothers in the state of Hawaii. I was born in a safe and healthy home birth with the help of midwives, and I'd like to bear my children in the same way.

thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:19:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Chock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:19:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rayana Waiamau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly Support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:22:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobbie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

My name is Bobbie Ann Konkel. I have lived in Hawai'i for 18 years. I strongly support HB955. We need options when it comes to safe support for birth. The right to body autonomy and decisions on birth practices should be up to the individual mother. How she sees her birth from a religious and cultural standard should be respected. We need safe birthing options for all and freedom to choose. It would be outrageous for anyone else to decide that for any mother. Midwifery is an essential need for every community and everyone should have access to care however she sees fit. I strongly support midwifery apprenticeship programs that keep our community safe and our family's supported.

Thank you for your time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:24:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mortimer Pendragon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and individuals. I am STRONGLY in support of HB955 and always will be.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:24:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimberly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:24:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marina Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved as a human right to all Hawaii residents. I strongly support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:25:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Taphorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support. I have always felt my body and babies have been cared for much more thoroughly by my midwives than my first two were in a hospital setting. Informed birth decisions should be available to any families of Hawai'i, as it is a VERY personal and individualized matter. Home births show more favorable statistics than hospital year after year as far as intervention and emergency goes.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:26:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Remy Reyes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families, and I support this bill strongly.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:28:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherie Castanares	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. Home births are not for everyone but everyone should have the freedom to choose. Midwives take care of both the baby and mother, in a way that normal doctors do not. They are more supportive, caring, and understanding. I had a home birth with a midwife and I wouldn't have done it any other way.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:28:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Goff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Amber Goff. I have lived in Hawai'i for almost 5 years. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Amber Goff

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:28:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Guerrero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvette Guerrero support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:29:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Traditional midwifery should be preserved and available to all people of Hawaii. It's a woman's right to choose how they want to give birth and how they want to be supported.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:29:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene pin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

women deserve to decide what care is best for them. having employed the help of a midwife for a home birth there was a sense of strength and calm to labor in my home, while the midwife made the call to transfer to hospital I am so thankful I had the ability to be cared for by a person with my cultural background and beliefs- and more empowered in the hospital setting to have my midwife there to advocate for my care and the care of my baby.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:29:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rieley Anne Nagamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:31:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayvis Sloan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to ALL Hawai'i families. I strongly support this bill HB955 to keep traditional midwifery legal in Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:33:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josy blossomfeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:33:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Finley-Jacob	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 955 for the exact reason stated in the introduction of this bill:

"The type of midwifery provided by certified professional midwives meets the needs of some, but not all, birthing parents."

Birth is a highly intimate and powerful process in which many different paths may be taken. By not continuing to allow traditional birth attendants to practice as exempt from licensure, you will be limiting the sacred practices of many women, birth keepers, and traditional birth attendants.

Not passing this bill is not helping women—it's limiting women and their power of choice. Without the clear ability of choice, you are only left with force, and force belongs no where in the world of physiological birth. Licensure should be available with the proposed modifications for those that want it and should be allowed to be exempt for those that do not.

The western allopathic model of medical care is very new in a historical sense, only established to this degree within the last 100 years, yet birth attendants have been doing this work for 200,000+ years. To limit the knowledge and skill of this ancient practice is beyond irresponsible, in fact, it is pushing towards insanity.

Women should always be allowed to choose who they want as their guide in birth, if they even want one at all. The state should have no say in that choice, especially if it means cutting off the road to more intimate and attentive care.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:36:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are sovereign beings. The right to choose what we do with our bodies, how we birth, where we birth, and with whom we allow into our sacred spaces such as birth is our own choice alone. Statistics have shown over the years that birth at home is a safe practice and in many cases has less interventions than a hospital setting birth. I have had 3 home births with one certified midwife and one traditional birth attendant. It changed my life and my children's lives bringing them in with calm peace and love and safety. I was able to practice my traditional ceremonial practices at home that the hospital setting regulates. The ease and grace that I was able to birth in allowed me to have a healthy mind set moving forward through the postpartum period in which I was looked after by a practioner through 6 weeks. This lessened any chance of postpartum depression or any difficulties after birth. I have seen how home birth has changed the manor or my children as they grow up knowing they did not come into this world with any sort of traumas. I chose a traditional birth attendant to support me as many of the ones practicing here in Hawaii already are very knowledgeable and have specialized in the practice of birth. I felt safe and comfortable with my attendant. Having more options of midwives to choose from is imperative. Many women, like myself are terrified to give birth in the hospital as it is too chaotic, too many people, lack of respect for mother's choices in the birth space, limited options. I am also a doula and hope to be a midwife in training soon. I will hope to train under a traditional birth attendant that has specialized in the trade and gained education from experience and not just from one class or certification. There is much to learn from traditional practioners and we cannot lose this type of education and practice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:37:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'ian families. This is a sacred practice for the people of Hawai'i. I STRONGLY support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:39:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kacie Patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth the govt has no right to dictate a womans birth choices. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all women living in Hawaii. Again I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:42:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the bill HB955. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all hawaii families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:42:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas K. Beck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Traditional Midwifery for all families in Hawai'i. It needs to be preserved as an option for all families in the State of Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:42:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy S Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support midwives in Hawaii

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:43:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
contessa pilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available for ALL Hawaii families. I strongly SUPPORT this bill !!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:44:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy turcios	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:44:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery Must stay available and be a preserved option in Hawaii!

I strongly support House Bill HB955.

Traditional Midwifery, like many other a health option should be up to the person and not judged upon by our traditional, modern day institution of the medical industry. Let people choose and let the tradition and honor of what has been done for centuries remain.

Leave the legal CHOICE for Hawaii homebirth families be!

Best,

Jacqueline

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:45:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:46:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It needs to be preserved and available for all Hawaii families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:48:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Poffinbarger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:49:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsy De Coito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:50:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Lorentz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families & the state! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:56:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kelsey ropati	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is something that isn't up to the government. Why do you get to choose how we birth our own children? Something that's been done even before any of us were even brought into this earth you guys think you can control? I am very against this bill. How a mother chooses to bring her children into this world is up to her. This is a time where you need to be most comfortable and that is according to her not government. Period!!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:53:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Balsamo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:53:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drusilla Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:55:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their child's birth. Government has no right to dictate a women's birthing choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:55:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hailey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support this bill! Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all who want it!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:57:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sela Trimm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY support this bill, and I believe it unfair to deprive the citizens of Hawaii their right to make this important decision.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:03:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha friends of the community,

I humbly ask that midwifery remain an option for birthing families on these beautiful islands. there are families of all colors, cultural and financial backgrounds that have greatly benefited from the option of having a midwife. there are science based studies that have proven the importance of women feeling safe, seen and cared for in their environment when birthing their children. the rate of medical emergency is lowered, the rate of mental health issues is lessened and the rate of education of our birthing bodies and new born children increases.

my midwife spent countless hours with me before my child was born as well as after. she has years of professional training and experience. she donates her valuable time and expertise in third world countries such as haiti to educate and support birthing women in the villages far from a hospital.

it's not just about the families here on these islands, their work ripples out into the whole world !

midwives deeply care for their patients. they educate families in ways doctors unfortunately don't have the ability due to having such tight schedules.

the more a family feels supported by a medical professional such as a midwife, the healthier the keiki and parents. that is what brings health and vibrancy to our community. not just physical health but mental and emotional health.

please, allow the midwives to continue to care for our families. doctors aren't the only one saving lives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:05:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Radha Ku'ulani Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Does "My body my choice" only apply to women who wish to exterminate a baby? Why does this State not respect a person's right to choose what we put in our bodies and the other health and medical choices we make? It is the most natural thing in the world for a mother to give birth, and for her to give birth with the assistance of a midwife or similar individual. That is her right. Please remember your place as servants to the people; NOT dictators. Stay out of our lives as much as possible, please. Get the drug addicts out of the streets. Stay away from pregnant mothers, and women who dedicate their lives to making the birthing process beautiful and peaceful rather than medicalize it in every way possible. If you Democrats want to demonize "western" civilization and all that, then how about you get your western medicine aka DRUGS away from us unless we specifically request it? Enough over-stepping your boundaries. I was born AT HOME, in a house, in Kalama Valley, in 1992. My mother had home births with the assistance of midwives for all four of her births. Everything was completely natural. As it should be. If mothers want to be in the hospital and they don't want a midwife, fine. To each their own. STOP forcing your way on those of us who wish to do things more similar to how we have done them for basically all of human history.

Thank you,

Radha Ku'ulani Martin

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:06:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Birthing people need more options to birth as they choose, not fewer. I support this bill and urge you to pass it.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:07:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott DeCoito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My son was born in our home. Our midwife is not only a Doctor, but a pastor. Everything went smoother than it did in the hospital, where we birthed our other 3 sons. If I could've done it all over again, I would have all three of them born at home. Not only is our son, healthy, by the grace of God, but he is thriving!! Please let us choose as parents, how we want our children to be born. Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:07:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Aoki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Freedom of choice!! Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955! It should remain an option to each and every 'ohana that chooses to utilize such a precious resource provided by trusted individuals.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:08:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myra Bayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:08:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Boatright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:08:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla Fukumitsu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955 because traditional midwifery needs to be preserved. Hawaii families should have a choice to traditional midwifery. With keiki of my own, I want them to also have this choice such as I did. Please support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:09:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Cobar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In a world where a woman is controlled in every aspect of her life from menstrual products and undergarments to reproductive health, still having a choice when it comes to delivering THEIR child at home is crucial. Giving birth is the most natural, spiritual and powerful act a woman can perform. There is nothing natural about being strapped with tests and monitors and being forced to labor on their backs when gravity does not work that way. Medical science can be helpful at times however it is decades behind when it comes to understanding the Human need to be supported emotionally during an event like birth. Having the option to choose a home birth allows for the mother to feel comfortable, supported, and most of all loved. Please don't take that choice away. As a future mother it has been my desire to birth at home.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:10:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genai Patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Preserve Traditional Midwifery and keep available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:10:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Ilustre-Boatright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:11:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia England	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fee ever individually has the right to chose how they want to give birth and I am a strong supporter of Midwifery.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:11:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's time to preserve the sacred practices of traditional midwifery, and to take a stand for healthier options for all families of Hawai'i.

Women and families deserve to have the option and choice to give birth in the ways they see fit, and the ways that are healthiest to the mind, body and spirits of all involved.

Traditional hospitals and practices do not always honor or acknowledge the sacred and spiritual aspects of birth of health, and until they do, there need to be more options available for people.

Mahalo for reading and for remembering the truth of who we are.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:11:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:11:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lacey Nakaguma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:11:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebekah J Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again that you **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.**

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:12:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:13:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LLP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:13:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of Resolution # 23-28.

Please allow women to continue to choose ANY BIRTH ATTENDENTS to provide care for her including midwives and other traditional birth attendents to continue to practice freely without as they have been doing for thousands of years.

Women have the right to choose who is with them during birth. Our bodies OUR choice.

The battle for women rights feels never ending. I can't believe that congress wants to write rules into place about the circumstances in which women are allowed to govern their bodies, and now in addition to that we have to fight over where those potentially forced pregnancies will need to occur. Women deserve the right to dictate when they will or will not have a family and ESPECIALLY deserve the right to decide where they will start that family. Keep home births legal under the supervision of Midwives and doulas.

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I am in strong support of HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:16:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Humber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women should have the right to choose for themselves. Not have the government choose for them when it comes to how they care for their bodies and babies.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:16:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Marzan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:17:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Alevizos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:18:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drae Ann Cranley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:20:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Vernon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:21:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sydney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It absolutely imparative for mothers to be given the option to home birth with a mid wife. This strips women of their natural needs, bodily atonomy, and decision making choices. There's no reason to make this illegal, or any dangers to midwifery and has been going on for centuries. There can and must be another option and way to negotiate a middle path. This also takes away people who have dedicated their life's studies and work into how to become a mid wife, to not be able to work their chosen career path.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:23:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manahel Al-hozail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Home birth with midwives should be legal and allowed. Covid has proven how important all types of medical staff are and the need to have care at home instead of overwhelm hospitals and resources. This is another option for many people who can not afford hospitals as well as choose to have a more private and sacred birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:25:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Firth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Hawaiian midwifery is important to preserve. Enough culture has already been destroyed through laws and systems that make it impossible to retain. Don't make this another example of colonization at work.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:25:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Stikeleather	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

My name is Jennifer and I have lived in Hawai'i for 7 years. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Jennifer

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:26:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marichris Diga-Lazo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955 as women should have the option to give birth in a hospital or at home with a midwife. The government should not and never have a say regarding where mothers should give birth. That is not the government's role. As a mother of two and expecting another one on the way, I want to have the choice to give birth at the hospital or at the home. With my third pregnancy, I am choosing to give birth at home. The government needs to stop with its overreach and allow families to make the decision that fits best for them.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:26:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blane Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please allow women to have whoever they prefer to be with them during "their" own childbirth.
Government should be involved .

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:27:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julianna I Muzzall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families, and therefore I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:29:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisabeth Kaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may Concern,

Aloha, my name is Elisabeth.

I'm a mother of 5 children.

I had bad experiences of giving birth to my first 3 children at an hospital with not much great support at all my births they make you wait all by yourself amd just come check on you now and then and the Dr would just come in to do the birth after her Drs office would close. So it didn't seem like I was of any importance to her or the birth team at the hospital. Its just them doing their job and by me being there was I'm part of them getting paid. Definitely not a great feeling when they show that you and your baby aren't priority. My husband and I, heard from our close friends about them having their children through home births and the experiences being fantastic, so we chose to speak with a Midwife and learn about homebirth. After going to classes and getting educated about homebirth, it has caught our aattention. We decided to have our 4th child to be a home birth baby. I had a homebirth with my 4th child on December, 2011. It was a great experience for my husband and I. We chose to have a home birth, because we trusted the people who made it possible to have this experience and we figured it would be better than what we have experienced in the hospital. For the home birth, we had a Midwife and a few Doulas assisting me throughout the birth of my strong and healthy son. Everything went well for my son and I, all the way throughout the birthing process the Midwife and the doulas definitely did well with communication, monitoring me and baby and they were a great support team. I gave birth to an 8Lb baby boy at a home in Kaneohe, HI that day and now my son is a strong, healthy, and athletic 11year old young man now. I strongly believe that woman should have a choice on enjoying a great experience giving birth to their child at a home, like I got to.

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

Please consider my vote. Mahalo Nui!

Aloha,

Elisabeth Kaina

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:29:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Burns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Preserve traditional midwives in Hawaii and I support the bill HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:33:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Fields	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices


HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:33:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie K Amico	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I whole heartedly support the Sovereign's Law Midwifery Bill HB955! My mom gave birth to me with the support of incredibly inspiring Maui midwives at home in Waiehu over 36 years ago. She felt so in powered that she went on to birth my three younger sisters at home with the support of these loving midwives that were there to witness and support her and my dad while they brought us into this community. Growing up out in Huelo I still dream of being able to birth my own babies at home with the support of whoever I choose! I wish that for all my sisters as well! My birth sisters, my paddling sisters, my hula sisters, my school sisters and all of Maui's Ohana's! I truly believe we absolutely need to support our indigenous people including our birth attendants to be able to do what generations have done before us, support and protect our mamas and babies! 

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:33:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Englund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaiian families.

I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:33:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Brians	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Rachel Brians. August 2022, we welcomed our 5th child, a daughter, into our family with the help of a midwife and doula at our home. It was a beautiful and peaceful birth under the gentle, knowledgeable, and VERY able hands of the midwife! We are so unbelievably thankful for being able to birth at home as my daughters were able to attend the birth of their baby sister and my sons were playing in the living room. Midwives offer a deeper level of care, support, and peace that no hospital can offer, not to mention the fact that my other children aren't even allowed to visit a new sibling at all at the hospital! I had 4 births at hospitals, and although they were all easy and pleasant, they hold no candle to the peace and care the midwife was able to give at our homebirth. I am in FULL SUPPORT of this bill! Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

-Mahalo,

Rachel Brians

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:34:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlen Koons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. My daughter would not be here without our midwife and we were able to stay home and not burden the hospitals. I strongly support this.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:36:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Plavi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident who has chosen Home Birth, I strongly support allowing women and families to choose how they wish to bring new life onto this planet. Our ohana supports preserving Traditional Midwifery in the state of Hawaii as a basic and eternal human right.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:37:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.

Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:37:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lianne Blas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 955! We need to protect traditional midwifery! This needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I strongly support this bill!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:37:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Women should be allowed to choose who they want to attend their birth. The government has no right to restrict a woman's bodily autonomy in their birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:37:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayumi Imai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Women should have various option when having a birth, and homebirth should be one of the option. Midwives support them by mentaly and technically, and it does not matter their educational background. How they care, watch, and support clients are more imporant.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:37:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Taira Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. I want our State to preserve and perpetuate traditional midwifery.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:37:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Sate of Hawaii.

I support HB955.

Traditional Midwifery (also known as Birth Attendants practicing Midwifery as a legal Midwife) is as necessary now in Hawaii as it has been since people started living in the islands. Traditional Midwifery should be available for the health and safety of all Ohana living on all the islands

All pathways to become a licensed midwife should also be recognized! The priefvious law is operating on a monopoly system of education not available in Hawaii, and does not represent all education options, let alone including the safest outcomes of patients found by the task force statistics and department of health in the past few years.

Please support HB955 and keep our Ohana safe.

Mahalo.

Edward Clark

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:38:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:42:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Klem	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families- I STRONGLY support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:42:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara McCutcheon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly** feel tradition midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I really would love to see insurance companies assist in providing availability to mothers to use insurance monies to assist in making this service more affordable to women. I have struggled to make funds to afford this service while I have insurance.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT WOMENS CHOICE TO MIDWIFERY SKILLS AND SERVICE FOR MOTHERS.

SINCERELY,

TAMARA MCCUTCHEON

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:42:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:44:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Pintos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am taking the time to write this testimony, despite currently being 3 days postpartum with my first child because it means that much to me. There are many reasons I chose to seek the support, care and guidance of a traditional midwife for this pregnancy, but the one most pertinent to this bill would be because I believe in a right to autonomy. Women have the right to govern their own bodies, especially as it pertains to healthcare. If I feel most cared for, supported by and safest with a traditional midwife, then I have the right to choose that for myself. This bill actively suppresses a woman's right to sovereignty over her own body.

Traditional midwives have the deepest and most intimate understanding of the birth process. It is not a job they take lightly or without great care and respect. Never has my health and wellness felt better cared for in totality, than under the care of my traditional midwife.

It would be an absolute devastation to lose the knowledge, wisdom, empathy and downright miracle work traditional midwives provide here in Hawaii. So many women have benefitted under their care and eliminating their path to legally provide their services is a major loss to all the women and child bearers of Hawaii.

I, Kelly Pintos, strongly support HB955, and accidentally submitted an opposition with my first written testimony that I hereby withdraw.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:48:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randi Egdamin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all families in Hawaii. Let women choose where they want to give birth and whom they want to attend their birth. The government has no right to dictate women's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:48:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nia mulhern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families, I therefore strongly support HB955 as this is essential.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:49:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

My name is Jennifer Meleana Hee. I was born and raised in Hawai‘i, and have lived here over thirty years. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai‘i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai‘i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai‘i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Jennifer Meleana Hee

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:44:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery is a traditional and safe option for childbirth. In a community where poverty is a concern, midwifery is an option available as alternative care to a community that may not have the financial means or available insurance to afford a hospital. As someone who has had all 3 of my children born by a midwife, they provide a knowledgeable and available resource to an overburdened medical community and political leaders should not be excluding sources of care in these demanding times.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:40:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiley McGahan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support women having the choice and the freedom to make that decision when it comes to giving birth to their child.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:52:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Filippa Amundson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:50:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juan Carlos Pintos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Juan Carlos Pintos, strongly support HB955. My wife just gave birth to our first son 3 days ago under the care of a traditional midwife and I've never witnessed a more empowering experience. Working with traditional midwives is a true privilege and would be deeply missed if Hawaii doesn't allow for this bill. Our entire family have felt beyond taken care of and losing access to traditional midwives would be devastating to this island.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:40:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Koons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Midwives are essential to home births. Further, homebirths are in many cases safer and have better birth success rates than hospital births. Mothers should have the ability to have homebirths with the expertise of midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:40:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Zupan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,
I am Angela Zupan and I have lived in Hawai'i for 12 years. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:40:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kat Brooke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a doctor and mother of two children and it is unconstitutional to deprive a mother to choose her birthing experience and attendees. I had a hospital birth with my first child that was a horrible experience. My second child I did a home birth with Selena Green, a CPM. The level of medical care I received with my CPM far exceeded the hospital experience. I would have 5 minutes to discuss my health issues with my OBGYN compared to 1 hour appointments with my CPM. The depth of care I received on an ongoing basis with my CPM prevented a lot of issues that I had with my first hospital birth. The expertise that my CPM demonstrated during my birth was beyond impressive medical skills. The medical and spiritual experience I had with my home birth was amazing. It would be depriving a woman's birthing right to not be able to choose her birthing experience based on her spiritual and cultural beliefs.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:40:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate how a woman chooses to deliver her baby.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:41:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Tsukamaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Keith Tsukamaki. I have lived in Hawai'i for 35 years. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:42:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mele beter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again that you **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB955. There is no valid reason for this state to prevent families from having the option to choose their birth plan! Home births have been an integral part of all societies and cultures from the beginning of time. They have proven to continue to evolve and become incredibly healthy, safe, professional choices for families. But these home birthing is also deeply protected and values in our Hawaiian culture! Please stop trying to threaten these valuable practices. Enough is enough.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:44:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Butterbaugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:49:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A'Yonnika Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families therefore
I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:54:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Kaaea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ashley but I go by Honi. I am a native hawaiian woman who has had a successful home birth to my healthy and thriving son. I had two midwives who helped me through the entire process, beginning to end. I have two children and I am expecting one more in August. My daughter was born at Maui memorial medical center. I had a traumatic experience giving birth at the hospital. I made the choice to give birth to my son in the comfort of my home surrounded by loved ones. I was supported 110%, and I had the FREEDOM to labor and give birth how I wanted to and when I was ready. Being in the element of your own home in the most intense and vulnerable time in your life is the most amazing feeling to experience. I created a safe space for myself and my growing ohana. I plan to give birth at home again for my growing child. I should be able to have the freedom to give birth where I want to and however I choose to. Please consider keeping birth sovereignty alive giving freedom back to the wahine of Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:47:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jewels	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives need to be preserved in available to all Hawaiian families. I Support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:48:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maire Cahoon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the right to choose how to birth and with whom I would like to support me. Traditional midwives must be allowed to practice as a option for a woman's right to birth in the State of Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:49:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Korina makaokalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be available to all Hawai'i residents. I strongly support this bill. Every woman & family deserves the choice to have a midwife.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:53:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Bagnuolo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sample Testimony

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Brian Bagnuolo. I have lived in Hawai'i for _____18yrs____. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:55:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:57:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucciana bergonzi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support midwives and what they do. I support mothers having the right to choose how they want to give birth with their bodies, as long as it is safe.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:01:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Fortini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support a family's right to choose a traditional midwife for their birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:53:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Ferrari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all hawaii families. I strongly support HB955!!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:57:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jami Strapple Jingao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 955, and believe that traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. Hawai'i families should have the freedom of choice to where they give birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:59:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karina Fröhlich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support traditional Hawaii'an Midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:00:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiyana Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a women expecting to give birth to my first child this year it brings me so much fear to think that any

part of the government feels they have the right to take away a families choice to birth. It is such an intimate, sacred, and PERSONAL decision. The comfort, practices, safety (in more ways than just physical safety) are sooooo important and vital to a health experience of birth. I couldn't imagine giving birth with out my midwife and doula birth team by my side. My expereinces in hospitals before I found my midwife were horrifying as was my mothers birth of me. Indigenous midwives around the world have been kn deep relationship and ceremony with bringing new life onto this world in a way western medicine couldn't even begin to understand. There is obviously a place for hospitals, medical facilities, and licensed nurse practitioners in worst case emergency scenerios, but it should be SOLELY up to a family and more so the birthing womb to male the decision how she wants to go about it. More C-sections aren't even necessary. most hospital interventions and Birth are premature and unnecessary. And many women and babies still die. In hospitals there is no guarantee chance that birthing in the hospital is safer. many indigenous and black women feel quite unsafe in hospitals which leads to an already uneasy birthing experience. The goverment has no place in our traditional practices of medicine and ceremony. Birth is ceremonial. Birth is a right of passage. Birth belongs to women. Period.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:02:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandie gleichweit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe women should have the right to choose who can attend their birth. The government should not have the right to dictate a woman's birth choice

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:02:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamil Merchant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices"

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:06:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chalei vannatta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii residents. We deserve the right to choose. I STRONGLY SUPPORT OUR RIGHT TO HAVE TRADITIONAL MIDWIFERY and support bill HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:06:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices"

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:06:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ginger Decosta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Preserve different pathways for birth practitioners and freedom of choice !

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:08:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mara Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My midwife did an amazing job and I have a healthy baby. The care I got before birth was exceptional and so detailed. The one on one you get with your midwife is something you don't get in the hospital. You don't have to wonder if your baby is good or not because you get long checkups and often and if you are ever in doubt she is available and appointments aren't weeks out. The birth itself is incredible and even though I ended up in the hospital due to emergency circumstances she did everything she could to make sure I got my wishes and me and the baby were safe at the same time. I would do it just like that all over again. The after care is such a crucial aspect. She comes every day for the first week to check on you and the baby. You aren't left alone in doubt with a newborn because she is there to help with nursing, checking on the babies well being, checking on your well being. I almost had preclampsya after birth which I wouldn't have known because I felt mostly fine and I wouldn't have gone to the hospital because I just thought I had a regular headache and didn't know my blood pressure was high if I hadn't have had my midwife. She checked me and made sure I knew what to do and to rest to bring the high blood pressure down and if it would ever get worse she told me to go to the hospital. She left a high blood pressure machine with me to check daily. She helped with my mental health and post partum feelings. It would be absolutely horrible if there were no more midwife's and home births.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:09:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirie Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:10:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be preserved for all families of Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:11:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chandler Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women should be able to give birth wherever they would like whether that be at home or in a hospital. No one should make that decision for them.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:12:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. The only decision maker should be the mother.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:12:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Sandstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My midwife was absolutely amazing, I don't know what I would've done without her knowledge and support. As a mom it's so scary bringing a child into this world and it means so much to have someone so amazing to not only give me knowledge but also the support and understanding that I truly needed. Please support the midwives here in hawaii. It is the most important part of motherhood ❤️

Mahalo,

Jocelyn

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:13:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Sandry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB955 to allow traditional midwives to support and advocate for women and their births while providing a pathway to obtain licensing. Birth is not a sickness or illness and should not be limited to hospital protocol/intervention if not necessary just because it can be profitable. Women should have the choice of who and how they are treated in their pregnancy and midwifery should continue to be an option.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:13:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Hosoi	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:14:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karese Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955.

As a Healthcare provider, I fully support a patient's right to choose their medical treatment, including their choice to give birth at home. Birth is a very personal moment between mother and child and the decision of where, how, and with who the birth will occur, should be left up to the decision of the mother. A person may have countless reasons for choosing a home birth including spiritual, religious, cultural, comfortably, etc.

As I would like to have children in the near future, I want to have all options available to me in order to make the best decision for myself and future child.

I ask that you support SB955, for the mothers and future mothers who want the option of a home birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:15:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Rose Olson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee on Health & Homelessness Members,

Thank you for hearing testimony on Bill HB955 related to securing access to traditional midwifery in Hawai'i.

I am in STRONG support of this bill.

As a doula, medical massage provider, and woman in this state, I have seen the importance of choice in birthing care.

Many women prefer to birth in the comfort of home and with a provider trained with cultural sensitivity and respect for traditions, the family system, and non invasive methods. There are countless studies on the benefits of traditional midwifery and homebirth, that I have no doubt will be presented to you.

One of the greatest benefits is the in depth knowledge that traditional midwives have of their patients, since they are in their homes and meeting with them much more regularly than allopathic medical providers. They can spot and help manage behaviors and habits during the course of the gestational period that can prevent major complications during labor and postpartem.

I have seen first hand in my work as a doula (labor support person), how much the comfort and intimacy that traditional midwifery provides allows the birthing parent to have a more easeful labor. It was certainly less stressful for the mothers during COVID, where as per hospital policy they were not allowed more than one person to provide support. Those with a traditional midwifery care team and plan could have their family of choice present to support them.

On Kaua'i, we also have limited medical care options and traditional midwives provide a huge service in alleviating the workload of the hospital system, allowing the Dr's to focus on the true medical emergencies.

Every birth is not an emergency and does not need to be treated as such. Labor is a process that can unfold gracefully and naturally with the appropriate environment and support team. Traditional midwifery provides this opportunity.

All birthing parents or potential parents should be allowed this right to choose their method of care and birthing team.

Please support and protect traditional midwifery for all of Hawaii's future generations.

Mahalo!

Lana Rose Olson

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:15:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Reimers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Access to traditional midwifery **MUST** continue in the state of Hawaii. Pregnancy and childbirth are natural cycles in the life of a woman and not necessarily a medical condition. It is vital that all families in Hawai'i continue to have a choice as to where and how they want to give birth, including the option to a home birth with a certified midwife. I strongly support HB955. Traditional Midwifery **MUST** be preserved.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:15:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a Native Hawaiian mother of three daughters and I am writing in support of HB955. It's important that if they choose to birth, they have the opportunity to do so with the support of a midwife. Additionally, if they want to pursue midwifery, they can do so knowing they can practice their craft here at home in Hawai'i.

Midwifery is a legitimate means of birth support and is in alignment with Indigenous practices of birthing.

Please pass HB955.

Mahalo,

Noel

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:15:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jami L Sai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:17:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel LaDrig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Rachel LaDrig. I have lived in Hawai'i for 7 years. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Rachel LaDrig

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:17:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women and families deserve the right to birth their babies with traditional midwives. Do not take this option away from us. We should be free to birth the way we feel most safe, comfortable and supported, for some women that may be in their own homes. It is unjust to tell us women how we can and can't birth or babies. Traditional midwifery is a sacred skill and practice that is so wholesome and beautiful and many women are interested in utilizing a traditional midwife to birth their babies in a more peaceful way.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:17:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Durant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Zoe. Mom of two. I'm just reaching out with a testimony in hopes of being heard before you make a decision. Long story. It is so important for women of this community to be able to make the choice for themselves if they want a licensed vs unlicensed midwife. If it wasn't for my right to choose a traditional & unlicensed midwife, I wouldn't be able to have more children. I fall into the category of being a high-risk woman stuck in a rural community. The option of hiring my traditional midwife saved me in more ways than one. Let me explain my story. It brought me the most beautiful, undisturbed birth with my second baby. My first birth was out of a horror story. I was a young single mom, coerced into interventions that led to my baby almost dying in utero and resulted in a emerg emergency csection. Literally at the hands of the doctor. She was 40 weeks but still had a 11 day NICU stay. To make things crazier, while she was there a NICU nurse misplaced my baby without her equipment. She was found in their laundry room. The birth trauma and betrayal I was feeling from it all was overwhelming. Knowing I'd have to go back to the same place that traumatized me made it impossible for me. I knew when I got pregnant with my second baby five years later that I needed to research the whole thing. My findings led me to a traditional midwife. An unlicensed midwife was the only person who could take me on and look at my pregnancy as an individual. This type of midwife isnt bound by any hospital policy preventing her from getting me access to emergency care if needed.. traditional midwifery has been a part of the fabric of women. Women who birth in the tide pools, the forests, the waterfalls. The high risk, the people of native heritage, the birth-traumatized women who are like me... truth is, so many of us are preyed on. A certified midwife would have looked at my birth story and postpartum body and tell me of all the things to fear. They would be restricted by policy to helping me with my VBAC homebirth. They would have required me to go into a hospital. Its against everything I believe in. The United States maternal mortality rate is frightening. My traditional midwife truly supported and guided me throughout my second pregnancy. She provided much closer care than my OBGYN did during my first pregnancy. I went from doubting my body to feeling empowered. My family was included in it all, my midwife taught my 5 year old daughter to listen to baby's heartbeat. My partner caught the baby in his hands. All I could say in that moment was "oh my god I DID IT". She flew out of me so fast it was euphoric! My midwife was an absolute angel, her experience helping women is truly inspiring. The hidden hero for women of these islands. Traveling to the sacred tide pools of even the outlying islands to help these rural communities of women. They are a tight knit and important community who are beyond competent. It was so amazing that throughout my pregnancy she provided me with many hours of checkups every month. If I needed anything she was always a phone call away. The community that I fall into deserves that up close and personal care.

It was eye opening to meet other women like me through her as well. It was so comforting having her spirit there at my birth, her massive hands on experience in the wildest of places & she had suitcases full of all the life saving equipment. Thankfully we didnt need any of it at the birth. She also saved my life from a bladder infection a couple days postpartum. She was able to get me access to antibiotics same day I needed them. She snuggled with me and let me sleep. She brought me tea herbs and soups. She cleaned the house and played with my five year old while I recovered in bed. I owe my healing to her.

I think we as women deserve the right to make this choice for such a sacred and otherworldly experience for their family. I would 100% recommend a traditional unlicensed midwife over a certified one for so many women, for so many reasons.. we aren't broken. At the end of the day, I hope we all can agree that only we as individuals deserve a choice in who we have present during pregnancy/birth/postpartum.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:18:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Becker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The families of Hawaii should have full autonomy to choose who attends their birth, regardless of licensure. It should be up to the family to make an informed decision regarding their comfort level with a birth attendant, and the state should not mandate a particular form of licensure.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:19:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nelson K Sai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend thier birth.
GOvernment has no right to dictate a women's birth choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:19:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalani Sullivan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i Families. I
STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:20:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienne Van Berg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mom that had 2 beautiful home births and the most incredible experienc of my life, I would love for other moms to continue to have this option. I support Bill HB955. Mahalo!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:20:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaelin Sibayan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a kanaka maoli of this ‘aina, I believe that taking away yet another cultural practice of ours will have negative outcomes. I SUPPORT HB955! Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families!!!

I plan on having a Midwife myself in the near future and I have not one but 2 sisters who gave birth with Midwives to BEAUTIFUL AND HEALTHY keiki. Why make it illegal for educated & even experienced midwives to care and support the mana māmā of our ‘aina? Especially when it comes to the spiritual connecting to our child and our honua. Why go to a hospital with expensive bills (for those without Insurance) and medicines?

We can AND HAVE BEEN conceiving since before medication even became a thing to have? KEEP HAWAIIAN PRACTICES ALIVE FOR OUR KEIKI TO HAVE!!

PS: It's also included in other cultures as well as Hawaiian. Why choose to take away something so sacred and spiritual? I SUPPORT HB955!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:20:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gora	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

I, Regina Gora, strongly support BILL HB955. I am a Native Hawaiian home birth mother of 3 keiki and had a traditional Midwife present at all 3 births. Traditional Midwifery and homebirthing is an ancient and sacred practice done in ALL cultures past and present. As a woman, we should have the freedom to have options on how we want to birth & who we want attending our birth.

I stand here with all of my ancestors by my side, asking that you please keep the current traditional birth practices in place.

I thank you, my ancestors thank you,

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Regina Gora

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:22:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Fung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:22:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mehana Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I am in full support of HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:23:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Zahl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a home north doula for over 20 years, I am fully confident in the capacities of trianed midwives to deliver healthy babies at home. To restrict this by law is only asking that home birth goes under ground, making it far less safe, as licensed midwives usually have a MD at a hospital that they work in tandem with, making a transfer to safe care, accessible and easy. There are many states where licensed midwives are viewed as health care professionals and even accept medical insurance. I would encourage our state to get on board with these highly trained professionals, whose ancestors, like all of our ancestors, delivered babies at home.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:23:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Klein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kai Klein and I am the father of two beautiful boys. I am writing here to emphatically declare my support for House Bill 955.

Before our first son was born, my wife and I had no vision for what his birth would look like or where it would take place. After hearing testimony after testimony of families who had peaceful, unmedicated, natural home birth experiences, we knew this was the road we wanted to take. We are so glad we made that CHOICE and to have the expertise of a traditional midwife to guide us along.

We as a family will always strongly advocate for the preservation of traditional midwives and the amazing services they provide for families who make the choice to birth at home. When my wife and I would attend prenatal appointments at Kaiser, we would be in and out in about 5 minutes (not including the 30 min of waiting in the lobby prior). We never felt heard in those meetings. We knew our choices in our birth plan would be ultimately respected but we were always met with verbal opposition and disagreement. At our prenatal visits with our midwife, in the comfort of her home, we spent an extended amount of time, sometimes 2 hours, discussing my wife's diet, exercise routines, checking vitals and keying in on her overall wellness and mental state. The amount of care that our midwife put into making sure that I, as the father, was also doing well and on the same page as my wife was greatly appreciated. It was the personal touch and intentionality in building relationship that allowed us to feel confident and assured of what the process would be going into labor and birth. We knew that we could put all our trust into the experience of our midwife. That is the stark difference between hospital and home birth.

Choosing to birth in a hospital is a choice parents make. If medical doctors, medical procedures with pharmaceutical drugs, and laboring in an unfamiliar and cold place is a parent's choice, that choice should be treated with the utmost respect and sacred regard. The same goes for parents who choose to labor and birth at home with the aid and professionalism of a traditional midwife. We demand that our right to choose this course be respected and untouched by our state government.

Our local traditional midwives have presented this legislature with immaculate statistics; a flawless record of safe deliveries in homes than span decades. To have these impressive numbers ignored is not only a slap in the face of these midwives but also every parent who makes the conscious and educated choice to take this route for the birth of their children.

It is absolutely disgusting and criminal that our state government would even consider moving in a direction that would look to eliminate the services that our wonderful local traditional midwives provide. I, as a father of two sons, who will one day be leaders in this community and

who were born at home with the supervision of a traditional midwife, implore you to protect our local traditional midwives and birth practitioners. Mahalo and God bless.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:23:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlotte Leger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

How fitting to be writing this testimony on Imbolc, the Celtic day to honor the Goddess Brigid. She wore many faces, both in the ancient Celtic ways and stories, and later as a saint within the Christian faith. She was known in many cultures, under many names. She was the Woman of Fire, Hearth and Light, hailed as the Goddess of Poets, Healing, and of course, Midwifery.

Midwife is a word of old English roots. Of “Mid”- “to be with” and “wife”-woman. One who is with the woman/mother. Where I come from they are called “sage femme” meaning “wise woman”. This role has been held, shouldered and honored by women throughout all of time. Birth itself demands that kind of presence, the knowledge of breath, of body, of death, of blood.

Who are we to determine today that midwifery is one way, to the exclusion of others? That only one type of education, privilege and access could support the entire function of midwifery for all women? There are so many ways to relate to birth, birthing bodies, and our faiths around this initiation rite. We can no longer impose one world view over another, and cut out people from long-standing traditions that go beyond our very lifetimes..

This is why I strongly support HB955, and the continuation of the Birth Attendant Exemption for traditional practitioners. There is a true human need, beyond standardized certifications and recognition, to allow community members to learn and apprentice inside of their own culture & beliefs. And there is an even greater need for women to be held by those who have answered to such a calling. May we learn to honor and protect midwifery in its widest scope, for all future generations.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:24:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trisa Danz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a physician myself, I chose traditional midwifery to bring my firstborn child into the world and I strongly support everyone's right to choose a traditional midwife if that is their wish for giving birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:26:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fiona Custer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. My safe and life changing homebirth in 2016 in Kaneohe, HI was everything and more I hoped for. I want every woman desiring a home birth to have that option!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:24:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available for all Hawai'i families. I strongly support bill HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:27:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mercedes Gacayan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB955 we need to keep our traditional midwives in hawaii. Traditional midwives are apart of our culture!! I had 5 of my babies at home with a traditional midwife!! I wouldn't want to have them any other way! Traditional midwives are well trained, connected to our babies, our people and to this place! Connected to our culture.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:27:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittney V	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly in support of bill HB955 all mothers in Hawaii should have access to a homebirth with a midwife. I know many mothers who have had successful and safe homebirths. Please do not take away this right.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:28:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reka Bordas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families, I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

Please preserve traditional midwives and preserve the sanctity of birth. It is crucial in this culture and everywhere to have wise and knowledgeable midwives. I loved my experience with midwifery so much more than my regular OB pregnancy care & birth. Please preserve traditional midwives we need them so much!

(a homebirth mama)

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:28:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support this.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:28:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicia Ah Tou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother of three keiki all of us are kanaka 'ōiwi, and I am writing to you in support of bill HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families as it is the right of each individual to birth a child as they so choose. Although i haven't had the pleasure (yet) to have had a midwife deliver my keiki, I would feel more at peace knowing that I have that choice to make for myself. I have many nieces and nephews who were brought safely into this world by amazing midwives and if I have more keiki in the future i'd love to have the option available to me. I strongly support this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Felicia (Pauahi) Ah Tou

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:28:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danya Hakeem	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,
I am Danya Hakeem. I have lived in Hawai'i for eight years. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Danya

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:30:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Lacaillade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Aubrey Lacaillade, and I am a mother of two boys with another one on the way. I have experienced many variations of health care with each of my pregnancies and I strongly support HB955. Traditionally approved obstetric care, not only in the state of Hawai'i but also in this country, is severely lacking in caring for a woman's mental health, helping women educate themselves regarding their bodies, and recognizing and supporting when women need assistance. It is imperative that this bill pass so that women have the opportunity to continue receiving the excellent and well-established midwifery care that is currently available in Hawai'i.

In my previous pregnancies traditional obstetric care, I found my care to be incredibly difficult to navigate. From the very basics of driving to see my OB, sitting in the waiting room for up to forty-five minutes, and finally seeing the OB for less than fifteen minutes. To more intricate details of managing gestational diabetes as a post bariatric patient and being handed off to an unequipped diabetes clinic that gave poor advice on the best diet I should be following. It was not until the end of my second pregnancy where I began to ask more questions, received almost no answers, and began researching the answers myself that I decided to switch from traditional obstetric care to midwifery care.

After switching to a midwife, I was given proper tools and guidelines to help manage my gestational diabetes as a post bariatric patient. My midwife came to our home and met my family, showed my son what was going on in mommy's belly, spoke with my husband about his observations regarding my physical and mental wellbeing and spent hours talking with me, not only checking on baby and mom's medical wellbeing but also checking in on my mental health and educating me on different ways my body might react to labor and birth and postpartum and the different ways in which I could prepare.

The postpartum care I received after my first pregnancy with the standard six-week visit, I did not understand at the time that I was going through post partem anxiety and struggling. When I compare the postpartum care received from my OB in my first pregnancy to the postpartum care, I received from my midwife with my second pregnancy I can clearly see that our medical system needs to do better for the women in this state and country giving birth. My midwife came to see me eight times in six weeks, she helped me manage and find support for the postpartum anxiety that was starting again.

The level of care provided by midwifery practices should be the standard care given to all women going through pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum. Unfortunately, that level of care

is not standard at this time, the very least we can do is have this level of care be available for those seeking it as an alternative to the inadequate standardized care currently being offered. Limiting the midwives Hawai'i currently has and future midwives the come into practice will have devastating impacts. I strongly support HB955 and urge the committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to give a personal testament in this critical matter.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:38:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Moffat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women need midwives. We need our support system to get thru the amazing process of childbirth- without our support we do not thrive at thur most intense time!
Support our midwives!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:38:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect Hawai'i midwives because they are the keystone of a community. Making them inaccessible to the communities they serve is criminal and corrupt. HEWA.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:38:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ALEXIS QUINATA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe every women should have the right to have access to a traditional midwife & home birthing if that's what they want for themselves & their family. As a mom of two daughters, I do hope that later in the future my daughters will be able to have a choice. It's difficult to see any type of benefit to be fruitful from taking away traditional midwifery. I stand with every women, who believes that we should continue to have our right to choose. I stand with our midwives & the work that they do for us.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:29:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebekah L Pearson-Reis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state. I strongly support HB995.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:31:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Shim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a future mother who stands for the future generations of our keiki and will have a home birth, I am in full support of the Sovereign's Law. The future generations of Hawai'i begin with how our babies are brought into the world. How they are cared for, looked after, nurtured, and the work of traditional midwives makes it possible for change to happen. This is a sacred art and must be preserved. Please remember who you are and where you came from. My body, my choice!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:34:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karla Takazono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

Last year, I had the chance to have a beautiful home birth! It was the best experience I ever had. I was healthy and the baby was healthy too.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:36:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Imelda Reyes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Women deserve to have the right of bodily autonomy and deserve to have the choice to choose who touches their body and where they choose to birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:38:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mijiang ZaiDixia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives are essential to Hawaii especially to those who want to give birth.

Ohana is what Hawaii is build on and traditional midwives are part of ohana. We can not afford losing them.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:37:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendra Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:35:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoelani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I testify today that the traditional Midwifery needs to be persevered and be available to all Hawai'i families and stand strongly with House Bill 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:39:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kennylene Guitang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955! As a mother, it is my choice to decide how I want to bring my child earthside. Our bodies are made to give birth and it is our midwives who connect with and empower us to do just that. We are more than just a dollar sign to them! Birth is sacred not an emergency. It is sad to see that not only are we being driven out of our own homelands due to costs, but now more of our cultural practices are being stripped from us! We have a freedom of choice! While my OB at the time told me "well because you were at risk during your first pregnancy you'll be at risk again so I'm sorry I can't help you I'll need to transfer you out to someone that can." My MIDWIFE was there to catch my healthy baby in the comfort of my own home with no complications! TRADITIONAL MIDWIFERY NEEDS to be PRESERVED and AVAILABLE to all Hawaii families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:41:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tara mattes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a mother of two children born at home here in Hawaii by talented traditional midwives. It was such an empowering experience I became a doula to try to help women feel as supported as I did during birth. I've attended numerous births both at home and in the hospital. I always say women should give birth where they feel most comfortable. For some that is in medical care facility for others that is at home. Each has its way and thank god for options!!!!!! I am continually baffled by the desire by some to control womens bodies including how and with whom they will birth their own baby. Traditional midwives have been around since the beginning of time. Do not take this option away from women. To lose the art of traditional midwifery would be a terrible loss. I am so grateful to the midwives that have been there for me. I'm sure you will read about it in other testimonies as well. Midwifery is truly a skill and an art. We must preserve the talent that exists here. Mahalo for your consideration, tara mattes

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:41:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. All Hawai'i families deserve to have the option to have their care provided by a traditional midwife. Persevering this cultural tradition is vital for the well-being and safety of all people who are giving birth. Access should be made available, so that families can have a choice in the care they deserve and need.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:43:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
matthew and danielle mueller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery needs to be available to all Hawaii families. As such, I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:41:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riand Souther	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:41:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Felipe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:42:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evette Ford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLH SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. The government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:43:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfie White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery is vital for Hawaiian families, therefore I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:44:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alessandra G Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support the right for women to decide how and where they deliver their children.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:43:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wynter Hernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. I feel that midwifery should be preserved and never restricted. Women should be able to choose the way to welcome their baby safely into the world and not be stripped of their cultural practices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:58:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY FOR HB955

Aloha Chair Au Belatti and Committee members:

I write to ask your support for HB955 which would extend the exemption for traditionally trained midwives to act as birth attendants without being in violation of licensing laws. Currently, and for the past three years, traditionally trained midwives have been able to help women who chose to birth their babies at home with a midwife. However, that exemption is set to expire this coming June.

The Legislature must not allow that to happen, as many women will be left without the care they need, especially on neighbor islands, where rural communities face distance and financial problems in obtaining a birth attendant. Many more women would be denied their choice of birth attendant. Those women, like me, actively choose to give birth at home and need an attendant who can practice in the community setting, not a medical facility.

For me, a homebirth mother of three, this is a feminist issue. And an issue of bodily autonomy.. The midwives for all three of my children’s births were traditionally trained experts on the delivery of babies. I am so grateful to those women, and so proud to have known them.

I strongly urge you and the Committee to support this urgently needed bill to protect midwives who are traditionally trained.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ramona Hussey

Homebirth mother & retired attorney

2315 Liloa Rise

Honolulu, HI 96822

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:44:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Kishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:08:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shar B	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:45:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yu kaneko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai" families and state again that you STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:55:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daisy Tim	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly supporting HB955. I believe that women have the right to choose where and who they want to attend their birthing process. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. If they are free to abort children, they should be free to birth children. If YOU weren't birthed, YOU wouldn't be here to make decisions.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:48:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nana Nishimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have a choice to birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:06:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa nash	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available for all Hawaii's families. As a mother of three, all birthed at home, I strongly support this bill. It's immeasurably important that we preserve this option for all.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:48:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Sanders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:49:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eli Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. The work done by traditional midwives is incredibly important and this practice should be allowed to continue as it has thus far.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:50:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jleong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi thank you for reading,

I support in legal TRADITIONAL MIDWIFERY CARE. HB955. Please Extend the timeline for traditional birth attendants to continue practicing. Allowing all certified professionals midwives to be eligible for licensure. Please don't take away our choice to experience birth with a professional midwife. Women were created to grow humans inside our bodies & birth them. This has been a tradition for many years. Women have been doing this on our own without hospitalizations for a long time. I know someone who experienced home birth with a midwife & has absolutely no regrets. She has a healthy growing beautiful baby, a memory that she & her husband will forever cherish.

I hope one day to experience giving birth making that milestone in my life with my other half, god blessing us with our child that I carry in my womb & give life to. When that time comes I wanna have the freedom to make my choice.

Thank you for your time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:51:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Whitehead	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

After a highly interventive first birth ending in a cesarean , I was relieved to find a strong midwife for my second pregnancy whos knowledge, care, support and compassion is by far unmatched by any other provider I've encountered along this journey we call motherhood. I never feel as if I am just another patient.

She is calm, passionate, kind, direct, insightful and makes me feel safe! My midwife provides me confidence and encouragement to trust my body and what it has been created to do. Birth. My prenatal care is never rushed. All my questions are answered. I feel welcomed and genuinely cared for. I get to have her full undivided attention and I'm never left feeling like anything less than a whole person. No matter what time of day she will go above or beyond for my care. 9 months pregnant and look forward to my birth and love my relationship with my midwife!

There just isn't enough praise to be sung.

I feel so much gratitude that women like these exist in our community to continue to the art of midwifery.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:49:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:55:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Najafi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I am a homebirthing mama and have great respect for midwives whom are highly educated and help women to birth safely at home. They are trained and know when intervention is necessary. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families!

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

Elizabeth

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:57:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelia Aufuldish	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:57:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Graciela Burke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SAY BY SUPPORTING THIS BILL YOU'RE SUPPORTING OUR ANCESTORS AND OUR FUTURE.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:59:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly LeBaron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is very important that traditional midwifery is kept legal and available to hawaii families. Birth is sacred and women have the right to birth how they choose. Birth is an important part of any culture, and midwifery needs to be protected to preserve Hawaiian culture. There is wisdom and knowledge within these traditions that can benefit all of humanity.

I, Kimberly LeBaron, am in full support of HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:59:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Ye Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 955

RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Aka Sovereign’s Law

Aloha Honorable Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and fellow representatives,

My name is Ye Nguyen. I am in full support of HB 955.

I am a licensed naturopathic physician and traditional midwife. I have had the honor of supporting women giving birth both at home and the hospital for almost 20 years, living here in Hawaii.

I truly believe that how a woman wants to give birth, with whom and where is a very personal & very sacred choice that needs to be protected.

It is a decision that can affect her on so many levels years to come. An empowered & non-traumatic birth is one where we have options and are fully informed of the risks and benefits of each decision that we make.

As we limit the choices that mothers have, by making traditional midwifery and certain CPMs illegal, we are faced with issues of safety. We drive certain practitioners underground, where integrative care becomes more difficult. There becomes a lack of transparency for fear of persecution. Or worse yet, our traditional midwives become extinct and the art of traditional midwifery becomes lost. Many women seek out a certain type of midwife, one that isn’t licensed or certified.

A woman’s reproductive rights are at stake more than ever at this moment in time. All across the globe, women’s bodies are being regulated by the government and sadly, many of them by men. There is so much fear around the unknown of birth & a need to control it.

Each woman has the right to choose what is right for her body, for her specific situation and for her family. I support each and every woman's right to choose, the right to informed consent and ultimately, the right to their own birth sovereignty.

Thank you for your service, for taking the time to understand this very complex issue and all of your energy.

Respectfully,

Ye Nguyen, ND

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:01:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Fuqua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree with this bill. Licensing is not an indication of someone's ability to do a job well. It is a mothers option to chose someone who is well qualified or not and paying the state for a license won't tell anyone how good someone is at this job.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:01:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diamond Piimoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:03:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Burnadette Pedro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:03:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makahiapo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:24:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
heather t	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

why're we so afraid of what others can't understand? practices that are lineages we can't even fathom. why must we try to control everything natural ? let it be . if someone wants to go to the hospital & have an OB. then so be it , if someone wants an at home birth , natural with support of a midwife & or doula , let them. why are humans trying to control so much? out of fear. freedom of choice is what we ask for . you be in your hospitals & we'll have our babies at home. both can play together in the woods . relax & release . trust. & if you're only reason is to all fit into a category so it makes you feel more 'safe' & your decision to have doctors & medical watch for something that is the most natural thing in the world, birth. keep your insecurities in your own home & i hope for some ancestral rooting for you . being so far removed is what's tearing us apart . open your eyes . hospitals get enough money from people , from the foods our govt feeds us. making sure there's always a reason to need medication & doctors. harm the peoples health while you get richer. open your eyes . would your elders be proud of your fear& trying to control others for the sake of your own comfort?

that's all.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:09:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Mira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. First reason being is part of the Hawaiian culture to not in hospitals with medical doctors and we need to honor this tradition and part of our culture. Secondly, moms need to have the ability to choose the birth place they are most comfortable with and with the people they are most comfortable with. Studies have proven over and over that when moms birth in comfortable and relaxing environments, they have easier births and less complications for both mom and baby. We need to allow all moms in Hawaii to have this choice for their safety and the safety of all babies.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:11:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
clairee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women's god given right to birth in sovereignty According to their wishes is a vital option intrinsic to the very survival of free people.

Medical midwifery is an unnecessary mandate. If women wanted a hospital experience with disturbing interventions and disruptions of physiological birth they would go to the hospital. Traditional midwifery is central to the health of Hawaiian people which legally the occupying state has pledged to protect.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:45:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Kaneshiro	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep home births and midwives legal. Do not take away our freedom to choose. Thank you

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:12:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Viella Pierce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly believe Traditional Midwifery should be preserved and available to all hawaii families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:13:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rowan Bolton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:59:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatum Tokuda-Martinez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have our own right to our body and how we choose to bring our children into this world. Child birth is such a beautiful thing and I should be able to choose my birth story. With the right team of midwives/birth team, a home birth is just as safe as a hospital birth. I do not support this bill!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:13:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Hinkel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:15:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carie Kwan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I had a Homebirth with two amazing midwives on 1/7/2022. I was able to birth my first child, a beautiful baby girl, in the comfort of my home and with no pressure from anyone else. I completely believe in the knowledge of my midwives. They are just as well trained, if not better trained, than many OBs I have encountered. I am in the healthcare profession and can say confidently that I will be having more Homebirths for my future births. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. The government, which is mostly run by MEN, have absolutely no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. I strongly support the midwives, especially homebirth midwives, of Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:37:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:15:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine utu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be available in the state of Hawaii and preserved for all families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:42:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Lietzke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning. I am writing today on behalf of the HB955 bill. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Mother's should be able to have a choice of whether or not to use a midwife. Midwives have been assisting in birthing successfully for hundreds of years and being able to give birth at home can lead to a much less traumatic process and significantly ease the experience. Thank you for your time. Sincerely: Kimberly Lietzke.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:17:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myranda Rees	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support midwifery and HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:18:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:16:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jade lewis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women should have a right to choose where to give birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:21:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Ventura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of this bill. My own mother was born at home here in Kahuku. Many women are just like my grandmother, able to have natural births without much intervention. The right to birthing autonomy is equally, if not MORE important than other reproductive rights. Mahalo!

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Ventura

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:45:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and an option for families in Hawaii. It is extremely important for families and mothers to have the choice between midwives and her care team during such an important time in her and her families life. Traditional midwifery needs to remain an option in Hawaii!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:23:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleigh Pugliese	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a home birthing mother and full spectrum doula, I fully support HB 955. Hawai'i women and their families should have access to and the freedom to hire health care professionals that align with their values. All paths Of Midwifery service should be honored and protected by law- Including Traditional Midwifery.

Many traditional midwives and birth attendants undergo years of *experiential training and are highly respected and highly sought after practitioners. Traditional Midwifery brings the healer back to the family and the community.

Additionally, I am in support of Hawai'i honoring th PEP process and pathway to midwifery.

I am so grateful that I was able to be attended by a midwife in my home for my two births. This practice aligns with my religious values. Had it been illegal for my midwife to attend my birth, I still would have birthed at home without a medical professional present. Women deserve to have the support they choose for themselves. And Midwives deserve to practice community care.

Thank you for your consideration and support for this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:23:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah McCormick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:08:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmeline Macanas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE BILL SB955. Expecting mothers or pregnant women NOT "Birthing Persons" should have every right and the freedom to choose whether they can have a home birth at home with a traditional midwife!! It is not the state or government's decision to make that decision for women who want or plan to give birth at home. It is our GOD given right to give birth naturally and in a setting that we so choose. Our state is trying to sneakily take away the choice to birth at home with traditional midwives where traditional midwives are a huge thing or choice! It seems as if medical freedom or our rights are slowly being taken away from WE THE PEOPLE!! What's the next issue in line to take away from WE THE PEOPLE?

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:23:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Carr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:24:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliana Castro de Mello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:24:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaina Bachstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A woman should have the right to birth how she wants, where she wants, and with whom she wants. "Medical" advisors that encourage fear mongering, saying that home birth is not safe, is absolutely false. In many ways, it's safer, for the woman who chooses. But taking that choice and resource away from the woman/birthing person is ridiculous. You would take away indigenous practices from indigenous people.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:25:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
krystle ilar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of 4 boys, 3 of which were born at home with a traditional midwife, I proudly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:26:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB955

I have had two natural home births in the last four years, and it was the best decision I have made in my life. The care and support that my midwifery team had provided throughout my pregnancy, during birth, and following postpartum was the most supported and loved I felt in my life.

All women deserve to be empowered and supported the way I have been. I believe that having my children through midwifery births has made me the best mother I could be, which in turn has reflected on my children being the best version of themselves.

We must support traditional midwifery, the ancient art and natural way of birthing. I urge everyone to support this bill wholeheartedly.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:27:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lena Scanlan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955! Having the ability to birth and be supported in this way has saved my life in so many ways. This traditional practice needs to continue for many generations to come.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:28:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Garthwaite	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery in Hawai'i needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:24:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah	Mission home health	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I had a midwife at my first birth and felt more comfortable with her than a traditional doctor. They understand you as a human rather than just another patient. When you're having a baby you want guidance and support, you want someone with medical experience but compassion and understanding from a human. Midwives are that and they do everything to avoid invasive procedures and medications instead help you naturally deliver your baby the way you were meant to have a baby. Doctors don't they just do what they have to to get a baby out asap which is so wrong and can be harmful to mom and baby.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:29:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:30:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrae Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:33:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LEIHAAHEO DIAS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect traditional midwifery and women's right to birth their children how they choose.
Strongly SUPPORT traditional midwifery and the bill to allow for freedom of choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:34:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:35:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Porreca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. I believe pregnancy and everything that comes with it should be left up to the mother to make those decisions + the government has no right to step in. With how the world reacted to covid, i have learned one thing, that the government does not care aboit human rights, it is all about the MONEY. Hawaii is owned by China and taking away the right to have a midwife of your choice assist in you birth is pretty communistic. If you are brave enough to have an at home birth, then you should be capable enough to do research and ask enough questions to make the right decision for yourself. I think that this is a government overreach as well as a pricate sector overreach because the hospitals would love to have more women give birth in there. that would mean more bills sent out, more \$\$\$ paid to them and more opportunitiea for doctors to push C sections on patients; trully monetizing and capitolizing on the situation.

Also lets not forget the fact that the hawaiian govnt is currentlybeing dictated by the DEEP STATE. We all know they would love to not let women give birth in hospitals unless they're vaccinated. We all know people are dying from these forced habs. It is inhumane and so against nature to even think about taking away something that has been around for thousands of years. Let the woman decide on her childbirth and the government focus on another issue, maybe something more important like the poisoning going on in our skies with the high altitude aerosole i jections throughout the islands thanks to the deep state and NASA harvest.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:36:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raquel Angell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I always knew I wanted to use a midwife. They understand the body in ways doctors don't. When I moved to Hawaii I learned about traditional midwives - I learned so many new things and felt confident in my ability to deliver my baby without feeling forced to have medical intervention. Due to their help and knowledge I was able to advocacy for myself and have the birth I've always dreamed of. Taking away traditional midwives is taking away a Women's right to deliver her baby as she sees fit. Medical intervention is needed at times, but to often doctors and nurses want to speed up the process. Traditional midwives look at birth more than just a medical prepective - They know it to be a spiritual, mental, physical, emotional and medical situation. They're educated about the body and birth in ways that doctors cannot be - it would be deemed as a liability to the hospital/insurance, a risk they cannot take. However, for traditional midwives, in their education and experience, they know how to navigate those situations and keep everyone safe. God has blessed us with traditional midwives and it would be unjust to take them away. Protect Sovergin and those who wish to have a traditional midwife's birth experience and create/enforce the law to protect this movement.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:21:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:36:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Shimomura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Women should have the right to choose who they want to attend their birth. The government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:37:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea Delaney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and accessible to all women in Hawai'i. It needs to be available to all of Hawai'i. It is a human right to choose what you are most comfortable with whether it be giving birth at home or in a medical facility when one is bringing new life into this world. I STRONGLY support HB955.

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:38:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dahlya Brooks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to keep Hawaiian Midwives for the woman!! I am a Hawaiian living in the mainland and we have access to midwives up here, I don't understand why Hawai'i woman shouldn't have access to midwives there. Not a lot of woman or families can afford insurance or don't qualify for insurance. Why are you going to take away something for the Hawaiian women when we need help for giving birth? I don't think men should be taking away things from woman who don't understand our bodies as the midwives do! I don't think men understand what our bodies go through during pregnancy & labor but the Midwives do! Midwives helps us woman during pregnancy all 9 months or 10 months of pregnancy! Then we go through laboring waiting & dialating how to handle the pain & how to breathe through it but the Midwives can help woman with that! Hawai'i woman need Hawai'i Midwives! The mainland has Midwives why cannot Hawai'i?? Why strip away rights from the Woman of Hawai'i!? Midwives have been here before hospitals were built! Midwives are helpful! Midwives save lives! Why get rid of them when they help woman give birth to children! They're woman who understands woman who are in labor & ready to give bring life into this world! Some male doctors or nurses don't understand our pains when we give birth they don't understand what we go though bringing life into this world! Hawai'i needs to keep Midwives! Not take away!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:39:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Thatcher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:43:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Leslie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional Midwives must be available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:43:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Ka'iulani Athearn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

As a wahine kanaka and makuahine to a young mana wahine, I am in full support of HB955 that would allow my daughter to have sovereignty in her right to birth when her time comes. My daughter was born at home in Pukalani, Maui under the care of a safe, loving, experienced midwife. When I was pregnant, I asked all my kumu if they knew of a traditional Hawaiian midwife that could support my homebirth and at that the time they knew none because much of our kanaka tradition in pale keiki was lost or underground. In years to come I hope to see many traditional kanaka midwives that can assist many more mana wahine to have sovereignty in their right to birth.

I beg for your support for this HB955 for Sovereign, for my daughter, for my granddaughters and my great grand daughters. For the survival of our 'ike kanaka.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Jamie Ka'iulani Athearn

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:44:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwight Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:44:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Sim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:45:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Yamashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support this bill!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:00:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Clift	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Taking away women's sovereignty on stolen land is a really awful thing to do.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:45:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dovina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:46:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shauna Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o wau! I support!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:19:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kameron Schroeder	Montgomery Original Snoballs	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have many friends and family members who are **choosing** to have birth the natural way. Brining a baby into this world without fluorescent lighting and without beeping monitors is a mother's choice. It's shocking to me the state of Hawaii, that honors its nature and beauty, is trying to take this same right away from their own mothers.

Keep midwives in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:47:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Montana Godbehere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:47:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fowler Heather	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women chose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:19:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsie Leith Bowden	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The tradition of midwives are sacred and necessary for so many woman. I strongly support HB955 for all us Wahine.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:48:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Teani Marquez. I am a first year student at Univeristy of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:51:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Pettis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all families in Hawai'i. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:51:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hilary Pickle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of 2, I strongly support HB955. I have personally given birth both at home with a midwife and in a hospital setting with an OB. In each pregnancy, my very personal decision on where and with whom to birth my children was driven by a variety of intimate factors...I.e. life circumstances, financial circumstances, current family situation, mother's health, baby's health... just to name a few. There are many nuanced reasons why women chose to birth where and with whom they do and there is no room for the government in this private decision making process. Please preserve every woman in Hawaii's right to chose who attends their births.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:52:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley okano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:52:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fiold Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly support this bill because it helps women to feel comfortable and relax in a home setting for a great experience for delivering their child. It will help the baby to have a better transition to breathing and less genital trauma. Home birth have been associated with less maternal infections and fewer maternal interventions.

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB955 in order to preserve and recognize the importance of different pathways for birth practitioners as well as mothers and families who want the freedom of autonomy when it comes to bringing life into this world. As a society, it is important that we honor how a woman chooses to give birth, as this is one of the most sacred times in a mother's life.

As the bill states "neglecting to exempt other cultures from stringent, westernized licensing requirements predominantly disenfranchises people of color". Furthermore, indigenous people continue to have higher mortality rates during Western hospital child birth than non indigenous peoples. By taking away the right for a woman to choose how and where she wants to give birth can contribute to the disparities and mortality rates women of color face. Please support this important bill.

Mahalo,

Konaneakamhina de la Nux

Wai'ehu, Maui

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:08:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krislyn Oyama	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:58:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna wonser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Speaking as a mother who recently had a safe home birth with an incredible midwifery team - I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE RIGHT FOR A WOMAN TO CHOOSE HOW, WHERE AND WITH WHOM SHE WANTS TO GIVE BIRTH.

Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:55:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaianne Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Shaianne Smith.

on behalf of the midwifery and women's/family rights community, Traditional Midwifery
NEEDS to be preserved and available to ALL Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT
HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:58:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it preserves different pathways for birth practitioners and maintains freedom of choice for people who actively seek out and prefer different types of homebirth providers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:58:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolie Stewart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:59:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jose ilar jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an individual I support bill HB955 which protects the rights of midwives and also the rights of every individual to use the services of a trained professional midwife here in Hawaii.

I am a father of four wonderful healthy boys. Three out of the four boys has been birth right in the comfort of our home along side of the service of our midwife and dula.

I have witnessed a couple of hospital births and now experienced three natural home births. The experience is like non other. The setting and atmosphere of being in your own home where you feel safe and protected brings such peace and comfort over the mother which ultimately affects the baby.

the service we received from our professionally trained midwife and dula was very educational and reassuring. They did health checks weekly with us making sure our levels in our health was where it needed to be to have a safe home birth. If our level of health was not safe for a home birth, they would have us go to a hospital to deliver our child.

The whole time meeting with our midwife, my wife and I never felt pressured on doing anything we didn't want to do. The came along side us and gave us useful information and allowed us to make our decisions on known facts and what we felt was best for our child and the health and wellbeing of the mother.

all in all, child birth is and forever will be natural occurring phenomenon. Women has been delivering their children naturally since the garden of Eden. But it is our rights as free individual people to decide what is best for our selves and family. So once again, I support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:00:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:00:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clara Russell-Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i Families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:00:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phukhaothong Gnouilaphi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and the practice of midwives. I recently had a homebirth and hired a midwife throughout my partners pregnancy. It was a blessing because of the personal relationship that you build between the midwife and the mother made an environment of comfort for the homebirth. The successful birth of my beautiful son wouldn't have come to fruition without the midwife team. The Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved for the people of Hawaii for now and beyond. I only ask that you pass this bill for the people!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:04:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Banglos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why would you even try to take this away?!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:04:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jose targa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all hawaii residents and families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:06:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chevas Kunz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Speaking as a mother of three, a woman should be able to birth how she feels appropriate. After having a less than pleasant hospital birth with my firstborn, I decided to have my subsequent children with a midwife at home and they were absolutely beautiful, safe, and awe-striking. Birth is an incredibly difficult and intimate experience; a woman should be able to birth with whomever she feels comfortable with to assist in that journey.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:04:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilinoe Steiner	Gentle beginnings midwifery	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support for HB955 as a student of midwifery in the community currently working on the PEP path way who believes all families should have a right to choose who attends them at birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:06:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Stern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill HB955. It is a family's right to culturally assign care through their choice of the "traditional birth attendant".

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:12:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ciera Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ciera Fong. I'm in support of HB955. I believe as women it is our God given and Constitutional right to be able to choose who we have as our birthing attendant. I was born at home. I watched my brother be born at home. I have given birth to four children at home with midwives. One of them that has been with me for every birth is a traditional midwife. Please hear our voices as our representatives and vote in support of this bill. There are so many women out there that want a traditional midwife as their midwife. I was one of them.

Blessings to you all,

Ciera Fong

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:12:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ʻIolani Brosio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I am ʻIolani Brosio, and I am a Native Hawaiian mother. I stand in strong support of HB955.

Kanaka Maoli birthing people and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) ʻohana in Hawaiʻi and in the US face abysmal rates for maternal and infant health outcomes; yet, strong evidence indicates that access to midwifery care, especially culturally-aligned and competent care, improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their infants.

I strongly support the continuation of the Birth Attendant Exemption and addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J. These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawaiʻi.

Please support the above exemptions and make the vital need for high-quality, culturally-relevant midwifery care provided by traditionally-trained midwives and pale keiki equitable and accessible to all birthing people in Hawaiʻi.

Mahalo for reading my testimony,

ʻIolani Brosio

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:20:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sigrid Kline	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be must be persevered for all families of Hawaii. Strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:25:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wailea A	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:27:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JoAnn Salakielu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. We need to have choice in our childbirth options. Traditional midwifery is an option many women prefer. Don't take this option away.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:27:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Bowers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is absolutely essential traditional midwifery remains available to families in Hawaii. I gave birth to a healthy baby on Maui with an incredible midwife. My midwife was professional, highly educated and deeply valued the safety of myself and my baby. My appointments with her leading up to my birth were much more thorough and knowledgeable than with the OBGYN. Midwives are necessary, have always been necessary, and will always be necessary in society! It should be a woman's choice who delivers her child.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:27:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I deliberately chose to have a home birth. My husband and I went through rigorous research on the pros and cons of delivering at home vs hospital. I delivered my first born in the comfort of my home with the help of my midwife and doula. If I had to choose again, I would have a homebirth and would never elect hispital birth. Women and families should be given their right to choose with no government interference. It is OUR GOD given right to make that decision and every woman should've given that choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:29:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morea Mendoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Morea Mendoza and I am from Kihei, Maui. I am testifying in support of SB1047 and HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all Birthing people and their children. I personally gave birth to a healthy baby girl three months ago with the help of a traditional midwife, and have her to attribute to the most positive parts of my prenatal and postpartum care as well. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i. Without these exemptions, mothers like myself will not be able to birth according to our cultural practice. And for many mothers who live on Maui and other outer islands, we would be forced to birth in the only hospital on island, which in my case, is somewhere I have experienced cultural insensitivity with regard to my healthcare.

After July 2023 the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing traditional midwives. Indigenous midwives have always learned through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i, in part because there are no midwifery schools in our state. However, the knowledge they possess from an apprenticeship model of education has been passed down for generations and cannot be gained from midwifery schools on the mainland. Our traditional midwives fill a vital need in our communities and are essential for safety and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and women of color and their families.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. By doing so, you are not only supporting the midwives, but also countless women like myself and families like mine by allowing us to access the care that we trust and deserve.

Mahalo,

Morea Mendoza

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:29:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to those who need it. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:34:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antonio Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the Bill because this is a great asset for the mothers that want to give birth using this procedure in the future. This procedure will help the baby and the mother to have a better labor and less infections. They will be in the comfort of their home which will help her to be more relax and close to her baby. I had four of my grandkids being born that way and there were no complications at all and they are very healthy. Thank you for the support that you will give to this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:35:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Stewart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. I have been to many countries around the world and the United States is worst nation I have seen regarding fear and government interference with the very NATURAL childbirth process! Child birth is a natural process experienced by all mammals and should not be interfered with by an overbearing government. If people can make the decision to kill their unborn fetus they should also have the right to choose HOW they would like to actually birth the baby carried to full-term.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:35:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dii Karng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be respected and preserved, traditional birth attendants need to be able to continue serving the families of Hawaii. Please support HB955.
mahalo

Dienwredii Karnga

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:37:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melemaikalani McAllister	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:37:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karla Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 955. I chose midwifery care for the birth of my baby, and support every Hawaii woman's choice in building her birth team, whether from the western medical model, or licensed or traditional midwife community.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:39:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diandra Lothman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

After having two of my own babies at home, from my OWN body and my own personal choice, I believe that taking away the opportunity for mothers to birth at home or wherever they feel comfortable is simply disgusting and against the "American Dream. " It goes against our human right to CHOOSE. Let the people have a choice where their babies are born, and let the midwives continue to support mothers in those decisions !!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:40:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sher Esteban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:42:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yolanda M. St Laurent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:42:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal Yasukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Krystal Yasukawa. I strongly support HB955. I am a registered nurse, licensed in Hawaii. Please continue to let women choose who they want to attend their births at home. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:44:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Rollison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state again
I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:46:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariela Arreola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Traditional Midwifery which needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. HB955 is needed.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:51:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Luke-Yabut	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:53:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Kinsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955 because families deserve a choice. There are many kinds of midwives with different kinds of training and backgrounds. I am concerned that without HB955, many midwives will be forced to quit. Without decisive action, our islands will soon lose a precious resource— forever— our traditional, cultural, and spiritual midwives.

While some accommodation in the law has been made to protect traditional Hawaiian midwives, it is important to note that Hawaii is a mixing bowl of many cultures and ethnicities. Traditional midwives come from many cultural backgrounds. Traditional midwives from all cultures deserve an opportunity to serve women and families who want them.

It doesn't seem right to me for the state to get between a woman and her midwife. For many people, birth is a profound, spiritual experience. Outlawing spiritual midwives is an infringement of freedom of religious practice. Outlawing traditional and cultural midwives is a form of genocide.

If nothing is done, many midwives will be forced to quit. The cost of midwives will go up, and availability will go down, and some women may be enticed to have an unassisted birth. This has risks.

Midwives provide an important service to women, families, and our communities. A spiritual midwife does more than just help deliver babies and save lives. They can help connect a mother and her family to Spirit.

HB955 is our community's only hope that our birth traditions can continue. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:53:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Gizowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am providing testimony in support of midwifery care. I birthed both of my children at home and received excellent care throughout my pregnancy and in the postpartum by my midwife team. In contrast: I had co-care with Tripler and received completely awful care there. My midwives spent literal hours listening to me, asking me about my mental and physical health, my support system at home, my health history, and everything else inbetween. They became an extension of my family. They took every opportunity to provide me with external resources when I needed and always monitored me to ensure I was not high risk and was a safe candidate for home birth. When it came time to birth my babies, I did so knowing I had a capable and supportive team of trained women at my side. I never would have felt empowerment or security in the hospital setting. Whenever I had an appointment on the hospital side, I felt like I was being read a script of information that didn't fully apply to me or answer the questions I had. I would see the physician for 10 minutes and then be told all manner of concerning things which ultimately felt like I was being fear mongered into additional tests I didn't want based off nothing other than it being "standard procedure." While I could text my midwives about questions and appointments, I felt like I could never reach the hospital providers even when I was wanting to see them. I felt like I was a number and an automatic insurance payout guaranteed for the hospital. But with the midwife I felt like family. It actually mattered to them when I was having a hard day, when I slept wrong, that the burrito I had for lunch gave me heartburn.

Through my own personal research regarding birth and pregnancy, I firmly believe that the care a woman receives should be unique to her. No two pregnancies are the same, even if you are looking at the same body. I can personally attest to having two very different pregnancies and deliveries. Both overwhelmingly positive, but different.

The biggest point I could make here is that both times, **I was given the choice** on what care I desired. Every woman should have that choice. Being able to decide where you will birth and the team of people you want to support you is such a huge part of empowering people through this major life transition. I personally believe that birth is a physiological process first and not a medical process unless risked into needing medical intervention. While the medical side can be necessary, and is still a beautiful and empowering experience for some, it is not necessary for all. In fact, it is/could be a nightmare come true for some. Free birthing is becoming more popular and will probably become the only other option to hospitals should the option of midwifery care be taken away. While that is also a valid choice, it should not be the only other alternative to hospital births. There are risks associated with each type of care but we should be allowed to make that choice and by extension have access to those different types of care.

Especially when it is culturally and racially important. **We need to be giving women more options, not stripping away the accessible care that works for them.** I support midwives and I support the expansion of birth options and birth education. I am a walking example of what an empowered birth experience can look like. I wish that for every mother who comes after me. Whether they chose elective Caesarian or to birth at home in a tub. A positive and empowering experience begins with choice and the execution of that choice. Midwives have been the primary source of birth support for far longer than the medicalized practices we see today. We should not abandon one for the other. Instead we need to put more effort into making training more accessible and better funded.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:54:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preset and available to all Hawaii Families. This allows choice for all families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:51:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwives should be a basic right for all individuals birthing children. Freedom of birth choice and planning should be allowed as a basic human right. Why continue to intentionally overwhelm our limited underpaid and overworked medical staff if other welcomed options are available. Freedom of choice and individuality should be honored. I STRONGLY support midwives and House Bill 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:54:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Mothers deserve the right to have options and choose how they'd like to birth, including home births with midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:55:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rochelle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families, I STRONGLY SUPPORT.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:55:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Payton Hollenbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawaii families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:56:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yanesha Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is something that has been practiced for centuries! we should allow people to give birth the way they want and see fit for themselves.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:58:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonya Chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sonya Chung and I strongly support HB955.

Two months ago I gave birth for the first time at home on Kauai with the help of my midwife, her assistant and my husband. I believe every woman and family should be allowed the freedom that I have had to choose where to give birth and who they want as their preferred birth attendant.

Our family received hours of education from our midwife on nutrition, anatomy, labor and delivery, medical procedures and options, and newborn care. The education and holistic care enabled us to assess our personal risk and gave me the personal confidence to choose home birth. On top of the excellent prenatal care, we now highly value the postpartum care provided by our midwife. The at-home postpartum check-ups have been vital to my physical recovery, mental health, breastfeeding journey, and the health of our baby. I truly wish every new mother had this much attention paid to her health and wellbeing. I believe we would have better maternal outcomes overall if women received this type of one-on-one education and support that can be found in a midwife.

I support permanently allowing birth attendants to practice midwifery without State licensure and free from criminalization.

Thank you for your time,

Sonya Chung

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:59:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Choua Oshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support traditional midwifery. We have had 3 beautiful, empowering and amazing homebirths. Please allow us to have the choice to choose these birth workers; whom are the legends in this field for centuries. Please respect and preserve these special souls and allow them to continue serving the families of Hawaii.

Please support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:02:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mom of two children I support HB955. Traditional midwifery should and needs to be preserved in the state of Hawai'i, where the people of Hawai'i along with their families have access to choose their medical choices when growing their families. Once again, I support bill HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:00:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ava McHugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery practices should be protected to ensure each woman has the right to legally give birth to her child how she sees fit.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:00:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Est	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The manner in giving birth to a baby should always remain the sole choice of the mother. Whether delivering on time or by the natural time of the baby, whether in a hospital, alone, or with a midwife, I support the freedom of birth how we choose. We choose to have and take care of the baby, so why take away the choice in which they come into this world? Our body, our baby, our choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:25:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support traditional midwifery and speak for myself and all those who wish to protect our personal, religious, and medical rights and freedoms. People have the right to seek and choose what kind of medical or non medical care deemed best for their health situation, and from whomever they trust with their health. Midwifery is a beneficial option for many reasons, one being lessening the in-hospital patients who don't require the space, time, or care from the doctor. Midwives serve to acknowledge and protect the patient's personal and religious background and beliefs, and advocate to seek further assistance for the patient's needs if needed. People have the right to personal health choices and not the narrowing and elimination of choices, unless the purpose is for being controlled for power and financial gain by the medical/big pharm industry and government. Sounds familiarly communistic.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:15:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felishalyn Miller	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

Giving birth in a hospital with professionals and medical equipment does give a mother a sense of comfort when it comes to things like maternal mortality, however, it also adds stress when thinking about the medicalization of labor and delivery. When I found out I was pregnant and began to do my research, I was mind blown. The American [health care system](#) views childbirth as a medical emergency rather than a natural occurrence. There is an emphasis on medicines and costly interventions. The moment I found that out I looked into other birthing options rather than a hospital birth.

I have two daughters. My first daughter was birthed at Kapi'olani Medical Center and my second was at my hale. Both labor and delivers were safe and healthy. The difference between the two were my midwives. During my first birth, I had no midwife. I felt like my birth was treated like a medical event. I went in to bring life into this world, not to have knee surgery. All emotional support was not present, as far as the medical staff. The staff made me feel unsure of myself as a mother. They disregarded my concerns because I was a first time mother and, according to them, I didn't know what I what I was doing. However, I did know. I took birthing classes through, Ka Lāhui o ka Pō, also known as Birthing the Nations. They work with midwives. This class surrounded us with support and gave us practical 'ike. It gave me so much confidence in my self emotionally, spiritually, mentally and physically as well as knowing what to advocate for in a hospital setting. I knew what I was doing going in that day. I prepped for that moment for nine months. But the moment I got face to face with that hospital staff, I was belittled.

My second birth was a dream. My midwives listened carefully and responded to my individual wants and needs. They were kind, patient, and paid attention to every little detail. They were well educated, skilled, and dedicated to serving myself and my baby. They made me sure of myself as

a mother. What they did for me was invaluable and it is everything that a hospital and medical staff lack.

Midwives are a vastly underutilized segment of the health workforce and are an important part of the solution. Midwives have supported women for centuries. They are trained with a focus on supporting natural births and they are distinctly positioned to provide respectful, high-quality care that places women and newborns at the center. Research has shown that women who have access to a midwife, experience less preterm births, fewer interventions during labor and shorter hospital stays. Governments that have invested in midwives are seeing the benefits. Countries including Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Ethiopia have shown significant and sustained reductions in maternal and newborn mortality as a result of including midwives as a core aspect of their health systems. Alongside efforts to improve access to health facilities, these countries established professional unions for midwives and expanded midwifery training programs.

If other countries are able to accomplish all of that, here in Hawai'i, we should be able to:

- 1) Permit persons acting as birth attendants after July 1, 2023, to practice midwifery without a license; and
- 2) Include the North American Registry of Midwives portfolio evaluation process, or PEP Pathway, as proof of a successful completion of a formal midwifery education and training program for certified professional midwives.

Just as this Bill states. As there are no Midwifery Education Accreditation Council, or MEAC, accredited schools here in Hawai'i, it does not make sense to allow only certified professional midwife candidates who have taken the MEAC pathway to pursue licensure here.

Midwives play a crucial role in ensuring that women and babies are supported during the natural birthing process and have access to the high-quality, patient-center care they deserve. I experienced both first hand. Even though both of my experiences were safe and healthy, one was lacking. Midwives are angels on this earth. There is a need for them and there are women who are ready to answer the call.

So today, let's recognize the incredible work of midwives and pass House Bill 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:02:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sierra Nasr and I strongly support this bill. I am a student of midwifery. HB955 is important to me because I am one-third of the way through the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP). When I moved to Hawaii in 2017, the current midwifery law did not exist. For the last 3 ½ years I have used all of my resources to be in a full time apprenticeship with a licensed CPM on Hawai'i island. As the law stands now, if I continue the PEP route to obtaining my CPM credential I will not qualify to be licensed by the state of Hawai'i.

HB955 affects me personally in my line of work, but I also see how it affects my community of birthing families and our elder midwives, whom I look up to and deeply respect. Mothers and families should have the right to choose who attends them at their birth. This is a women's rights issue and these families have the right to choose the birth attendant of their choice.

The midwives, who taught the midwives, who are teaching me, will no longer be able to practice midwifery as of July. Many of these traditional birth attendants pre-date the CPMs who are currently licensed in Hawai'i.

In a state with a known shortage of maternity care providers, the traditional birth attendant fills a very crucial gap in women's health care.

We need to make midwifery care more accessible by recognizing the importance of PEP trained CPMs and by allowing our communities traditional birth attendants to continue to be exempt.

Please SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:06:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fallon Mann-Ribeiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Giving birth how you want is a god given right! Women have been giving birth with midwives since the beginning. I had two wonderful births at home with a midwife. I know myself and a hospital birth would have been very difficult for me. As a woman creating life I demand the right to choose what is best for myself.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:06:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Marie Pecoraro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state
I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:05:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalena Hoopii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kalena Hoopii and I am 100% in support of HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:15:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johanna Anagaran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state.
I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:16:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariella Hulen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi support a women's ability to choose if she prefers a traditional midwife. I think that it is out right as women to be able to choose the type of care we want and desire for our pregnancy, birth and postpartum.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:19:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allie Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I completely support this bill. Both my babies were born at home with the help of midwives and I couldnt have done it without their legal ability to do so. I feel completely overwhelmed by the idea of giving birth so restricted as in a hospital setting and was so grateful to be home in my comfort place with the support people I needed. Please keep midwives legal in our state. Women deserve the right to safely give birth where they feel the most safe and comfortable. Mahalo for your time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:19:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kammy Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Being a mother of 4 beautiful children who's experienced both a traditional hospital birth and a natural birth at home, I can honestly testify that having a midwife to attend my last two births while at home was the best choice for me. The government should not have the right to tell me how to birth my child just like you don't have the right to tell me what to do with my body. It's my choice.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:20:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jensen chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. If Hawaii is a Pro-Choice state, then based on principle, women must have the right to choose how they want to give birth and who they choose to attend that birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:21:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuheha Maeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

I strongly support HB 955. As a mother of six children, five of whom were birthed at the hospital and one that was birthed at home, I can attest to the superiority of the personal, relational care of a midwife. The practice of midwifery has been around for most of human history and only in the past century or so has it become less well known, yet there are many who still use and appreciate the care of a midwife.

Please vote YES for HB 955 and keep the practice of midwifery alive and well in the state of Hawaii. Every woman should have the right to choose the type of birth and care that they receive at a very important time in their life.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Anuheha Maeda

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:23:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Chun-Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern:

I, Nicole K.G.Y. Chun-Park, am writing to testify in SUPPORT of HB955. I fully support the option of having a traditional midwife by my side during my pregnancy, birth and postpartum stages.

As a mother of 7, I was able to choose the best possible care for myself through Traditional Midwifery. My last pregnancy was a set of twins. During my twin pregnancy, I saw an OBGYN, my naturopathic midwife, 2 fetal maternal specialist, and a traditional midwife. Some decisions I needed to make required both care in my twin journey — the medical and traditional midwifery. Traditional midwifery provided healthy nutrition resources and meals, exercises and birth classes, lactation support, massage for aches and pains, guidance and support that goes above and beyond what an OBGYN has to offer other than a headache, ultrasounds and unnecessary exams. The medical field is always forcing us women to induce based on their results from technology and recommendations without listening to what and how the MOTHER chooses to birth.

As a native Hawaiian born and raised here in Hawai'i, I humbly ask that you allow Traditional Midwifery to stay in the islands. For it is a MUST and a NEED for us moms out here who choose to birth our babies at home and/or on our 'āina. Please do not take that choice away from us.

Mahalo nui loa,
Nicole Chun-Park

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:34:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Garrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I completely support the right for women and families to birth from home with traditional midwives! I've had my first child in this method and will not choose any different for my next birth. Please pass this bill so that our children will be safely brought into this world in the way families have been doing for centuries. It needs to be an option for Hawai'i's families. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available for all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:26:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antonio Anagaran Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state again that you STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. MAHALO!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:37:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Struempf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and committee members,

My name is Nicole Struempf.

I am in strong support of HB955.

It is imperative that we preserve a woman’s right to birth with the attendant of her choice. The birthing families of this state have the autonomous right to choose any birth attendant they want to provide their prenatal and postnatal care.

I deserve the right to choose who attends me. Not based on what license or certificate they hold, but based on their alignment with my cultural and religious practices.

The rural areas of our state are experiencing a shortage of womens healthcare providers. Traditional birth attendants help to fill a critical gap in maternity care.

Excluding the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) Certified Professional Midwives (CPM) from obtaining a license only further limits a women’s access to receive prenatal and postnatal care.

Please extend the current sunset date for the traditional birth attendant to be aligned with the licensed CPM midwives, and keep their exemption in place permanently.

Please allow PEP educated CPMs to obtain a license to practice Midwifery.

Please support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:46:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Hale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i gave birth at home with a traditional midwife at home in September 2022. My home birth was an amazing experience that I would hate for anyone not to be able to choose for themselves. My midwife was the reason it was so beautiful, safe and went so well. My midwife took care of me and my baby. She taught me so much that my OBGYN never even mentioned in my first pregnancy/birth. My midwife helped me with identifying tongue tie in my baby. Helped me with breastfeeding techniques and even postpartum issues. She taught me so much so I would be ready for the birth in my home. I never doubted the way she handled the birth, she was amazing at keeping me informed and helping me through it all. I went over do and she helped me in natural safe ways to encourage the labor to start. I never felt rushed, stressed or in danger with my midwife, unlike when I gave birth in the hospital. As a VBAC patient on Kauai I don't have the option to try for another vbac in the hospital here. Giving birth at home with my midwife gave me the courage and strength to do it. My midwife was way more professional and informed on the risk and problems that could arise. She had a plan in place for any issue that might come up. Please don't take away this right from women like me who don't have the choice to just go to the hospital.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:46:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezekiel Kekoanuiokeakua Struempf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and committee members,

My name is Ezekiel Struempf.

I am in strong support of HB955.

Our state has been experiencing a shortage of women's healthcare providers for quite some time. Traditional birth attendants help to fill this gap in maternity care, especially in the rural outer island communities

Excluding the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) Certified Professional Midwives (CPM) from obtaining a license only further limits a women's access to prenatal and postpartum care.

Please expand access to midwifery care!

Please support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:46:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cunnie Chostel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Have the people of Hawai'i not been through enough? Have they not suffered enough erasure and exploitation of their cultures already? I stand with the traditional midwives of Hawai'i, and with every person's right to autonomy in their health and medical choices. Traditional midwifery needs to be upheld and left alone. I **STRONGLY** support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:48:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenda Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I strong support HB955. I know of many who have given birth with midwives in their own homes and it was an awesome experience for them.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:53:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paolo Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and committee members,

Thank you for reading my testimony My name is Paolo Morgan.

I am in strong support of HB955.

I am in strong support of a woman's autonomous reproductive rights.

Expand access to womens healthcare!

Please extend the current sunset date for the traditional birth attendant to be in alignmwnt with that of the licensed CPM midwives.

Please allow PEP educated CPMs to obtain a license to practice Midwifery.

Please support HB955

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:59:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marissa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am 19 weeks hapai with my first child. Without the cohesive care of traditional midwifery and the medical field, I'd feel lost and honestly, so would so many mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers, and so on. Traditional Midwives have learned and shared their knowledge with women and men for the safety of the keiki, for generations. There is no gain in ridding these birthing experts of their precious finite info and presence.

I support this bill.

Mahalo Nui,

Marissa Kihoi

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:06:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlene Maldonado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:06:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Kimball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The families of Hawaii must continue to have the choice of traditional midwifery. We support HB 955 and strongly urge you to allow people the choice of midwives during childbirth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:06:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgi Geo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the traditional midwives of Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:09:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaelyse Raneses	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB955. Protect midwifery in Hawaii; it is at the core of the Aloha Spirit for us to care for one another, and this at one of the most sacred and vulnerable times for mom and baby. Hawaii's mothers deserve the ability to choose the type of practitioner who provides their prenatal care and delivers their baby. Maybe a midwife is not the care you would choose for yourself--that's ok, but please esteem the women of Hawaii with that choice for themselves and their keiki. Mother knows best!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:15:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support these traditional midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:16:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cecil Guizado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. Please do not let these families lose any more than they probably have already.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:22:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women chose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:33:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaia Ramstedt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support House Bill 955 because traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaiian families. Every individual should be able to choose how they are going to give birth. This is not something that the government should decide for anyone.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:35:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sakile McCoy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery has been around for 100s of years. To wash away the tradition of the indigenous midwife, would be to incite cultural genocide. Continuing the colonization mindset while hurting an already fragile economy.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:42:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:59:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlin Wakefield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955, traditional midwifery needs to be preserved for all women and families in Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:59:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i deserves better than this.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:01:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Eberhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditionally midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I **strongly** support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:02:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alimat Adeoye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I am in strong support of HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:03:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Boodoo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be persevered and made accessible to to ALL Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:11:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Kahele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. If will ensure that my daughters and future daughter in law have the freedom to CHOOSE! It is their right to choose.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:52:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:46:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlin Tricomi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support traditional midwifery for native Hawaiians. This practice needs to be preserved and available for ALL Hawai'i families. I strongly urge you to support HB955 to advance health equity and allow native Hawaiians to have autonomy over their bodies. Please be on the right side of history in supporting traditional midwifery.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:51:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlize Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifing needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:50:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. How a woman chooses to give birth is her right and her choice. Additionally, indigenous-Kānaka Maoli rights, customs, and practices are protected and need to be respected. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

Tara Rojas

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:03:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genevieve Borges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and be available to all Hawaii family. **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.**

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:11:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Brooks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stongly support the protection of traditional midwifery in Hawaii. Indigenous people have suffered a long history of mistreatment within traditional medicine, and they have suffered a long history of forced assimilation. This bill protects indigenous culture, people, and their right to make independent decisions about their medical care. Additionally, birthing methods are a choice of the mother and family, and prohibition of their right to choose traditional midwifery limits their choice. Modern medical institutions discount indigenous knowledge and indigenous medical practices, and by supporting traditional midwifery, we can discontinue this harmful trend. Hawaiian people deserve the right to choose traditional midwifery if it will benefit them psychologically, physically, or both.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:20:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is necessary that this tradition is preserved and available to Hawaiian families. The government has taken enough from these people. Childbirth is a sacred experience and anyone deserves to do it anyway they fee is right for them.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:49:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Allred	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955 because I want the freedom to choose the type of birth I want. I think traditional midwifery needs to be preserved in Hawaii and available to all families in our family-oriented state. With the information we have nowadays we can have amazing home births and we need those midwives to support us moms in bringing life to our aina. Us, hawaii mothers, are already limited in choosing the kind of birth care we want with medical providers. Please keep the door open, by passing this bill, so we can keep making informed choices about OUR births.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:45:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth pierron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Nanny and Mothers assistant for many years, I have seen first hand the great importance that a midwives support and experience offer to mothers during their birthing journey. Not just for the actual birth, but also for the months ahead of planning for baby, providing nourishing food, advice and expertise and checking up on progress of baby. As well as during and after the birth, their role as midwife brings more support than any hospital ever can! It is one of the most ancient and sacred bonds that exist and shouldn't be attempted to be controlled by government. I strongly support this bill to ensure that a woman's right to choose for themselves is always paramount.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:15:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith I Ojukwu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Judith O. I was born and raised in Hawaii and have returned on island for the past 8 years. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J. I have personally benefited from the services of a Midwife and a Birth attendant during due to limitations an restrictions placed in many hospitals during the Covid pandemic. The decision to be supported by these trained personal enhanced my entire birthing experience while keeping the sanctity of my birthing experience sacred.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Judith

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:23:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Curnel Struempf,MW	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and committee members,

My name is Rachel Curnel Struempf and I am in strong support of HB955. Thank you for reading my testimony.

I am proud to be the first licensed Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) in the state of Hawai'i. I am a member of the Hawai'i Home Birth Taskforce, the Hawai'i Home Birth Collective, the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM), and La Leche League International (LLL).

The current Hawai'i midwifery law only allowed PEP educated midwives who were certified prior to 2020 to obtain a license. There is a whole generation of new midwives, who are desperately needed by the communities they are intended to serve. Despite having dedicated years of their lives to obtain their CPM credential and Bridge Certificate; their education is not recognized by the state of Hawai'i. This should be corrected. Please allow these midwives the opportunity to be licensed.

I practiced as a traditional midwife in Hawai'i for 15 years before I received my CPM credential through the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP). I have received a midwifery Bridge Certificate from NARM and am a registered NARM preceptor.

I was trained by a traditional midwife, also known as a traditional birth attendant, my teacher was trained by a traditional midwife, as was her teacher before her, and so on for millennia. As of July, the amazing elder midwife who shared her wisdom and knowledge with me will no longer be able to legally attend to women giving birth in Hawai'i. With over 40 years of experience and having been blessed to attend thousands of births, she will no longer be legally recognized as relevant to her community who has loved her for decades.

The outer islands have a long-standing shortage of women's healthcare providers. Further limiting access to proper maternity care is not in the best interests of the women and families of Hawai'i.

Expand the licensure program to include newly credentialed PEP CPMs.

Protect our traditional birth attendants from extinction

Please protect women's reproductive rights by supporting HB955

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:15:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What would our kanaka ancestors say? Birthing is a divine right that I have. I have birthed in a hospital and at home with a midwife. My homebirth empowered me and helped me realize how strong and capable I am. I felt safe and secure knowing that my midwife was there ready to help if I needed. This bill needs to pass so that woman can continue to have access to traditional midwife's. Our health and well being counts on this!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:22:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Chase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mom of two and strongly support HB955. I believe it is our right to let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. I have experienced both a hospital birth and a home birth, both beautiful and life changing experiences bringing my children into this world. As a registered nurse, I do believe both are very important and needed options for women to give birth. If given the opportunity in the future, I personally would choose home birth again. The personalized, selfless, family oriented care I received from my midwife throughout my pregnancy, birth, and postpartum is honestly unmatched. I felt the safest and most empowered giving birth in the comfort of my home. It is heartbreaking to think that the future generation of women in Hawai'i may not have the right to choose where and how they give birth. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:03:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Britannie Rousseau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:11:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Ropp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved! It is a vital cultural and healthcare practice that protects pregnant people and supports community

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:21:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955 because safe practices of midwifery should never be restricted. It should always be the women and her family's choice of how they want to bring their child into the world.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:38:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelynn Maynhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwives have been active for century across the world. They where the first to perform c-section in Africa. They are the staple to homebirth and safe birth and should not be denied.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:41:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this, as do many others who won't have taken the time to submit.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:43:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shekinah Spears	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Shekinah Spears. I have lived in Hawai'i for 2 years. I notice when I was pregnant the island has limited resources. If it wasn't for midwifery I would have such a successful story. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional

practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:58:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juanita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly believe traditional midwifery needs to be protected and made available to any birthing family or person in Hawai'i.

I am in full support of HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:54:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brittany ziems	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional practices should be kept safe and sacred- traditional and indigenous midwives have far outlived any institution whos "certification" is deemed necessary, restricting them is a disservice to all.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:04:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lex Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved. Safe home birthing practices are a human right, not something that can be taken or given by law. Midwives are an important part of our culture and community. They provide safe, more affordable access to care while pregnant. A traditional midwife learned everything they know from an elder midwife. Some things learned can only be learned by being passed down through generations of practice. These traditional methods passed down through generations are important parts of our culture that could've been lost without this practice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:35:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melanie Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB955 and urge you to consider our freedom to choose to deliver our keiki at home or not. I personally had some negative experiences delivering at the hospital. I have many friends who have had wonderful experiences birthing at home. This is a country of freedom. Please consider this written testimony. Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:29:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Mahon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery is an important cultural practice, and all families in Hawai'i should have the option to choose if they want these services. I strongly support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:43:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittney Grenion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery should be preserved and available to the Hawaiian families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:45:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Bayaao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 100% home births! I myself just 8months ago had my very first home birth, after having two hospital births. My sister in law had all 4 of her keiki at home. I will never go back to the hospital to have a birth and I tell that to every women out there who hears I had a home birth and it is the most beautiful, peaceful, natural, pain free, doctors hands free, experience. My midwife is amazing, and I would definitely have her again. Supporting Midwife's, Dullas, mothers and there bodies! HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:53:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devin k Ako	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery should be supported more than you would expect! Local or not women in general should have say as to who attends the births of their child/children!.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:48:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlyn Perkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:09:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fiona Rori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support that traditional midwifery to be preserved in Hawai'i. It is necessary not only for the culture but for all to have access to this for all native Hawai'i families. The government has already taken enough from the natives and people here of Hawai'i, and to take away the practice of midwifery would further harm the people and the culture that has persevered so hard to remain.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:18:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Hawkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a birth doula from Indiana, and mother of 3 young children. My first was born in a hospital with hospital midwives. My second and third were born at home without any midwives or medical assistance.

I chose to birth without a midwife for my last two births because only state licensed midwives were legally aloud to attend home births in Indiana, which I felt limited me to options that did not align with my beliefs. If traditional non-licensed midwives would have been legal, I would have chosen that option, especially with my first two births. I felt uncomfortable with hiring a midwife who served the state and their policies, rather than serving me and my individual needs as a mother.

Can you imagine how many other mothers and fathers feel the same? How many families would benefit from the option to choose, rather than feeling forced to give birth with someone they are uncomfortable with, or alone entirely?

I support HB955 because a family should be able to choose who attends the birth of their child without fear of legal issues arising. And a midwife should be able to attend families she feels called to, regardless of state policies.

This is a human rights issue, a cultural issue, a religious rights issue, and a reproductive rights issue.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:30:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Ancheta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of 4 , it is our right to birth how we choose. I have given birth with the support of a midwife at home, as well in a hospital setting.

Homebirth with a midwife is actually safer for a baby and mother, without all the unnecessary medical interventions.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:34:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Botello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:30:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
moses ancheta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support midwives wholeheartedly in the state of hawaii. Hospitals only care about making money whereas midwives deeply care for the mothers and babies. Midwives do not pressure mothers into making decisions that could be harmful to mothers and babies whereas hospitals will pressure mothers into making decisions during birth that could be harmful to both mothers and babies. Whoever proposed to ban midwifery in the state of Hawaii should get more educated as to the benefits midwives bring to births.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:25:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Pickle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

Let women CHOOSE who they want to attend their birth. The government has NO right to dictate a women's birth CHOICES.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:41:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terra Shumaker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was birthed at home, as well as all 3 of my siblings. My children were born 3 years apart. Both of their births were assisted by midwives at North Hawai'i Community Hospital; however, the hospital was phasing out midwives during my second pregnancy, so I experienced the difference of prenatal care from midwife vs OB-GYN. In my personal experience, the midwife approach to prenatal care was more personal and aligned with my values of a holistic birth. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:27:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbiy Browning	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is very unamerican and is more of a control of power of the Hawaiian people who don't want to be a state anyway. This is against every right, and the midwife practice should not be taken away.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:37:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanna Andrus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families, and I STRONGLY support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:40:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Edmondson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is every individuals right to choose where to birth, how to birth, and who to have at that birth. This is a vital issue for all women, and especially important to the rights of the indigenous women of Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:05:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michaela McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional forms of midwifery need to be protected. It is a family's choice as to who they would like to assist with their child's birth. It would be unjust to take that right away.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:36:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Rivas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be PRESERVED and available to ALL Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. From early womanhood, midwives have been a part of caring for sexual and reproductive health since the beginning of human history. STOP trying to abolish this natural women tradition and option. Women need freedom of choice when delivering, an option to feel safe, cared for, and coached through the process of birth and the after birth. A hospital setting is not fro everyone.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:48:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Hopkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of midwifery in the state of Hawaii. Both of my children were born at home with the same midwife and she was profession, used all medical precautions and because of her experience we had two healthy, loving births. My birth experiences would not have been the same had I not had our midwife. This is something that is long rooted in this community and should not be taken away.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:38:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Autumn Hubbs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

Between the ages of 21 and 40 years old, I gave birth to three beautiful, healthy babies at home. Each time there was a midwife attending me. Each birth was different and presented its own challenges and hurdles, as all births do, and my midwives were excellent support and wonderfully skilled at addressing all of the situations that arose. It was a wonderful experience for myself and my family, and I wouldn't have wanted it any other way! I have also attended multiple births in the hospital as well as several other home births. Hospital experience is something that some women truly feel they need and is even necessary at times, but there is nothing that compares to watching a woman give birth in the peace and comfort of her own home, surrounded by her loved ones. For many mothers and family members, the sterile and clinical environment of the hospital broods stress and fear and is not conducive to a pleasant, natural birth experience. Every mother has a right to choose how she gives birth, whom is there to be a part of welcoming the new life that she was a part of creating into the world, and whom she wants to support her during the natural process of childbirth.

Thank you,

Autumn Hubba

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:49:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Indi Maxon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support for HB955 as a person in the community who believes all families should have a right to choose who attends them at birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:49:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ivy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and stay available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955 because safe practices should be protected and it should be the woman's and family's choice on how to safely welcome their child into the world.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:57:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Tso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to ask for the legislature's **STRONG** support of HB955. Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. Families in Hawai'i deserve access to their choice of birth care, and there is research to support that traditional midwifery contributes to safe outcomes for mother and baby (American College of Nurse-Midwives).

Please vote YES on HB955 to support maternal and reproductive health in Hawai'i. Thank you for your time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:09:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby Ranoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery practice must be preserved in our islands and made available as a lifestyle and health choice for families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:56:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jess	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB955. Please stop trying to take culture away from natives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:12:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Godderz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices! I have have 6 successfull vbacs and 4 of which were at home safely with midwives

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:12:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill 955. It is important for all Native Hawaiians.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:17:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dilyuns Michael	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families.
I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:17:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kennedy Rivas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families that chose this route when giving birth. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of bill HB955. I do not have a child of my own yet, but I do plan on exploring this route of care and having a traditional midwife by my side during birth. I'd like to be able to give birth to my children on the island I grew up on instead of having to fly to the mainland to get the care I am searching for. I pray that the conclusion you come to in the room today is one that will benefit our future generations and that will help promote freedom!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:19:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Burke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and protected for all! Women and families deserve options and deserve to make informed choices for themselves. Birth is natural and physiologic. It happens with or without medical professionals. The licensed medical system is hurting and killing women and babies. It's our right to choose and to have options available to us. Traditional midwives are passionate, loving, smart, and skilled enough to practice and support on their own terms.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:20:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a women's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:21:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Pierce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must keep a families choice over birth their CHOICE. Where they birth and who they bring into support during such a remarkable event. Birth is not a buisness. Extending the timeline for existing traditinal birth attendants makes safe birth practices more available and honors generational knowledge. All CPMs should be eligible for licensure and there should be no law passed that would exclude any individual to practice, unless the process to gain eligibliity is available on that island. How we protect birth is the most critical space for healthy bonding and the set up for maternal wellness. We must get it right here and protect families rights to choose how they want to bring their keiki into the world.

Kim Pierce

Marriage and Family Therapist

Mother of two healthy homebirthed keiki

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:26:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Fitzgerald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices"

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:22:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Maldonado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Trditional midwifery needs to be preserved and made available to ALL HAWAIIAN FAMILIES and people residing in Hawaii. Studies clearly show how babies born at the hands of midwives have more healthy outcomes. Furthermore, a very small percentage of at home births with midwives result in emergency cesareans, the same CANNOT be said for hospital births. This is a tradition that not only must be preserved but should be better promoted AND INCENTIVIZED.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:27:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT Traditional Midwifery and Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all hawai'i families

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:35:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Fan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955, and I believe that families who want to have the support of Traditional Midwives should have that choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:33:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
rachel byrd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the right for the state of Hawaii to honor the role of traditional midwifery. As having a home birth myself with a traditional midwife in Hawaii, I only dream for women to have access and experience what I was able to. Birth is a woman's right, and the decision of where and how the women experiences birth is up to her. Traditional midwifery allows generations of wisdom to be passed along, how it always has been, without unnecessary intervention.

i strongly support this bill

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:28:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah French	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“ I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:36:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Jenkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Medical care should be a personal choice to include traditional midwifery. Our govt should not get into the practice of micro managing personal choices! All Hawaii families should be able to choose a licensed midwife if preferred.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:44:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kristy huihui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a mother of 2 beautiful, HEALTHY & HOMEBIRTHED children, Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

Mahalo,

Kristy HuiHui

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:34:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janae Kirchner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. I have been supported by multiple midwives during the birth of my children. Their work & support is critical to mothers & families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:32:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Mawhar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives need to remain a legal option for homebirths in Hawai'i. Homebirthing is not a safe option in all cases, but in cases of a complication-free pregnancy, where the birthing individual is fully informed of their options and elects to conduct a birth in the safety of their home under the guidance and support of a traditional birthing practitioner, this choice should be respected and honored, both for its cultural significance, and out of respect for the wishes of fully consenting individual in making personal medical decisions.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:33:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Shalom Hicks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill fully. In this climate of reproductive oppression, we must support the right of people to choose when and how and where to birth.

Each time we defend the right to choose, we also lived our voices to support the right to choose an all other areas.

For people of color and people with disabilities and people who are queer and people who are otherwise marginalized, midwifery means the difference between a birth cloaked in danger and a birth cloaked in freedom of choice.

I safely gave birth to my child in Hawaii. It is my deepest wish that that child may go on and do the same if they choose. Please protect the right to choose

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:45:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. This right should not be taken away from any family.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:34:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Ogden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Women know how to help women best, especially during pregnancy, labor, birth & postpartum. A mother should be free to use honor her intuition and allowed and encouraged to make the decision best for her and her baby in all seasons of life.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:30:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let Women Choose Who They Want To Attend Their Birth. Government Has NO Right To Discate A Women's Birth Choices!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:37:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Darrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had four children comfortably born at home with a midwife. If you believe women should have any rights at all then they should have the obvious right to CHOOSE how and where they would like to birth their own children. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:29:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support traditional midwifery, It is important and should be available to ALL Hawaii families. It is a very personal and meaningful process of giving birth, and mothers should have the right to choose how they want to do it.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:50:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Jasso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Alyssa Jasso, strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery in Hawai'i is a beautiful and sacred practice that must be an available option for all families and preserved for generations to come.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:52:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Aea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955. Women in Hawai'i should be able to choose how they birth and with whom they birth with no interference from the government. Traditional midwifery needs to be respected and preserved.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:44:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joni Ishiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support giving women the choice to choose how they give birth. Traditional midwifery is a valid choice for Hawaii women and families and needs to be preserved.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:38:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jizelle rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had 2 births with midwives present and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:12:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tehlor Takahata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:50:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Rueckher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate women's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:50:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Rueckher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate women's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:25:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Akiona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tradition midwifery must be allowed and available for us here in Hawai'i. There's a long past of women being able to choose & control their birth experience. I have had two home births on Hawai'i Island & I wouldn't have wanted them to be any different. Please support this bill so that my daughters can have the choice on how they want to birth when they are grown. It's all about our keiki! Please support this bill & let midwifery be accessible to all The 'ohana in Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:50:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Rueckher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate women's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:41:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyana Apuakehau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaiian families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:25:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karissa Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery is an ancient tradition that must be preserved and available as an option for all Hawai'i families! I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:53:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Correa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Women have the right to hire the health care provider of their choice and prohibiting said choice violates their right to privacy. A woman's "ability to choose where to give birth, what model of care makes them feel safe, and who they want by their side providing that care are absolutely integral to safety, bodily autonomy, and comfort during birth."

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:38:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hooser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee Chair and Members,

I testify today as a grandfather and ask that you pass this measure forward and preserve the right for parents to choose the manner in which their children will be born, and who will be there helping and assisting them.

Two of my grandchildren were born at home with the assistance of midwives, family members, and friends. Their parents thought long and hard about how they wanted to manage the birthing process and made an informed decision.

Every prospective parent deserves this same choice.

Please vote to pass HB955 and allow this important discussion to continue.

Gary Hooser

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:55:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlotte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery is ESSENTIAL to women's lives and need to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPPORT HB955!!!!!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:19:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapukini Kalahikik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:18:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jack Hanton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:16:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Lauro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to Hawaii families. The fact that you would what to do away with a sect of medical providers/ health professionalss during a time when we are in TREMENDOUS NEED is unconscionable! I STRONGY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:55:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Darrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955! Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:41:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kandrie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i Families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:59:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Wrieden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a women's birth choices .

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:59:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curen Ohama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women need the right to options with there life.

Midwife's are essential to indigenous practices and should always be protected

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:17:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Parada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support House Bill 955.

Respectfully,

Rachel Parada

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:59:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayana Minor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

“Midwives matter to me, because every mother counts!” and it should be her choice to choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices.

Here is the problem, we don’t have enough midwives today.

There should be no questions about it---- having access to a midwife should be the norm. And we should all care to make it so.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:13:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery is not only a key role in Hawaiin culture that should be preserved but a practice that protects birthing people and their babies. The choice of traditional midwifery is a level of cultural care that can aid a healthy birth and ensure the birther feels protected and heard. To outlaw, this would be a barely concealed cultural genocide.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:00:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Ignas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Please allow women of Hawai'i and their future generations to choose who they feel most comfortable attending their birth, without restriction or regulation. Most choosing home birth have done an enormous investment into the safety and people involved in their birth choices, and giving them the freedom to make that choice is fundamental. Birth choices are personal, not something to regulate.

I am a home birth mother who knows that who you choose to be present during labor and birth is not just a choice of who has certain credentials, but of inherited and learned knowledge, personalities (that can greatly impact a mother's ability to labor freely), and other skills.

Birth is often best supported with someone who understands physiological (as opposed to medicalized) birth, and this often comes in the form of a traditional midwife. Please allow women this very important resource for birthing safely at home.

Thank you,

Naomi Ignas

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:09:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Give women the freedom and the right to choose who they want to attend their birth. The government has NO RIGHT to make that choice for them!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:01:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annemarija Asare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and supported for all Hawaiian families, and I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:06:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kandace Iwasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the option to choose how you want to have your baby! Midwives offer incredible support to soon to be mothers, and post partum . Taking away this right to a midwife will take away jobs and the right to have your baby at home in a peaceful environment.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:09:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Satori-Lemire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaiian families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:09:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ashley Porter. I had two births with midwives in the state of Hawai'i. One birth was in a hospital with midwives and the other was in my own house, with midwives. Between the two of them, the home birth with midwives was far superior. Having the choice of having my child at home, with traditional midwives, was and is incredibly important. This is my body. This is my child. This is my life. This shall CONTINUE to be MY choice!

Traditional Midwifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:16:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aliana Estipona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:06:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krome Solis-Kalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available for all Hawai'i 'Ohana (families). I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:16:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather lackey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:22:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Haanpää	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Hawaii'an traditional midwifery should be preserved and available to any Hawaii'an who wants it.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:23:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iduna Winna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and I
STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:24:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosalie Lenta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vote in support of HB955. I am in support of homebirth midwives and home childbirth practitioners as well as traditional homebirth practitioners. This is a crucial and vital role to our cultural practices of home birth here in Hawaii. It is vital that we pass this bill for all the homebirth and traditional midwives throughout the state of Hawaii who are in service to the women and babies of Hawaii. It is a very special thing about Hawaii that here we as women and mothers have the freedom to choose where and how we birth and have the option to stick to traditional practices while having professionals who can legally assist home births and traditional style births.

I personally have safely birthed two healthy sons at home in the state of Hawaii in the last ten years with the assistance and care of professional home birth and traditional midwife practitioners. This bill is close to my heart. It is important that we protect this practice and those who keep traditional homebirth alive.

mahalo for your consideration and support of our women, children, and families, and those who assist and serve them in the most critical of situations.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:01:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrianna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Attending births as an unlicensed practitioner helps you get the hours and experience you need to become licensed. Home birth is SAFE and I have had an awesome experience myself giving birth at home because I am healthy, low risk, and was cleared by my midwife. I was not anemic or at risk for any complications. I had the most beautiful birth with an uncertified midwife and she has been the best support I needed since.

In addition, it takes the load off of hospitals. Home births are less likely to result in C-sections, postpartum depression, tearing, and so much more. Making it easier to heal as a mama and reintegrate back into society.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:24:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
abby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:28:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bree poort	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, my name is Bree Poort, and I had the honor to give birth to my first baby at home but also have dual care with my OB office for medication in relation to my thyroid. I am also preparing for a second homebirth with the same midwife I had the first time. Due in august.

I am a survivor of rape. My trust in hospitals and people I don't know or barely know touching me in places I understand are medically necessary but intimate areas are very stressful. Hospital settings cause much anxiety for me. As long as I'm healthy and my baby is healthy to approach home birth I will. The peace of it is unlike anything I've expereinced and I get to avoid the stresses and traumas that come with the hospital.

I still received judement and rudeness from my current OB and nurses for my use of homebirth. The doctors office is only a setting to see my baby and do routine blood tests, but I will not be pressured to have a hospital birth.

I really hope you please keep midwives in practice in hawaii for people like me and many others that do not have a great relationship with the hospital system.
thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:28:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Pecana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:29:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liana Kelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved for Hawaiian families. I strongly support

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:57:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Sponn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery practices **MUST** be preserved and accesible to any who desire! Without these practices, many native Hawaiians will die because of unfair hospital practices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:31:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Lukens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:55:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Cooper	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kelly Cooper. I have had 6 children in which only one of them was born with my midwife present. I personally know what it's like to give birth in a hospital and to have a natural home birth. Just by that one home birth I would tell anyone that I would definitely do it over again and I wish I had done it with my other children as well. The knowledge that a midwife has is just as powerful as that of a regular OBGYN and I fully trusted her with my birth. I oppose this bill because not only does it take away my right to deliver my future children the way that I choose but it takes away from others the experience to have and deliver their child in a way that is more natural and not medicated. For hundreds of years midwifery has been around and the benefits speak for itself.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Kelly Cooper

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:32:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Sugiyama-Bakrim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of maintaining Hawaii's mothers and their rights to Traditional Midwives. I have used the services of the midwives from Kalihi Palama health center and felt it was key to the successful pregnancy and intervention free birth of my daughter Rio. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have a midwife option. It is essential that women are supported by this government and our rights to choose a Traditional Midwife birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:34:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ally Hehn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passing of bill HB955. It is so important for us to have the freedom and autonomy to make our own decisions that pertain to our own bodies and the birth of our own children. Having this freedom aligns with the foundation of what our country stands for - freedom of choice. Having the ability to make my choice on having a midwife by my side meant so much to me and my family, and the thought of having these freedoms taken away is extremely disheartening and disappointing. I have felt nothing but safe and comfortable with my midwives as they are extremely knowledgeable and experienced when it comes to births and have been doing this for decades. Why are we taking away their ability to help and love on so many families now? Why are we taking away the option for the people to make a choice that is best for them? I humbly ask that you please bill HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:54:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evotia Lolotai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of traditional midwives here in the state of Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:34:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shea Petty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery is a birthright. All women deserve to chose how their bodies are handled throughout the birthing process. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and protected so that it's available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL.

Aloha

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:54:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allie Herman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been blessed to work with an incredible midwife on the island of Kauai these past nine months as I prepare to give birth to our first son any day now. She has provided us peace, wisdom, and care that doesn't even compare to what the hospitals have to offer.

I support midwives and believe they are a necessity to our islands. Without, woman will still give birth at home, but we won't have the security and care from a knowledgeable provider.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:35:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raven Calhoun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to Hawai'i families. I strongly, strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:52:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Real	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Bill HB955. Women deserve the right to choose how they birth. Period.

Traditional midwifery offers so much more than support during birth. It is the amount of attention paid to the mother & child pre and post birth that stood out for me.

Again, I strongly support bill HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:35:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Cheever	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives are an incredible wealth of knowledge, often learning how to bring babies into the world by watching real women actually birth babies and by following someone who has learned from generations of the trade. Not everyone has the ability or the want to go to a hospital or see a midwife who practices more with medicine and less with knowledge and powerful natural remedies. Removing any type of midwife often means more women will go without any type of provider and instead will birth their baby unassisted. Traditional midwives are the basics of how babies have been born most all of history, removing them makes the birth world smaller, more controlled, and less about women.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:52:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brook Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:38:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tierra medina-Oliveira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to ALL Hawaiian families! This is yet another thing you folks feel so comfortable about taking away from us! Unacceptable. My mom my mother in law all had their babies at home and I continued in that line.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:41:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phaedra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families, I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:49:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Yadao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, please pass HB955, giving care providers who are culturally trained and culturally appropriate to continue providing services to those especially who live in rural areas of our islands to continue to be free from harassment and/or charges. The services they provide are invaluable to 'ohana that are looking for their type of care. There is no replacement for these providers who have knowledge passed down for generations and who need to continue to caring for families and training more providers with their expertise. There is no replacement for their mana'o. Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:11:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Soul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional Midwifery is a essential service and needs to be preserved, protected and available to all Hawaiian families. Please pass this bill. Making Traditional Midwifery illegal removes a crucial, sacred, healthy option for families. Thank you for listening. I myself will be someone who cares for these children after they have been born, but my friends are pregnant right now. It brings tears to my eyes to think that the women helping them with their journey would be considered harmful. The hospital is always there as a backup, we need traditional Midwifery.

Mahalo,

Natalie Soul

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:50:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please preserve traditional midwifery and make it available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:08:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Spears	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Andrew Spears and I am writing as a resident of Hawai'i, father of 3 - two of which were home births. Our experience with the whole process was incredible, supportive, safe, and empowering. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and readily available to ALL Hawai'i families. To take this away is to take the choice - that should be a right - away from families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:45:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Hehn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write this testimony today strongly supporting HB955. All available healthcare options should be available to families during pregnancy and childbirth including traditional midwifery. Early in 2020 my wife told me we were pregnant with our first baby and we could not be more excited. Like most in our position we asked for recommendations of the best OB doctors to reach out to for helping us thru the process of our first pregnancy and delivery of our baby girl. We started down that road for our first 4 appointments with a very well respected Kapiolani Medical Center physician, but thru the process of our appointments we felt more and more like we were just taking a number and being treated like protocol robots. Each appointment we would check in and wait for 45 minutes only to be seen for 5 minutes by the busy physician who would assign us next steps we needed to follow rather than giving us the options available to us at each step of the process. With each appointment we wanted better and more personalized care where we could be educated on the birthing process, our rights and options and parents during pregnancy, and to learn more about what to expect and build confidence and peace and the pregnancy progressed. So we began to research more and reach out to others who had felt the same way. It was thru this process that we explored all of our options including leaving the state for well respected birthing centers since options are already limited in Hawaii. However we ended up building a strong relationship and comfort level with a local midwife who has been practicing in Hawaii for nearly 2 decades and delivered hundreds and hundreds of babies successfully. We had the most amazing prenatal care where our midwife and doula would spend hrs with us, evening coming to our home and bringing us home to make is as easy as possible for my expectant wife and I as the due date closer. Even bringing us home baked bread and goodies at every appointment. We felt listened to and fully educated on the process, our options, what to expect etc. so much so that my wife became so relaxed and confident in herself that she for the first time in her life was not just considering a home birth, but had decided that we were going to have our baby girl at home. This was not something either of us had really wanted until going thru the process, and learning what was important to us, and finding such better and more personalized care with a midwife and doula team then we found with the highest recommended obgyn doctors. My wife went into labor at 10pm on Oct 7, and our Midwife monitored us all the way until she came to our home at 4am and our baby girl was quickly and safely and naturally delivered at 634am Oct 8. Our baby was perfectly healthy, my wife was perfectly healthy and we all were in the comfort of our home being monitored by our birthing team, sleeping in our own bed, eating from our own fridge. Not haveing to exit the hospital after 1 night and driving home when my wife needed to rest, recover and bond with our baby latching for the first time. Being at home was incredible and offered the most calm and relaxing environment to spend as our new family of 3. The amazing care continued after our

birth as our Midwife and Doulla continued to come to our house provide post partum care for the next 2 weeks. Again, we didnt have to leave the comfort of our house or expose our newborn or recovering Momma to anything unnecessary, and they took care of everything evening bringing us dinner so we didnt have to cook. This level of personalized care is what health care should be like for everyone. This is the health care that every Hawaii family deserves the choice to access. I write you as a father with another baby now on the way that my wife and I want to have cared for and delivered by our same Midwife who will now not be allowed to help us. I ask that you not take away this option from my family or the many other Hawaiian families that want care of traditional midwives. I strongly support HB955 and ask for your gracious support of this bill as well.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:53:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassidy Bell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery is a long standing tradition of Native Hawaiians and must be preserved for cultural, historical, and health reasons. Taking away midwifery is not only yet another rape to the Native Hawaiian people but it will lead to health complications for many Natives. I strongly support HB955 and the need to maintain the legalization of Hawaiian midwives. They are a necessity for all Hawaiian families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:46:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Kubena	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I Strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:12:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelcie Rapoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kelcie Rapoza and I have benefited from giving birth at home with a midwife. I can sit here and explain how empowering it is but you can't grasp how powerful it is until you are in a room experiencing a birth. By not passing this house bill you are stealing the future of our younger generation. Imagine telling your keiki they aren't able to become a doctor, dentist, teacher, police, firefighter, EMT, nurse, astronaut, dive instructor, yoga instructor etc. because there is a law saying they can't learn or practice in the field they choose. You are stripping them of their potential and work in the community. I support the practice of midwifery. There's an olelo No'eau saying "'a'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi". Knowledge is not taught at one school. Doing work as a midwife is the same as a Western doctor just in a different setting and different approach but in the end they all want a healthy pregnancy, healthy mom and a healthy baby and I support the practice of midwifery.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:53:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Selena Noelani Fuller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:15:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Ekstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available legally for all residents of Hawaii. I strongly support HB955 as a mother, doula, childbirth educator, prenatal psychology educator, midwife's assistant, and traditional birth attendant. I have had 3 homebirths myself in Hawaii and strongly believe it's a woman's choice where she births and who she has attend!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:42:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:54:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:29:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christiane Pfisterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Please let this be our choice of how we want to birth!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:41:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:41:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aleysia Kaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support bill HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:54:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

Mahalo

Uala

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:37:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Suafoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Brittany Suafoa. I have lived in Hawai'i for my entire 35 years of life. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Brittany Suafoa

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:39:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955 because I believe all families should have the freedom of choice when it comes to childbirth. I believe midwives offer an important service to our community by giving women the option to have a natural at home birth. Midwives offer some of the highest levels of knowledge for the process of natural birth and that's something that should not be taken away.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:37:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Uaisele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Tara Uaisele. I have lived in Hawai'i my entire life. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Mahalo nui for reading my testimony,

Tara Uaisele

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:55:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly D. Lepold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery in Hawai'i needs to be preserved and to be available to all Hawai'ian families.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

Please, DO THE RIGHT THING!!!!

Pass HB955

Mahalo,

kimberly Lepold

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:47:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Biel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 955 because I have personally received life changing and life saving care at my births from Traditional Midwives. I did not feel safe or comfortable with any other medical options given to me for my birth. Our midwife was way more knowledgeable than any other doctor we had ever met with. It is a practice and a legal choice that needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:32:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:55:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. We were able to have both of our sons at home. All of our pre-birth appointments, via an MD were also at home. We did not have to be in a hospital or clinic setting, exposed to whatever illness that may have been going around at the time.

Both births were incredibly pleasant and easy and were were back in bed resting, in our own home, after the births.

Traditional Midwifery must be preserved.

Sincerely,

Erik Eck

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:46:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christy Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955. I am thankful to be a mother and to have been able to birth my child in the safety of my own home in my strength and in my authority while being surrounded by people I chose and trusted. Birth is sacred and mothers and families should have the option of where and how they choose to bring life forward. My personal experience after having my first 2 in the hospital was the catalyst for choosing homebirth for my third child. I felt everything, I was surrounded by people I loved, I felt loved and supported, I trusted the process, I trusted God, I trusted my body and I trusted my baby. Peace begins at birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:47:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HIRAM K KELIIKOA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HOME BIRTH PLEASE PASS HB955.

MAHALO

H2K

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:56:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Xochimitl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery must be sustained for the community, present and future. It is Hawaiian heritage and living history.

I **strongly**, **insistently** support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:57:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eva Grabowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting the Bill, I Testify

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:21:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:56:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a women i 100% support this bill!

It is a mothers right to deliver her baby how she wants, if its at home with a midwife or in a hospital.

It is natures way and ancient ways of giving birth. You cant take that away. Please pass this bill!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:21:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Mulé	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am fully in support of keeping the traditional midwives and birthkeepers in Hawaii as we need to preserve this model / community. Attending a birth in this way is not something that needs to be watched over from the government. When there is a need for an emergency the persons involved shall be able to decide when that is necessary.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:46:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jena Mercer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All families have a right to choose who attends them at birth, therefore I support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:56:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealoha Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a mom of 4, I believe we have a right to choose how our children are brought into this world and by whom.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:45:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Calio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support allowing midwifery to continue in Hawaii by those who are traditionally trained, and non-certified. I believe that the best midwives are those who have learned through family and passed down generationally- not just something you can learn from a book or classes. The wisdom, knowledge, stories, and experience of these birth workers are essential in creating a positive, empowering birth experience.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:56:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Caiazzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This Bill should have FULL SUPPORT in protecting a Mothers wishes of her own body, her birthing process for her child, the most sacred moment of bringing life into this world. I am not a Mother, yet, and my birthing process and my desire has always been to have a midwife. I have been present and been there for four births at the hospitals. I will tell you the amount of stress, the birthing plan, the people, the machines, the noises, the nurses and in and out is not peaceful. It was impartitive to be present to help keep the Morher calm and relaxed despite the chaos. Doulas/midwives are that key element to making things calm and peaceful in helping bring life into this world. please don't take away my dream for my birthing process, and support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:19:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anelisa H	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Native Hawaiian culture ESPECIALLY regarding birth should be preserved and supported.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:57:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiara Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:57:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Somera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Birthers should have the autonomy of choosing midwives to bring their babies into the world. I am writing in support of this bill HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:49:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important and common sense measure and support midwives in Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:59:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Fickling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery should be preserved and available to all Hawaii families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:18:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lexi Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB955.

Traditional midwifery is an important aspect of our community. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. If you are in a position of power under the impression that you should do what is right for Hawai'i, you will pass this bill. Traditional midwifery should be a choice that every family makes on their own rather than being forced to choose the one medical route of going to the hospital to birth. If you support Hawai'i, and the culture of Hawai'i, as well as the Hawaiian people, you will pass this bill because traditional midwifery is the way Hawaiians safely birthed their children for centuries. Every woman should be allowed to choose where she wants to have her child, whether that be at home or in the hospital, but you should not take away her choice for herself or her child. To do so is to claim you and your feelings are superior to someone else's belief system and way of living. Unless you are a mother who has carried a child, you do not truly understand how important this choice is to a family. I implore you to see the importance of traditional midwifery in Hawai'i being available to all.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:02:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maialisa Talbott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. I was born at home in Hilo successfully and my mother had a wonderful and fulfilling birth. It should always be an option for a mother to give birth with a midwife. Midwives have been safely delivering babies for thousands of years. Please do not take this choice away from us.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:16:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ina T	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all of Hawaii families and state. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:04:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marialaina Boneillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives should absolutely stay apart of Hawai'i and play an integral part on the state's culture and wellbeing. There is a long history of attempts to erase and prohibited Native Hawaiians from traditional practices, and it must be ended. Traditional midwives are not any less skilled than those of other ways of certification and should continue to be an option for ALL in Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:18:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT HB 955. We need to keep our birthing traditions protected and preserved for our people (and others who choose this route).

Mahalo for such an important bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Malia Marquez

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:04:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Khyrsten Hrubovcak-Mule	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Hawaii in PRESERVING and KEEPING the traditional BIRTHWORKERS, birthkeeper, traditional midwives LEGAL. We need to preserve this model and community upbringing.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:10:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani Kornfeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Access to traditional midwives, home births and the option to choose is integral and imperative for the overall community health of families, mothers and babies. This access should be available to all Hawai'i families. Not only does traditional midwifery reflect the host Hawaiian culture's roots and practices but it allows more safe options outside of only an OBGYN. I birthed at home with two midwives and I will forever be grateful for the safe environment they provided so that my son could be born into this world. Again, I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:11:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Writz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“ I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:13:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Bill HB955. Traditional midwives must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:15:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jazlyn Bulatao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved as to many of our traditions they are attempting to take away from us. Traditional midwives need to be available to all Hawaii families as it is our right to have options and freedom of choice. I support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:14:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I believe as women it should be a choice. What we choose to do with our bodies shouldn't be up to anyone besides that individual. Before we had doctors and all that we have now, how did people give birth decades ago. By themselves, not in a clean setting and somehow they figured it out. God created womens bodies so unique that we are to be able to hold a baby and even to birth it. Midwives speak to women in a way nurses and doctors don't understand. This is our God

given right and with the proper knowledge and tools we shall continue to support our midwives!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:14:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:14:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:16:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keonya Dabney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved, protected, and available to support all indigenous and Hawaiian families, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:45:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jillian Corn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Home births are something that give us freedom as woman to choose how we want to bring out children into this works. Midwives are certified and taking this away from us is taking away our rights

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:16:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keonya Dabney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved, protected, and available to support all indigenous and Hawaiian families, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:16:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilo Aiona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:34:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eve Sawyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. Once again, I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:16:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiana lolotai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother who had her first homebirth almost three years ago and about to have my second one any day now. I can't imagine this blessing of an opportunity not being available to me. My husband and I benefited so much from it. Our experience was so beautiful which then brought us closer together as well as a strong bond with our healthy baby boy. Please let us keep our freedom to choose what's best for me and my family.

What is my body my choice? As the mother we should be able to have that choice to choose where and how we birth our children. That's why I Support this bill.

There is also a lot of studies showing how mortality rate in hospitals are on the rise. Let's let woman keep their rights, their freedom, their choice of how they birth. It has been happening for many many years. Why now prevent woman from doing so.

I support HB955, thank you!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:35:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Mendoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Tyler Kainoa Mendoza and I am a native hawaiian born and raised here on the island of Maui. I am here writing in support of bill HB955. It is my hopes that whom it may concern, see how important this subject of cultural midwifery is here in the state of Hawaii. With the ability to perpetuate our culture in many other different ways including hula, working in the lo'i or loko i'a, or just simply speaking our native language, I believe that cultural midwifery should be put in that same classification as those mentioned above and normalized.

Having the access to cultural midwifery care greatly improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I can say first hand that throughout the whole process from conception to birth, that I felt completely safe in the hands of our midwife who's knowledge has been passed down through generations. It is so important in many different ways for our community leaders to enable our people to perpetuate our culture in this type of way.

I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:09:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Cadiz Langit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support traditional midwives. I chose to give birth at home because I felt safer with a midwife I trusted at home, rather than in the hospital where there is the possibility of many unnecessary interventions that result in problematic situations. I gave birth to my daughter at home with an amazing midwife. She has been attending homebirths for 20 years and her support during my pregnancy and birth and post partum is outstanding. She went over the different scenarios with homebirth and the course of action we would take should we need medical help so we know what to expect. My birth was a perfectly normal birth and I was able to just stay home and rest with my baby afterwards. My midwife did several home visits to check on me and baby. This kind of care is truly special and I know I wouldn't have this experience if I didn't have the choice to homebirth and was made to give birth in a hospital. Several friends of mine have shared their unpleasant experiences with birthing in hospitals and I believe us, mothers, have the right to choose where, with who, and how we birth. It's our body birthing our baby. We should have the final say. Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:17:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a wahine and as a mother I fully support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:41:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Abilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The option to birth at home with a midwife should ALWAYS be a legal option for citizens. We strongly support HB 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:17:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Home births are just as safe as hospital births for normal healthy pregnancies. Parents should have the right to choose where to deliver, including in the home. Please continue allowing midwives who offer the best patient-centered care and actual natural birthing experience to practice in Hawaii. Mahalo - pregnant 31 year old born and raised on Oahu

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:00:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas LaTona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii residents. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:20:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashly Gordon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Traditional midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:53:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale Kanaeholo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **support** HB955. As Hawai'i struggles to hire and retain licensed nurses, midwives play a critical role in successful deliveries and will ease the pressure on hospitals.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:09:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawaipunahele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to making traditional midwifery illegal. As a first time mom, I went for it & got a midwife instead of going to a hospital. I never felt soo loved & cared for the entire time. I was able to have my baby right in my own home safely. I felt soo empowered, I don't plan on having my future babies any other way. please reconsider.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:20:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leianaikaroselaniomaui SingKeliikoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Home BIRTH, my 3 GRANDDAUGHTERS were safely born at home. To my daughter in love and my son. All of them are healthy and well. Thank you to their mid wife and their HOMEBIRTH HUI.

our CHOICE ❤️ I 100% support HOME BIRTH.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:00:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatyana Bass	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep midwives as an option for families choosing home birth. There is so much research that states this is a viable and safe option for women giving birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:20:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gayle Campbell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:59:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. That women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government should not be dictating women's birth choices. Exactly

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:08:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelina Eldredge Handley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel the importance that everyone is allowed an option of a home birth with who she feels fit to be on her birthing team.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:19:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Tuttle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. Period.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:26:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brendan donnelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:19:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darrilyn Felicilda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Darrilyn Alvarez, a homebirth mother of 3 beautiful and healthy keiki (children) I was fortunate and blessed to have the support of 2 amazing traditional midwives. I strongly support HB955 to protect traditional midwives and a woman's right over her bodily autonomy, and birth sovereignty.

Mahalo,

Darri Alvarez

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:27:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MK Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery and/or natural home birth practices needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:06:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICHAEL POSTEL	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved for all Hawaii families. There is no sound scientific critique of traditional midwife practices. Opposing HB955 is strictly an assault on our individual freedom to choose how we participate in the miracle of birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:22:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Kirkpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955 !!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:27:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cymone Sammons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the use of midwives! They are an invaluable resource to birthing people.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:01:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keora Cummings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly in favor of this bill. I want to be able to have the option to have a traditional midwife at my birth, and I want all women to be able to choose. I support this bill because it preserves traditional midwifery. Traditional midwifery has been around longer than the medical system, and deserves to stay alive!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:29:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Robles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe women have the right to choose their birthing team, that includes traditional midwives.
I am in support of HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:06:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Empress Asuega	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our ancestors practiced without any licenses & we should have the same option. As long as the basic knowledge and wisdom is obtained and the patient feels comfortable then this Spiritual/Culture practice should be left alone without requiring licensing. I strongly support this bill! Mahalo!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:20:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shami abdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was brought into this world by a wonderful midwife in our home in Niulii, hawaii. If I ever have a child I would like the same option for myself that my mother had

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:29:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shade Ashani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is critical for women of color. Please support traditional midwifery and doulas who make safe spaces for mothers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:04:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nicole iglesias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Myself and my family **STRONGLY** support HB955 and the right for women to choose where/how we birth our children using traditional midwifery. Having the last of our 3 children at home and the first two in hospital settings, I can tell you there is a stark difference in the comfort and ease at which I was able to give birth. Both hospital experiences were negative for me and I will never birth in one again! Please do not take this sacred way of birth away from myself and other women!

mahalo, Nicole iglesias

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:29:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya R Kiyak-Boughton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As some one who had a home birth with a midwife in Hawaii when I was 19 in 1986, I strongly support this bill to keep midwifery as a reproductive choice . This is a sacred right of women since time began and should be honored as such.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:55:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Flordeliz Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available as an option to all Hawaii families

I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:12:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paiden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and I STRONGLY support this bill. It is a birth right for women to be able to make their own sovereign decisions with their bodies and that include the right to a natural birth supported by traditional midwifery here in Hawaii

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:49:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Tyrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of 2 who has used both hospital and traditional midwifery, I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!** We must preserve the right for women and families to choose how they want to give birth, and who they want on their birth team.

-Mahalo for your time,

Marisa Tyrell

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:31:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merranda ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955.

Did you know the US is number one for mother mortality rates compared to any other developed country (Common Wealth Fund, 2022)? It is most likely because hospitals like to get mothers in and out as fast as possible. In a hospital, Women can't allow themselves to labor naturally. Did you know sometimes when a woman's water breaks, her contractions can sometimes stop? That's actually OKAY and means the mother can rest to gear up for the final marathon. In a hospital if that happens, they push pitocin or other medicine to try to get contractions going again. *All the interventions hospitals do, cause the need for c-sections or other trauma or loss of life.*

I was safe and loved in the comfort of my home. I safely delivered a healthy 9 1/2 lb baby boy, free of intervention and business tactic that hospitals push on mothers.

The choice to choose to safely deliver a child in the comfort of our home with trained midwives should it be taken from us and made illegal. I had the BEST recovery with my youngest after my home birth. It was the most amazing experience I've ever had, and it is what I call one of my greatest accomplishments. After having a very traumatic birth with my first, I did not want to deliver at a hospital where I still have PTSD just going there 9 years later.

When I had my home birth I continued my appts with a doctor until delivery and delivered at home. My midwife had never lost a life in her who 20+ years of practicing. I don't know if any midwife on Oahu who has lost an infant or mother. The point is, we have a choice, the choice is ours to educate ourselves and deliver our children into the world how we see fit.

Common Wealth Fund. December 2022. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2022/us-maternal-mortality-crisis-continues-worsen-international-comparison#:~:text=New%20international%20data%20show%20the,moments%20other%20high%20income%20countries>.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:00:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
danielle ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices. A woman has every right to choose what is best for her body.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:10:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiara Camacho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955 and the cultural practices of Hawai'i families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:34:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Gellert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to ALL Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:00:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A midwife is a health professional trained to support and care for women during pregnancy, labor, and birth. They help you to stay healthy during pregnancy and, if no complications arise, to give birth with little intervention. Midwives also care for you and your baby in the first few weeks following the birth.

It should be the mother's choice how, where, and who she wants to assist in one of the most fragile and sacred moments of her life. Not all persons are comfortable with the idea of being taken care of in the hospital or being medicated for labor and sometimes they actually care given isn't as sufficient. Midwives are trained to ensure stages from pregnancy and beyond birth, both the mother and the child are cared for and this can all be done in one of the safest most intimate places, the home.

This new bill takes away the moments and memories of so many mothers and mothers-to-be and so much more.
give them the choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:25:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passing the HB955 for the educational route to CPM Certification. I also support the right for families in hawaii to permanently protect the right to acquire cultural appropriate care by choosing "The Traditional Birth Attendant"

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:39:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Small	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keeping traditional practices is very important to the community. Having a midwife at a home birth is essential to our freedom to choose how, when, where and with whom to give birth.

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:37:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Winchester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:55:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alex Kazlauskys	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:28:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kathryn Taketa-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am not sure if my last testimony was submitted so I am resubmitting this. I chose to do two homebirths myself, and valued my ability to be able to choose my homebirth practitioners. I believe that other women should be afforded the same privilege of choosing a birth attendant who can assist them that is in alignment with their cultural values and practices. These types of birth attendants can assist in a home or hospital birth setting, and can make a big positive difference in the experience of a woman giving birth. I just believe that women should be informed about the birth practitioner's level of education and training. If cultural values are to be honored, this is important to support HB 955.

Mahalo nui loa,

Dr. Kathryn Taketa-Wong, N.D.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:39:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maxwell Guttman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery is not only a significant cultural practice for Native Hawai'ians, but it is a lifesaving one. Native women in the US are 2-3x more likely to die from pregnancy-related issues than white women, but research has shown that, with traditional care, they and their babies are much more likely to survive. Traditional midwifery must remain protected.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:18:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicolle villari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strong support access and the preservation of the tradition of midwifery to all Hawaiian families. That it would be to great disservice to make this illegal to the health and well being of our women

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:19:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jyoti Mau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB955. A local traditional midwife protected my life and my child's. I know firsthand the invaluable impact traditional midwives have on a family, and I've learned to see the greater contribution they make to uphold a thriving and contemporary society. Traditional midwifery needs to be protected and preserved, modern traditional birth attendants need to be able to continue serving the families of Hawaii. We as kama'aina have a right to this knowledge and skill set. Please don't take away this option from families who know it is the right and best choice for them. To our legislators, please support HB955! Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:59:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonny Sing-Kahalehau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955 Home birth

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:41:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
a mama to be	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

as a woman with a sovereign rights bestowed upon me by God, i have the RIGHT to choose how i want to give birth... whether it be at a hospital with western medicine or at home with traditional midwives. NO GOVERNMENT is allowed to tell me what i CAN and CANNOT do with my body. STOP trying to control everything and telling women how they should be birthing when it is an INDIVIDUAL and PERSONAL choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:13:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelle Liana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please I strongly SUPPORT traditional midwifery and it should be preserved and available to Hawaii families! Please!!! Strongly SUPPORT!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:41:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nubia Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nubia Brown. I've had the pleasure of having a tradition midwife for my first born son Noah. I've had nothing but a great experience with my midwife. I believe traditional midwife's offer a different t type of care and experience than medical midwife's and so I believe they should be able to continue to practice. I believe that families should have the right to choose who they want to bring their babies into the world. Giving birth is sacred and many women such as myself feel more comfortable giving birth at home. Since it is a women's body I believe we should have to right to choose and not have that right taken from us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:57:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jaerick medeiros-garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB955/SB1047

i believe that it is our right to practice our cultural customary and traditional practices, chapter 12 article 7.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:41:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer S Campbell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:54:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jule Doerffel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let woman choose who they want to attend their birth. The Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:42:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Vloria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I fully support this bill, HB955. We need to keep all possible midwifery alive in Hawaii to give every woman the birth she wants and deserves. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I have birthed at home with all 4 of my children and it was exactly what and how i needed to birth my babies. Please keep traditional midwifery available for those that would also like to birth their babies at home with a traditional midwife.

Again, I fully support this bill.

Thank you!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:42:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Silvia Palleroni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery in Hawaii must be preserved for the safety of mothers and infants. Having a midwife greatly decreases chances of infant mortality and keeps mother safe through pregnancy and delivery. It also reduces the costs for a lot of mothers who can't afford the bills from hospital care. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:44:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezekiel Pulou-Falaniko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families, **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.**

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:54:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kourtney Norman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A midwife is a health professional trained to support and care for women during pregnancy, labor, and birth. They help you to stay healthy during pregnancy and, if no complications arise, to give birth with little intervention. Midwives also care for you and your baby in the first few weeks following the birth.

It should be the mother's choice how, where, and who she wants to assist in one of the most fragile and sacred moments of her life. Not all persons are comfortable with the idea of being taken care of in the hospital or being medicated for labor and sometimes they actually care given isn't as sufficient. Midwives are trained to ensure stages from pregnancy and beyond birth, both the mother and the child are cared for and this can all be done in one of the safest most intimate places, the home.

This new bill takes away the moments and memories of so many mothers and mothers-to-be and so much more.
give them the choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:44:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rylan Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a father of 2 who has used both hospital and traditional midwifery, I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955! We must preserve the right for women and families to choose how they want to give birth, and who they want on their birth team.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:52:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Botello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:57:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Feeney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha-

This testimony comes from a mama who experienced first a hospital birth which ended in a cesarian, and with her second was denied the option to birth naturally (vbac) in our local hospitals. Without the support of my licensed midwife, I would have never been allowed the opportunity to birth naturally in my home town of Waimea. Because of the beautiful support I Recieved I birthed my second child naturally via vaginal birth, which otherwise I would have not experienced. An opportunity every mama should have the choice of.

Not only do I support our midwifery licensing here in Hawaii for this reason, but for the professional, caring, support they give Empowering women across the state, giving them the tools to and space to birth in a safe environment that fits their personal experience with wants and needs, In turn supporting the mental state of these Mamas. Our local midwife also offer regular postnatal home visit care- which is so necessary for so many moms struggling n silence with postpartdepression.

please don't take this option away from our Mamas. And jobs away from these beautiful care takers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:46:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unsafe. I have been supported by a licensed midwife and felt safe in her care because of licensing. It keeps everyone safe.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:48:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Delmay Yoshizumi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attending to their birthing experiences. Go enjoy has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:47:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Kahele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!! Traditionaly midwifery must be preserved for the families of Hawaii. I want my future wife, my future daughtert and my sisters o have the FREEDOM to CHOOSE. It's their RIGHT!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:48:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kachina Aimee Woolger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My Name is Kachina Woolger I live in Kapaa Kauai.

I personally had a home birth my self and Traditional Midwifery in homes NEEDS to be preserved and available to all HAWAII families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE HB955 Bill.

Sincerely

Kachina Woolger

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:03:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kalae Lopes, and I care deeply about preserving Hawaiian culture. Proper education and certifications are vital when there is no prior education and experience; however, women who have been birthing for thousands of years, and the woman who does it as part of traditional Hawaiian medicine, should continue to be able to operate the way that they have been all this time. Standardizing the requirements makes it easier to control but also removes the cultural aspect.

I want to thank the committee for hearing this bill and my testimony today.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kalae Lopes

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:44:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerald Gates	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I believe in free will and as a person who strongly respects their ancestors & culture. Natural Birth has been apart of our culture & spiritual journey and has worked with proper knowledge & wisdom. This bill goes against our spiritual rights and freedom to practice our culture. I am a traumatized by our medical system and having a midwife is the only alternative to feeling safe. Dont be rude and leave them alone!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:50:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorien huddleston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and the state again. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Please give with women and families the freedom to have safe, natural births with the support that they need and choose. Women deserve the right to their freedom of choice. If you were born, you had a mother. If you had a mother, you should know to respect her and her choices as she brought you into this world and gave you life. Pregnancy and giving birth is already hard enough. Natural midwifery is important to many women and necessary for their needs.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:51:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nichole Ordonez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:41:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Saradha Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Please don't take away women's choice on how and whom they'd like to birth with.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:51:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lili Rachele Solomon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwives are vital for the health and wellbeing of our families!.I would have had severe complications if not for the midwives who assisted me at my births. I speak on behalf of all women and families who wish to have access to this ancient practice. We all strongly support this!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:25:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terra Haehn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not all doctors and midwives are made equal. My fabulous midwife comes with a different background and education and has been finally able to help me with my cycle issues and pain that no one else had any ideas but to throw painkillers at. My midwife brings Hawaii education and community outreach that we will not have if this bill goes through. Please DO NOT take away the blessing we have of an educated, loving, support who is willing to take the time and figure out how to help people!!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:53:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Woolley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955. Let the families make the decision about how they want to birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:59:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Herman Langit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support traditional midwives. I was there during the whole process of my wife's pregnancy & birth with our chosen midwife and by building a relationship with her and her assistant, I trusted her with my wife & baby. Our midwife was excellent in caring for my wife during her pregnancy, during the day she gave birth and post partum. I'm grateful we had the choice to do a homebirth with a trusted midwife. My wife felt safe and secure to give birth to our baby, which is what any mother needs in order to birth her baby. If my wife felt safer to give birth with a traditional midwife at home, then it should be her choice. She is the one carrying our baby and I trust that she instinctively knows what's best for her and our baby. I am forever grateful to our midwife and her assistant. The experience we had was amazing and the care from our midwife was truly outstanding. Us, parents, should have the choice of where and how to birth our baby. No one cares for our baby more than us.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:56:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serah Mills	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. As a person born at home with a midwife, I feel that is the greatest gift to mother, child, and family. Please, Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved in Hawai'i. Thank you!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:26:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea Minton	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear House Committee on Health and Homelessness,

I oppose HB955, Relating to HRS457J, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

I recognize it can be difficult to sort through the many messages coming to this committee regarding this bill. It can be confusing when there is charged language being used about making cultural and traditional midwives illegal. This sounds awful. And when we start to ask questions, we can recognize that the truth is there are a handful of birth attendants who have been trained by licensed midwives and licensed naturopaths. The birth attendants have not completed the minimum education and training to be licensed as a midwife. That is all. They are welcome to choose to do so, or not. And so, in July 2023 they will not be made illegal, as this law does not make humans illegal. Their choice to practice as primary healthcare providers without a license will no longer be condoned by the State of Hawai'i as the 4 year grace period from 2019-2023 will have closed. Currently the State of Hawai'i allows for anyone to practice midwifery without a license. You, committee members, are being asked to support this indefinitely through HB955, and that is why I urge you to vote NO on HB955. I encourage you to ask yourselves: How would supporting this bill demonstrate that this House Committee on Health and Homelessness protects the health of Hawai'i?

A midwifery education is obtainable in Hawaii. Since July 2020, when licenses were first issued, a total of 28 midwives gained licensure in Hawaii.

A question you could ask yourself: knowing for 4 years that licensure would be required, how have the birth attendants planned for this due date? They currently care for clients as primary healthcare providers during families pregnancies - all of which have a due date. And there are standardized care practices that are expected to ensure a minimum level of care has been provided for pregnant families. We are approaching the due date of June 30, 2023 for licensure, and my observation of the management of this time is that it has not been well planned and cared for, and we are being asked to assist in what has been vocalized as a crises, that never needed to be a crises if it had been appropriately managed.

Would we find it competent for primary healthcare providers to know a mother is due to give birth, and their management plan is keep the baby in forever? This is harmful, eventually fatal, to both the mother and baby and we know this. When we are this close to the due date thawe have known sicne the beginning, we don't change it - that is evidence based maternity care.

This current perceived crises is due to people who have actively chosen not to obtain minimal education in midwifery. I respect that a handful of people do not wish to enroll in midwifery education. That is their choice. And that doesn't make it a public health crises in Hawaii.

I encourage you to ask yourself: do I have a definition of a birth attendant that actually demonstrates they are practicing differently than a licensed midwife? So far your definition is that they don't carry medication, and their education is not reviewed by the State. That is all. Does that equate to safety for our birthing families when one of the identified causes of maternal mortality and morbidity is a delay in care? How does making unregulated primary healthcare providers a standard in Hawaii ensure that families get appropriate on time care? How does removing a providers access to medication in exchange for not ensuring they are minimally educated and competent equate to a family getting timely appropriate care?

I will close with bringing your attention to an error that is listed on page 2 of HB955, line 3. It states that HRS457-J was originally drafted based on the Oregon law. This is erroneous. If you look at the original draft of HRS457-J there was no exemption for birth attendants. The legislature added that in during the 2019 session. The reason that HRS457-J was not originally drafted with an exemption to practice without a license is because that is against our state licensing laws and does not ensure consumer safety. Oregon families who have poor outcomes, such as the death of their baby, while under the care of an unlicensed midwife have no recourse. And they don't truly understand this, because people generally don't believe anything other than routine normal will happen to them. Please allow me to quote from a news article from 2011:

"Among the 40 states that [allow midwifery](#), the laws regulating them vary greatly. Oregon and Utah, however, are the only states that have optional licensure of midwives."

"I didn't go into this thinking, 'Oh, there's going to be a chance that my son's going to die,'" [A mother who hired an unlicensed birth attendant] said.

"Because unlicensed midwives are not regulated by the state, [the mother] cannot file a complaint against this midwife."

I want to be clear that I do not support the continuation of voluntary licensure in Hawaii, as leaving the exemption open indefinitely negates mandatory licensure and allows for anyone to practice without a license. This does not align with our state laws on licensure, and it is not pono for our community.

I urge you to vote NO on HB955.

Mahalo,

Le'a Minton, MSN, APRN, CNM, IBCLC, IMH-E

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:57:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roarke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was given the best care possible for my family from my mid wife. Higher iq than average was the result from the midwife.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:39:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Pangilinan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill passing as I myself, had a wonderful home-birth experience with a midwife in the safety of my home. During my birth I felt cared for, the comforts of my family around me and the knowledge that I was within a very close proximity to a hospital if I decided to change my mind at any point. I relished in having my own food, bed and familiar comforts right at hand. I gave birth and didn't need to wait to be discharged or have to pack up and travel during a time of healing. I believe all women should have the choice to birth where they choose. Thank you for your time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:57:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Wloka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. It is important for families and mothers of the island to feel completely safe in their birth experiences and care providers. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:58:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Sinenci	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT BILL HB955. We need our traditional midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:37:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Bello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women should have the right to give birth the way they want as they have rights to their own bodies.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:59:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Ambriz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

My name is Cindy Ambriz and I am strongly in support of Sovereigns Law. I believe all women deserve the right to choose how and where to give birth. You cannot take this God given right from us. Do not take our choice away. Without having access to a midwife and doula, my birthing story with both my son's would have been far from empowering. My experience giving birth in a hospital to my daughter 13 years ago was the most traumatic and stressful experience and I wish that on no one. Please think of the bigger picture. If you empower women you empower the keiki they will raise.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:28:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Kisitu	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, and I wish to testify via zoom

Dr. Alexandra Kisitu

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:00:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayelynn Mafua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

My first birth was at a hospital and my second birth was at home with two traditional midwives. Between my two experiences my homebirth felt more safe, more support, more peace, and was so empowering. My traditional midwives had much more knowledge shared with me than the nurses and doctors I've encountered with. I actually felt unsafe and unsupported by my own doctors which is why I decided to have a homebirth with two amazing traditional midwives and have no regrets. I desire to have more children at home with my traditional midwives and don't understand why the state would want to take this away from me and many other woman. Please consider women like me who simply want to be supported by their traditional midwives during their pregnancy and at their birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:27:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronique Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again that you **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955**.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:00:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Demesillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all families in Hawaii. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:01:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Ambriz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

My name is Cindy Ambriz and I am strongly in support of Sovereigns Law. I believe all women deserve the right to choose how and where to give birth. You cannot take this God given right from us. Do not take our choice away. Without having access to a midwife and doula, my birthing story with both my son's would have been far from empowering. My experience giving birth in a hospital to my daughter 13 years ago was the most traumatic and stressful experience and I wish that on no one. Please think of the bigger picture. If you empower women you empower the keiki they will raise.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:29:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyenne Pico	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I was born and raised on Maui. I support SB1047 and HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

As a young kanaka maoli who utilized traditionally-trained birth attendants throughout my pregnancy and birthing experience, I have never felt more safe, comfortable, and happy. My experience made me feel that should I decide to have more children, having access to a traditionally-trained birth attendant is my strong personal preference. It scares me to think about what it would be like without access to a birth attendant. Birth sovereignty is a human right. I fully support the perpetuation of birthing traditions and practices that have been known to our cultures for thousands of years. Its time this be normalized again.

Access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all Birthing people and their children. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023 the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing Midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of Midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please support the Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Support maintaining active pathways for the perpetuation of traditional practices of health and healing in our communities.

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:34:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elma valerio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:01:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annette Daryoush	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:03:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leinani Loa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha My Name is Leinani Navas-Loa, I am born and raised in the Ahupua'a of Honaunau . My Ohana and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Traditional Midwifery has been a part of our Hawaiian Culture for thousands of years. I have 4 children my 2 oldest children were born in the hospital and delivered by c-section, my last 2 children were born naturally at home and 2 years ago had a beautiful granddaughter at our home. If I had known that I could have all 4 at home, I would have. It is our choice as human beings and our right to be able to make these decisions for our own bodies. Having 2 Home births and being educated over the last 18 years I have learned that I have a choice to continue our cultural practices for generations to come. Mahalo for your time.

Leinani Loa

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:29:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanelle Torres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:03:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
charlsie miguel-cavaco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Hawaii traditional midwives needs to be preserved and available Hawaii families.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Aloha Chair Belatti and Members of the Health Committee,

My name is Selena M. Green, CPM, LM. I strongly support HB955.

I am a Certified Professional Midwife and Hawaii Licensed Midwife and an African American woman, who also incorporates into my private midwifery practice many cultural and traditional practices that I learned and witnessed in my training over 29 years ago. I am a current board member and elder of the Hawaii Home Birth Collective and I was also a member on the Hawaii Home Birth Task Force.

I have been a NARM preceptor for students in MEAC accredited schools and for students in the PEP program for over 16 years. I have had the opportunity to witness students and their learning styles and have found over the years that the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) works for many students by making a midwifery practice culturally relevant and accessible. This process works for those who have the desire to support their specific communities.

Please understand the students who go through PEP route to become midwives follow a very rigorous training that can take many years of devotion to this trade. These students must complete the same skills and pass the exact same NARM exam as someone who attended a MEAC accredited school! This process is an accessible way for people in Hawaii to access this training.

The diverse communities of Hawaii want access and choices of various birth attendants because this type of midwifery care has shown that it improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I fully support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

I Support the Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. We must maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Selena M." followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:04:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Flemino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:09:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiinae Tajon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I support bill HB955. I have had two positive home birth experiences with my midwife. It is important for the people of Hawaii to have choice of practitioner and practitioner practices when it comes to reproductive rights. Please support this bill and allow for the continuation of midwifery in Hawaii.

Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:31:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahikilaniwahinemaika'i'opuna Niles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this measure which will ensure pathways and accessibility to traditional birth attendants in Hawai'i. Without this exemption continued, we will not have this option for the future generations.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:11:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Silvia Kulbokas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a birth educator and worker I support this bill. Women need as much help as they can get from midwives to have safe, natural, and gentle births. Women's bodies were meant to give birth and do not need to be controlled by only OBGYNs in hospitals. If this does not pass it will force more women to birth on their own and create an even bigger divide. Aloha

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:31:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aerinne Morisoli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery should be and needs to be preserved for all families in Hawaii. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:15:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merciful Ananda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a licensed physician in Hawaii, and I attend out of hospital births along with traditional midwives and provide prenatal and postpartum care. During Covid we experienced a massive influx of families wanting out of hospital birth. It became obvious that families all over Oahu were willing to birth on their own without assistance if needed. The traditional midwives and CPMs (who are licensed elsewhere but whose license isn't recognized here) that I attend births with have decades of experience and are well trained to provide life-saving measures and to facilitate transport when needed at out of hospital births. Losing the care of these midwives for our Ohana on Oahu will surely increase morbidity and mortality as families will continue to birth out of hospital. There are not nearly enough midwives that provide this service. I vote to strongly support HB955 and you should too. Mahalo!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:16:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Filimaua Baughn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. I believe Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. If not, it is discriminatory towards our right to birth as our ancestors did. Again, I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:31:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anuheha St. Laurent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Anuheha St. Laurent and I support Traditional Midwifery. It NEEDS to be preserved and available to ALL Hawai'i women and families. It is our right to choose when, where, and WHO we want to assist us in birthing our babies. I strongly support HB955. As a woman who has birthed 3 children, once in a hospital with obgyns, once in a hospital with a midwife, and once at home with a midwife I have personally experienced the tremendous benefits of being able to birth at home with a traditional midwife. Comparatively, my experiences birthing with traditional midwife was far more empowering, peaceful, safe, and healthy. My experiences in hospitals with doctors and nurses were traumatic for myself and my children. Birthing in hospitals is a business where many doctors put their needs and profit over the needs of the mother and baby. OBGYNs are trained to push inductions, pump mothers and babies with unnecessary drugs, rush the birthing process, which results in incredibly high C-Section rates especially in comparison to all other countries in the world. Yes, OBGYN's, modern technology, is very important for certain mothers and babies that have existing medical conditions, etc. but those are the few, not the majority. Bottom line, mothers and families deserve to choose where, how and who assists them with birthing their babies.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:19:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mildred	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families which is why I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:30:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
imani p	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Choosing to be under the care of a traditional midwife vs an obgyn was the best decision I made. I don't even want to think about having to go back to seeing my old OB, or any doctor in a hospital setting. The comparison is like night + day. We deserve to have the option to birth in the comfort of our own homes.

A mothers ability to choose where to give birth, what model of care makes her feel safe, and who she want by her side providing that care are absolutely integral to safety, bodily autonomy, happiness, and comfort during birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:20:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jo Youngs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill allowing midwifery in Hawaii. Midwives are vital to helping women's labor at home especially with the shortage of doctors available and peoples personal choice to use a midwife rather than go into a hospital midwifery has been how women have given birth since the dawn of time.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:20:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolina Paulon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is women's rights to choose where to birth, who to attend their birth and how she would like to be cared for in childbirth. It is the right of a culture to be able to pass down such important knowledge such as midwifery and how to care for women during pregnancy and childbirth. Traditional midwifery has been around for so much longer than licensed midwifery, and the PEP process to become a CPM is legit as it is legit to learn through apprenticeship. We need more midwives, not less. We need more choices regarding our sovereign time as women, birthers, creators of life. Not allowing all paths of CPM certification and traditional midwifery is not making birth any safer, instead is making being a birth worker a privileged thing.

I myself have been in a national accredited school for direct entry midwifery and also learning through apprenticeship, I can attest that birth is the teacher and that none of the material I am given at my school will ever supply the expertise that being at childbirth supplies.

Yes to allowing traditional midwives, all paths of CPMs certification and women to make their own choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:29:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan-Nicholas: Luther	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, for the fact that all women have the right to choose about their birth and their body. Having options is the liberty of all free individuals, and home birthing is proven to be a natural and safe practice around the world.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:21:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisa Spring	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

-- Elisa Spring

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:28:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
adaure ezinne dawson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB955

As a midwifery student I studied to become a CPM and chose the PEP process.

The amount of hours I spent training was countless and the numbers of births I attended were near to 100 before I was even eligible to sit for the exam. I was required to demonstrate and sign off on a multitude of skills that I had developed throughout the training. The best part about this training was it was the style of learning suited me best. Much of my training was hands on. This Kinesthetic method of training is valued as one of the main learning styles. Each of us learn in different ways. The four main learning styles include reading/writing, auditory learning, visual learning and kinesthetic learning. This MEAC pathway relies heavily on the reading/writing method of learning. Many individuals will lean towards the PEP style of learning because they have a better stronger grasp of the information that they learn when it is taught in this way. It is important to preserve the PEP pathway and other traditional midwifery pathways because those individuals practicing can demonstrate an expertise in the art of community or home birth. **THEY ARE EXPERTS IN THEIR CRAFT.** The other licensed midwife categories in Hawaii are CNM's who mainly practice in a hospital setting. They are licensed but they are not well versed in the practice of home birth they are not practicing in a community setting because they were not trained to practice this way. In fact their training does not require them to have attended birth out of the hospital setting. The PEP and traditional midwives are trained to know what is normal in a home birth setting. Those of us who choose to sit for the exact same exam as the MEAC trained students demonstrate our grasp of the material we have learned when we pass. This is why it is crucial that we allow licensure for PEP CPM's as well as the MEAC trained CPM's. They are experienced and well versed in home birth. This is important to note that of the 4 learning styles, many cultural and traditional learners thrive from the kinesthetic learning styles. We have to place value on different learning styles and at minimum allow them a pathway to licensure.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:23:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
K aloha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Every woman has the right to choose whomever they want to assist them with childbirth, and however they want to give birth. It is not necessary for the Government to intervene with the decision making of this natural process. Childbirth has been happening since the beginning of time and no one prior to today has been required to be certified by a board.

The fact that a woman's right to choose her birth attendants is an issue is wrong and ridiculous. **anything** pertaining to a woman's body should remain that individual female's choice and *no one else's*.

Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:29:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cali Henderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery is an ancient art form that each practitioner has the right to practice, and their clients have the right to choose unlicensed birthing care.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:27:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
N Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery and traditional birth support are a treasure to be preserved and should be available to all hawaii families and any family that wishes to seek those services, I used midwifery in all 4 of my births, high risk pregnancies within a hospital setting and at home.. It should remain an available choice for all birthing mothers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:24:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pi'ikea Loa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all,

My name is Pi'ikea Loa and I reside on MOku O Keawe where my 'ohana has lived for many generations. Today, I am writing to ask that you support HB955. Midwifery has been a safe and long-standing practice through the years and provides 'ohana with alternatives to modern hospital births. I can personally testify that I have perfectly healthy nieces and nephews that were home-birthing. From the very first midwife visit till after birth, the whole 'ohana has a role and is involved in the process, encouraging a deeper bond than can be experienced while birthing in other environments. Once again, I'd like to ask for your support of HB955. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo,

Pi'ikea Loa

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:26:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maata Tukuafu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved! Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:24:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again.
I STRONGLY support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:29:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serra Piko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Doula, seeing and experiencing first hand how important it is for the birthing mother, her family and her baby to be educated and supported in a traditional way, which focuses on her culture and or love language, I strogly support HB995.

It is even more important in today´s time and society to focus back to our traditional ways, to keep a balance not only within ourselves but also within this World.

Not supporting HB995 could in the worst case lead to more unassisted freebirths, with far more complicated outcomes.

"It takes a village to raise a child" - let's keep our village and help our families and children bond and connect better by keeping traditions alive. It is so very important!

As a Doula, seeing and experiencing first hand how important it is for the birthing mother, her family and her baby to be educated and supported in a traditional way, which focuses on her culture and or love language, I strogly support HB995.

It is even more important in today´s time and society to focus back to our traditional ways, to keep a balance not only within ourselves but also within this World.

Not supporting HB995 could in the worst case lead to more unassisted freebirths, with far more complicated outcomes.

"It takes a village to raise a child" - let's keep our village and help our families and children bond and connect better by keeping traditions alive. It is so very important!

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,

Serra Piko

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:24:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caterine Picardo Diaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committe,

I am submitting testimony to strongly support traditional midwives. I support HB955.

I gave birth at home and if I will do it again I want to be able to choose with who and how. The institutionalization of birth has only been around for a couple generations. In my case both my grandmothers gave birth to 9 kids at home. It has only been one generation, my mum that gave birth at a hospital, and go figure she had 2 c-sections. If maternal mortality rates in the US were actually improving, I would say, yeah maybe we are doing something right, but the reality is the opposite. Let's not take away an option for people to choose how they want to birth and to choose what is right for them following a cultural and ancestral practice.

Mahalo for your time!

Cate Picardo

Waialua HI

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:26:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miriam Kotubetey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support hb955. Traditional midwifery needs to remain a birthing option for Hawai'i families. I had three babies safely at home with the support of a traditional midwife. It was the best choice for Me. My births were beautiful experiences. Every woman should have the right to choose. Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:26:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to the community. Having recently had a home birth with a midwife my experience was incredibly intimate, safe and special. I can't imagine having a service such as this is not available as an option as it is our birthright to be able to choose how we bring life onto earth. As a mother, I strongly support having the service available for future mothers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:29:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tori Sims	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in support of HB955. This supports a woman's right to choose the healthiest and safest birth for their child.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:00:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Brindle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sacred tradations must be protected.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:02:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra O'Connor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother who has birthed two babies. My firstborn was in California at 37 weeks, which was one week too early to have a legal homebirth with a certified midwife. Luckily, we were able to have the natural birth we wanted, still attended mostly by our midwife, in hospital. My second baby was born at home in Hawai'i in 2021, attended by two certified midwives. I can personally attest to the vital importance of choosing the way in which I gave birth, and who was surrounding me. While both of my births were successful and impactful, my second child's birth was much more so. I **strongly** believe in each person's freedom to choose where, how and with whom they give birth to their babies. Although it is not something I would choose, I also acknowledge that some of those caregivers may not be "certified" in the same way that I might seek my own caregivers, and respect the knowledge and position of those roles for those that choose them. I **strongly** believe that birth should not be politicized, and therefore **strongly** support HB955 and hope that you will also work toward the goal of freedom for all people to make the first important decision in their child's life on their own.

With aloha,

Alexandra O'Connor

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:06:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Field	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families . I strongly support HB955. Having a midwife for my daughter's birth was the best experience of my life.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:19:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brook Hawkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families!! I strongly approve HB955!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:23:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Ryan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:28:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malie Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a women's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:29:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerstin Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Kerstin Edwards. I have lived in Hawai'i since 2010. I strongly support HB955.

Birth rights are human rights. A woman has every right to choose who she wants to assist and support her in birthing her own baby. Every woman has the right to decide with whom she feels most comfortable, safe, and supported in her birth. Comfort, safety, and support are subjective and unique to each individual.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. As a woman who sought out the support of a traditional midwife to support and assist me in birthing my baby in a home setting, I strongly support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Sincerely,

Kerstin Edwards

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:39:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Foreman Bunting	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly in support of HB955. It is the right of the women giving birth, the mother, to choose how she births. It is her right to examine and evaluate different avenues of birthing practices and to choose her own path, one of which is through unlicensed midwifery. As a woman, I claim that the choice to birth is instinctual; we KNOW how to choose based off our own bodies, experiences, and comforts. We deserve to have access to other women with experience and knowledge in birth, women who came before us, to guide us and the younger generations of women into motherhood. Who we choose to guide us, whether at birth, before or after birth, is choice that is ours to make as women and mothers. This is a basic right. This is a fundamental right of LIFE itself. I am strongly in support of HB955. I am strongly in support of HB955, and I support more traditional and cultural midwives being accessible and able to practice their skills (midwifery) without being encumbered by the State of Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:41:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilhelm Stiegman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families! I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:48:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jean yamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the right for women to choose who they want to attend their birth .

the government has no right to dictate women's birth choices !!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:49:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

HB955 is an important bill that would preserve different pathways for birth practitioners and maintain freedom of choice for people who actively seek out and prefer different types of home-birth providers.

Essentially, [HB955](#) bill has two elements:

1. Extends timeline for existing exemptions for traditional birth attendants to continue practicing under certain conditions (aligning us with Oregon where our existing statute was derived).
2. Allows all Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) to be eligible for licensure.

Please support HB955 for all women in Hawaii.

Aloha & mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:49:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeAnna Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I believe traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I support HB955. This is extremely important to my family. Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:53:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laci leialoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:56:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bree'Ana Vellalos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Bree'Ana Vellalos and I support HB955. The citizens of Hawaii should have the opportunity and privilege to use midwives and have homebirths. Traditional midwifery needs to be upheld. I strongly support HB 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:58:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
krea branco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Krea Branco. I have lived in Hawai'i all my life. I strongly support HB955.

I gave birth to my son in February 2021 at home in Haiku, Maui with the support of traditional midwifery care.

I am so thankful for the exemption in place that allowed me to birth my child where and how I wished. I am also thankful for the having the OPTION to birth in a hospital setting. All birthing people should have the right to birth wherever they choose.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:02:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ava	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe we need to preserve the right to have midwives and homebirths for all the people in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:02:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Moray, CPM	NW Community Midwives	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a long time home birth midwife, in a state, Oregon, that has a history of traditional midwives, I strongly urge you to pass this bill allowing experienced traditional midwives to keep practicing out of hospital birth. In addition to evidence of excellent outcomes, these midwives provide a unique perspective to Native Hawaiians seeking culturally competent midwifery care. Outlawing them will deprive pregnant women of necessary culturally sensitive prenatal care.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:06:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Rayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a woman who recently gave birth at home with a midwife I **STRONGLY** advocate for midwives to be able to continue to practice **WITHOUT** a license. I have given birth within the medical establishment and outside of it, and I assure you the birth outside of the medical establishment was much more smooth and safe. Midwives with or without medical license have far superior knowledge of women's bodies and birth and should not be required to obtain a license to continue to practice. Women are more than capable of using discernment and determining the best way to birth **THEIR** children.

Mahalo,

Andrea Rayne

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:06:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandie Ward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB955 gives women their human right to choose who can attend THEIR birth. To take this away is to put even more limitation on a woman and a right to their own body. This is why I am in full support of HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:08:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:10:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:17:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
austin gapsis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People should be allowed to do whatever they want. If someone wants to choose an alternative method of anything that's their prerogative regardless of whether you think it wise or approve.

if you take banning midwives because they're unlicensed to its extremes you'll find yourself needing a licensed person to wipe your ass and brush your teeth for you.

please do less and if you can't find something productive to do with your time just leave the capital and leave people alone.

sincerely

austin

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:19:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Ojukwu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear committee members,

I am Susan Ojukwu, MPH. I currently serve as a population, health, and nutrition officer on behalf of the US government. I am writing in strong support of HB955.

As a public health practitioner, I know all too well the challenges of providing safe, equitable, respectful, and appropriately-tailored care that can reach the most vulnerable people in our society. Incorporating community-based approaches to care, specifically as it relates to reproductive health, is proven to be a highly effective method that can close the disparities in access to healthcare services. It is critical to support policy that addresses the significant issues that contribute to elevated rates of maternal mortality.

It is on this basis that I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The continuation of community-based apprenticeship for training midwives is important for advancing equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black and Indigenous families, and families of women of color today and for future generations. Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i.

Thank you

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:22:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtnie Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional mid-wifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to ALL Hawaii families. I, Courtnie Cox STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955! It's our right to choose how we bring our children into this world.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:25:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desirae Hopwood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Hawai'i 2023 Legislators,

I am Desirae Hopwood and I have lived in Hawai'i for 10 years. I support SB1047 and HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all Birthing people and their children. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023 the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing Midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of Midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Support maintaining active pathways for the perpetuation of traditional practices of health and healing in our communities.

Mahalo,

Desirae Hopwood

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:25:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kat Real	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwife practices are vitally important to the health and well-being of Hawai'i families. The historical, cultural, and medicinal impact would be devastating, should it be taken away. These midwives and their practices need to be preserved and available for families. I strongly support this bill for these reasons.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:37:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Bumanglag	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth.
Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:38:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Mackey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All mothers should have access to all types of pre and post natal care. Midwives okay a significant role in assisting laboring humans in rural areas where healthcare is not readily accessible.

As a mother and resident of the Big Island I support an extension to allow licensed midwives to continue to practice and support birthing people.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:40:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keikilani Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:41:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai'a	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that my friends and family should have the choice on their cultural beliefs. I don't live with my family in Hawaii, but I believe my auntie, cousins and friends SHOULD have the choice. It's their decision to continue their traditions and should stay their decision

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:46:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BethanyRoss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bethany Ross, I am a mama, and I strongly support HB955. Traditional Midwifery is an absolute essential part of our community and must be preserved. The education and care that midwives gives is extremely important for mamas and their future keiki. Midwives helps births be so much healthier and safer for mama and baby. For the sake of families in Hawai'i and our future babies, please pass HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:46:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Waia'u	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jessica Waia‘u and I am a mother. I support HB955.

I believe that all women are intelligent enough and have the mental capacity to make informed decisions for themselves without being dictated who they can and can't have present while bringing a child into this world.

Women have been doing this for thousands of years and that every woman has the right to identify with her culture or those of others and their birth practices as she sees fit. I believe in her right to choose to have a Traditional Birth Attendent, Midwife, Certified Midwife, Licensed Midwife, Nurse Midwife, OBGYN, Family Doctor or anyone else she deems fit to attend her birth and not be punished for it or restricted from making that choice.

Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:50:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Harmon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is exactly right when it says "All birthing parents should have the right to choose their preferred birth attendant." I support this bill for empowering birthers to choose what is best for them culturally and medically. As the bill also states, having birthing support that makes you feel empowered and safe has positive outcomes beyond the just the immediate birth experience.

Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:50:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Nolan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choice's

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:53:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dante	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955, Traditional Hawaiian midwifery should be available to all families

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:53:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Prema Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Prema Tanaka, am in strong support of bill HB955 in preserving the tradition and wisdom of Midwifery here in Hawai‘i and around the world. Traditional ways of birthing and laboring is a fundamental right for everyone. Birthing with allopathically trained doctors does not eliminate the risk factors associated with labor and delivery. "Studies show that planned home birth attended by a registered midwife was associated with very low and comparable rates of prenatal death and reduced rates of obstetric interventions and adverse maternal outcomes compared with planned hospital birth attended by a midwife or physician." "With the population rate of less than 1 perinatal death per 1000 births may serve as a benchmark to other jurisdictions as they evaluate their home-birth programs." (Janssen et al., 2009) With that being said, physician rarely fulfill the post partum needs of new mothers and often times they become prone to postpartum depression and nutritional deficiencies. Again I plead on behalf of all women and children, as a mother, please protect the traditional birth practices of women in Hawai‘i and world wide.

Prema Tanaka,

Certified Integrative Nutritional Chef, Double Certified Clinical Herbalist, Native American (Cherokee, Choctaw Chickasaw Nation) Farmer and Mother.

Janssen, P. A., Saxell, L., Page, L. A., Klein, M. C., Liston, R. M., & Lee, S. K. (2009). Outcomes of planned home birth with registered midwife versus planned hospital birth with midwife or physician. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 181(6-7), 377-383. <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.081869>

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:58:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo to the senators and representatives that are conserving these rights for women and our future generations. I hope to be a mother in the near future and would like to have the option to have a home birth. My sister successfully delivered both of her daughters at home with a midwife. Also learning from mentors and peers of their home birth experiences, it is choice that is rooted in tradition and wellness (including mental, spiritual, and financial).

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:03:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alissa Kauai	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to ALL Hawaii families.

I strongly support HB955

Alissa Kauai

Makawao , Maui

HAWAII

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:11:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Hand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of the bill HB955. Women's rights need to be retained and respected. The option to give birth at home with a midwife of one's choosing is vital for women when bringing life into the world. Home was the only place women could give birth at one time. Measures need to be taken to ensure women can have the help and support of those they trust when in labor, whether that is in the hospital or at home. If Hawai'i makes it more difficult to legally practice as a midwife, this will take away many of the capable, practicing midwives in the state that currently help women in our communities have natural births at home. I stand in favor of protecting women's rights to have choice in where and with who they have their babies. Thank you.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:15:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carrie alford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be respected and preserved. Traditional birth attendants need to be able to continue serving the families of Hawaii. I have personal experience with traditional midwifery as do so many of my friends and community.. and cannot stress enough the necessity of this especially in our rural communities. This is also important for many spiritual and cultural belief systems, which should never be made illegal. I ask the legislators to PLEASE SUPPORT HB955

sincerely Carolyn Alford

I would also like to note that myself and many friends who support this bill could not log in to the system yesterday. I heard this from so many. The system was not working for many who wished to support this bill and therefore the deadline should be extended.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:15:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support midwives being able to practice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:26:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janine Laurent-Low	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:29:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly clouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:29:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Vierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. We all exist because of homebirths that happened at some point in time. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all who choose it.

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:32:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please preserve traditional midwifery. I strongly support HB955. Everyone has the right to choose how they birth their own flesh and blood, not the government.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:38:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fernanda Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly support the traditional midwifery practices as a vital part of reconnection with earth. traditional midwifery needs to be available for all hawaiian families that choose to do so. i strongly support bill 955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:43:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 1:52:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Henbest	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery must be preserved for all families in Hawaii. Strongly support.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:05:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbi McQuay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery should be preserved and available to all of Hawaii Residents I strongly support HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:50:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Fagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support keeping midwifery as an option for women and their families. Midwives work with doctors and hospitals, and provide safe supportive care.

Furthermore, midwives provide emotional and psychological support to women giving birth. This continuity provides a bond and trust that gives women a much easier and smoother birth experience.

I speak from first-hand experience. I used a midwife and have never regretted it. I had back up care from a gynecologist who I saw regularly, and my son had wonderful care from an excellent pediatrician that they partnered with.

Hawaii is an oasis what has become a very politically charged, regressive environment for women's choices and women's health. I support the right for women to choose birth options with a qualified, caring midwife!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:02:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rev. John Kunesh LMT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii House of Representatives committee and staff,

In my 25 years of experience in offering prenatal massage, I can testify to the preference of mothers to utilize Midwifery in birthing our children. This is particularly so with the continuing challenges we face with our trust in the medical system failure of clear disclosure of dangers in the genetic inoculations of the past few years.

It will take some time for the medical system to rebuild that trust as it rebuilds itself as a completely trustworthy business and service. In the interim it would behoove the state of Hawaii to support what always has been a part of our Island culture, placing trust in those women who have dedicated their education and life experience specifically in service of our sacred birthing process.

Mahalo,

Rev. John Kurtis Kunesh LMT

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:12:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kodie Solis-Kalani	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2/1/23

Aloha nui kākou,

My name is Kodie Solis-Kalani, I am writing this testimony in **strong SUPPORT of House Bill 955.**

As a kanaka ʻōiwi (native Hawaiian) who was born and raised on this ʻāina (land, that which feeds), I have learned moʻolelo (stories) from all over the world of those that bore earth and those that birth people. As I get older and begin my own ʻohana (family), I look to the mothers that surround me, those that have birthed in western hospital settings, and those that have birth in the comfort and connectedness that is their own home. It is important to me that my baby's entrance into this world is exactly where and with whom I want it to be, to the best of my ability. This choice may not be something that is everyone may want to choose, but it's a choice that I deserve to have.

This is exactly why I strongly support HB955, because Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families.

Mahalo nui,

Kodie Solis-Kalani

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:15:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Richmond	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:54:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Simpson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Requiring that midwives complete basic education for licensure is necessary.

A medical practitioner who has the lives of mothers and newborns under their direct control and supervision outside of a hospital needs to have medical training. Otherwise the Midwife will not have the knowledge necessary for proper techniques and effective communication required to save lives in an emergency. Licensure for midwives helps midwives practice professionally and safely, not only giving them more access to the systems they need, but also helping them be more fully integrated with the hospitals when they need to make transfers in emergency situations.

Families in the care an uneducated midwife do not receive the information required to make the best decisions for the wellbeing of their in utero & post partum children.

Having a birth with an unlicensed uneducated Midwife is unsafe & dangerous.

For the safety of all families who choose home births, please reject HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:51:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dallas Fatseas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As this bill pretaines to Midwifery and non-traditional birthing measures, I would urge the court to reconsider banning natural and homebirthing practices. Birth and pregnancy are EXTREMELY personal experiences and the women of Hawaii deserve to choose the methods that best fit them, their families, and their needs. Criminalizing homebirth/midwifery is inherently prejudiced against the cultures these practices are rooted in. Furthermore, taking this option away from families will not result in enhanced safety. On the contrary, this prohibition will simply criminalize the the practice and drive a further wedge between western medicine and natural medicine, when in reality, we need both.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION HB955

Hawai‘i Department of Health regulated midwives for over 65 years, providing registration, then certification, then licensure, while overseeing that competencies were met. By an oversight of the legislature in 1998, they repealed the midwifery law under the Department of Health and moved the licensure of midwives to the Board of Nursing. However, only certified nurse-midwives were eligible for licensure and there was no longer a law that stated one must be licensed to practice midwifery. It was not the legislature's intention to allow anyone to practice midwifery without oversight, it was the result of the licensure of midwives being moved out of the Department of Health to the Board of Nursing.

The HRS 457-J was not drafted after “Oregon’s Bill” and there was not an erroneous oversight in omitting the exemption. Rather the language used took guidance from US Midwifery Education, Regulation and Association (US MERA) and International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) as decisions were made on standards for education, they included legislative guidance in support of a standardized education.

“**US MERA** organizations approved a resolution to support legislative language that states **by January 1, 2020**, “all new applicants for midwifery licensure must have successfully completed an educational program or pathway accredited by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or obtained the **“Midwifery Bridge Certificate.”** -USMERA.ORG

For a direct entry midwifery program the “accredited organization” is MEAC.

Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) 457-J was enacted in 2019 to license all midwives who were not nurses, after two State Auditor reports the most recent being 2017, concluded the same - midwives need mandatory

licensure. HRS 457-J provided a temporary exemption for birth attendants to attend births without a license until June 30, 2023. The four year exemption was to provide birth attendants time to either define a pathway that they preferred that is not midwifery but demonstrates minimum education and competencies of birth attendance, or to obtain the necessary minimum midwifery education and competencies from accredited schools.

HRS 457-J recognized certified professional midwives (CPMs) who had been trained using the portfolio evaluation process (PEP) through a grandmothering in process. They were eligible to obtain licensure if they received their CPM certification prior to January 1, 2020.

This was a nationally recommended time frame to update midwifery educational policies by all national midwifery organizations (Which includes the National Midwifery Associations- ACME, ACNM, AMCB, ICTC, MEAC, MANA, NACPM & NARM) and the International Center for Traditional Childbearing, who participated in a work group to determine the recommended minimum requirements for midwives in the US. This also aligned with the International Confederation of Midwives minimum education and competencies for midwives. Ensuring a baseline standardized education for midwifery is a minimum update for this health profession, as the profession does not yet require a minimum degree. Several accredited midwifery educational programs confer a diploma or certificate to midwife graduates. This leveling up of midwifery education is normal progress in the profession, just as other health professions have updated their educational requirements over the years from hospital diplomas, to certification, to associates, to bachelors, to masters, to doctoral degree programs. Updating educational requirements as our global knowledge increases within a health field is necessary to keep up with the skill sets and scope of practice of any health profession.

This date for educational requirement changes was publicly provided for several years prior to the law becoming enacted. The North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), who nationally certifies CPMs, NARM also

provided a pathway for self-taught birth attendants to apply through a portfolio, called the experienced midwife pathway, through December 31, 2019. NARM chose to close this pathway nationally on December 31, 2019. Some birth attendants in Hawai‘i were certified through this pathway and eligible for licensure.

The current midwifery licensure (HRS 457-J) does not impede one’s ability to provide cultural practices while providing services as a licensed midwife. MEAC accredited schools and the internship model required, supports the continued passing of cultural knowledge within midwifery as student midwives obtain their clinical hands-on training with midwives within their communities. Of the eight accredited midwifery education schools and programs, six of them allow for and encourage student midwives to obtain their hands-on training (clinical skill sets) in their own home communities. Four of the eight schools offer a completely online course curriculum, meaning that student midwives do not have to choose to attend a school that requires travel to the continent. The average cost of accredited midwifery schools whose curriculum is completely online is between \$4K-\$7.5K a year for three years. This is cheaper than going to UH, Manoa or UH, Hilo and is within the range of cost for a resident attending classes full time at UH Maui College. All of the accredited midwifery schools offer scholarships, half are eligible for government assistance (FAFSA and GI Bill), and five offer payment plan options.

Birth attendants who are not licensed in Hawai‘i and are caring for clients utilize modern tools such as blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, doppler ultrasound, needles and suture materials, resuscitative equipment, and more. I believe that using these modern tools requires minimum education and clinical competencies, as families expect that their provider knows how to appropriately utilize the tools they are implementing in a client's care and a broad base education, by which to process the values obtained.

The attainment of minimum education and competencies to practice midwifery is needed for an independent, autonomous healthcare provider

to safely care for Hawai'i's community and families. Therefore, I DO NOT SUPPORT HB955. This would remove public protections for consumers and allow an open number of people to practice without minimum education and training in midwifery while utilizing modern tools as autonomous healthcare providers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:04:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee pederson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We love our traditional midwives and want to continue to be able give birth to our future children the way we believe God has empowered woman to be able to with the help and knowledge of our caring midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:33:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmanuel K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the health our of newborns and the health of our society let us not increase mortality and equally important morbidity. Let us support families with their wishes while also ensuring safety nets with credentialed providers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:34:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Daguio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! It is not the governments right to tell a mother where or with whom she can give birth. Get out of the way of this natural process

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:38:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanie Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatric physician who takes care of babies in the neonatal intensive care unit, I oppose this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:28:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rowan Zwicky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a third year community based student midwife enrolled in a MEAC accredited program and having learned under multiple types of midwives (transitional and licensed), I oppose this bill. Evidence shows better maternal and neonatal outcomes when midwives are clinically trained to handle life threatening emergencies and integrate well into higher levels of care when it's necessary. With licensure, there can be a standard of care across the board so that each birther can participate in an informed consent process about what type of provider is attending their health, and what their clinical competencies are. Licensure can hold midwives accountable for maltreatment, and facilitate a more cohesive process of peer review and patient protection.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:39:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annette Manant	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regarding Section 1 (page 4 line 3) HB 955 states its purpose:

“(1) Permit persons acting as birth attendants after July 1st, 2023, to practice midwifery without a license". I support home births by licensed providers but I do not support anyone providing services to families for home birth and receiving payment for those services who are not licensed by the state of Hawaii. It is unsafe. If unlicensed birth attendants need to seek educational opportunities to become licensed midwives, then I support that monies be allocated to help them become licensed.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:16:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Pintos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am taking the time to write this testimony, despite currently being 3 days postpartum with my first child because it means that much to me. There are many reasons I chose to seek the support, care and guidance of a traditional midwife for this pregnancy, but the one most pertinent to this bill would be because I believe in a right to autonomy. Women have the right to govern their own bodies, especially as it pertains to healthcare. If I feel most cared for, supported by and safest with a traditional midwife, then I have the right to choose that for myself. This bill actively suppresses a woman's right to sovereignty over her own body.

Traditional midwives have the deepest and most intimate understanding of the birth process. It is not a job they take lightly or without great care and respect. Never has my health and wellness felt better cared for, in totality, than under the care of my traditional midwife.

It would be an absolute devastation to lose the knowledge, wisdom, empathy and downright miracle work traditional midwives provide here in Hawaii. So many women have benefitted under their care and eliminating their path to legally provide their services is a major loss to all the women and child bearers of Hawaii.

I, Kelly Pintos, strongly oppose **HB955**.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:07:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Malo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Government has no place (right) to dictate a women's birth choices. As government encroaches more and more on individual rights the power of government increases and the freedom's of the people are usurped opening the gates towards tyranny. The enslavement of people begins with small methodical steps where half truths eventually turn into out right lies!. The last three years provides sufficient evidence that this is an active ongoing process. What challenges legislators specifically is, one can do the *right things* for the *wrong reasons*, and conversly, the *wrong things* for the *right reasons*. Government has overstepped in so many areas that the very contstitutional rights of the people and the freedom it guarantees have been marginalized to irrelevance. I adamantl oppose HB955!

I adamently oppose HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:18:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jan ferguson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the House,

In 2019 the Hawaii State Legislature passed into law HRS457J, licensure for midwives. The purpose of the law, like all licensed professionals, is to protect the public from negligence and harm.

Nothing in that law prohibits anyone from giving birth wherever and with whomever they choose.

In less than three years 28 midwives have become licensed.

Licensed Midwives are autonomous healthcare providers who care for, and are responsible for the health and safety of mothers and babies during pregnancy and birth, as well as the immediate postpartum period.

Licensed midwives are not prohibited from incorporating traditional/cultural birth practices into the care they provide to their clients.

If a vaguely defined, unregulated group of "other types of birth attendants" are exempt from licensure then licensure is moot.

Please consider public safety and recourse and do not support this bill.

Jan Ferguson LM

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:34:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Wong Ramsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a physician who takes care of critically ill newborn infants, including infants with hypoxic brain injury due to birth complications. Based on published research on local data, infants born via home birth have a much higher incidence of hypoxic brain injury in Hawaii. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35037395/>. Many home births occur in Hawaii with unlicensed lay midwives. Requiring licensure may help to improve standardization of medical care provided during home birth and improve home birth outcomes. This bill would allow unlicensed midwives to continue to delivery without oversight, leading to the continued poor outcomes we already see.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:20:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Conover	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Health Committee Chair Della Au Belatti

Health Committee Vice Chari Jenna Takenouchi

I am writing to oppose HB 955

I support the current law recognizing the licensure of Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) and Certified Professional Midwives (CPM). Both types of midwives are required to complete rigorous educational programs and are nationally certified and licensed to practice here in the state of Hawaii. The CNMs here Hawaii most commonly attend births in hospitals. The CPMs attend the majority of births at home.

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) that has practiced here in Hawaii since 1999 at 2 major hospitals, attending close to 1800 births. I know that often birth is uncomplicated, but that there are also complications that can quickly arise that can cause life threatening consequences to the mother and/or newborn. Let us keep the moms and babies of Hawaii safe by having licensed providers attending our families.

I am also a member of the Hawaii Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives.

Thank you

Connie Conover CNM

Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:56:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Hamil	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a licensed midwife in HI, I strongly oppose HB955 and SB1047 because by permanently exempting birth attendants, it nullifies mandatory licensure. Without mandatory licensure, there is no purpose of having licensure, and then we are no longer creating protections for consumer safety and public health. MAH does not support the continued use of the PEP pathway for minimum educational requirements as we support US MERA which recommends a minimum standardized accredited education from a MEAC school for certified professional midwives after January 1, 2020. This is an update to educational requirements for midwives. As all health professions have updated their education over time. Currently there is no minimum educational degree for CPMs, and so we support a minimum standardized education that is accredited. Hawaii now has 28 licensed midwives in Hawaii, all of which would qualify to be a preceptor for student midwives. And the preceptors that midwives utilize for PEP can also be MEAC preceptors. So midwives who are in Hawaii can choose one of four schools that require no travel for school - just online curriculum classes and hands on precepting in HI with licensed midwives.

As a licensed midwife, I am able to collaborate with other health professionals and hospital providers to optimize patient safety and outcomes for birthing families. Without the ability to order labs, carry medications, order breast pumps, refer for ultrasounds, among many other things, I would not be able to do my job. Licensure and integration into the health system is what has shown to improve outcomes for families.

<https://mana.org/blog/new-studies-confirm-safety-of-home-birth-with-midwives-in-the-us>

<https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/ACNMLibraryData/UPLOADFILENAME/000000000059/Creating-a-culture-of-safety-in-midwifery-care-MAR2016.pdf>

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:21:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Garfinkle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was recently pregnant in Hawaii and had my baby in July in midwifery care! My experience wouldn't have been anything what it was without my midwife and the care they provided to me. I was kept safe my whole pregnancy, and delivery because of licensure and when my birth needed a bit more assistance, integration into the hospital system was so vital. Having my midwife at the hospital was so important for me and having my midwife there also helped the hospital staff enormously as I came in in a emergency transfer and they were able to collaborate and make it smooth and quick.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:37:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing HB955

The protection of our mothers...

As a first time mom, it took me months to find a midwife that I felt as though was educated enough and trained to assist in the birth of my first born. I was lucky to find my midwife and shortly after, I heard horror stories from individuals who chose midwives who were not properly trained. One woman was in labor for four days and her midwife refused to take her to the hospital. Another woman lost custody of her children because her midwife accidentally took the life of her newborn by not catching the baby properly. The list goes on! This is all happening while education requirements are in place. Imagine the atrocities that would be allowed to take place if midwives were not held to a similar standard as a nurse or even a dentist. The care of our mothers and newborns is of the utmost importance. Would you let your neighbor, who is good with a filet knife, perform surgery on you? -NO- Birthing assistance required specific knowledge and possible medical intervention that, when not done properly, could lead to fatal consequences.

Mahalo for listening.

Shawna Smith

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:51:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mehana Pilago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSING HB955 as a consumer who was kept safe by licensure requirements and education. I have had the most amazing positive burth experiences with my midwife team. They are seriously angel workers and a vital component in each community. Everyone does not need to birth in a hospital, hospitals are made for intervention. Please let our midwives continue to do there job and help our community spread positive birth experiences and delivery babies safe naturally.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:03:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leena Shirai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am submitting my testimony opposing HB955 because I believe in Hawaii maintaining midwifery licensure and it's educational requirements. I believe in this because it was due to the competence of my licensed midwife that I was able to birth my son safely in my home. It was due to her knowledge that despite my baby's neck being wrapped with his umbilical cord he was handled with expert care and delivered to my arms in good health.

I believe it would be at the risk of many lives that midwifery licensure be ended here in Hawaii. Stopping the licensure process will not stop people from pursuing home birth. And if those aiding births at home do not have the proper education that is currently required of a midwife legally practicing in Hawaii I shudder to think of the possible outcomes.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:14:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arwain Karlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep our mothers and children safe.

Requiring that midwives be licensed is necessary for the safety of all Hawaiians.

A medical practitioner who has the lives of mothers and newborns under their direct control and supervision outside of a hospital needs to have medical training. Otherwise the Midwife will not have the knowledge necessary for proper techniques and effective communication required to save lives in an emergency. Licensure for midwives helps midwives practice professionally and safely, not only giving them more access to the systems they need, but also helping them be more fully integrated with the hospitals when they need to make transfers in emergency situations.

Families in the care an uneducated midwife do not receive the information required to make the best decisions for the wellbeing of their in utero & post partum children.

Having a birth with an unlicensed uneducated Midwife is unsafe & dangerous.

For the safety of all families in Hawaii who choose home births, please reject HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:15:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Hartley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Licensure is vital to keep birthing people safe, to protect families, and to keep homebirths as a safe option.

having had three complicated births in my home I was kept safe and healthy by my highly trained, skilled and licensed midwife.

women are being mislead to believe they are safe with a provider who has skills when without licensure there is no way to verify that they are competent.

midwives hold lives in their hands. Customers must have a reliable way to make sure they are in good hands.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:59:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jay schell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

keep midwives!!! this bill would be insane to take that from the people of hawaii!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:05:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Nelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe it is completely ludicrous for the state government to be able to control a woman's right to give birth how they feel is the safest for her and her child. Creating a legislature making it illegal to give birth in one's own home is in direct conflict with the state's position on a "woman's right to choose." Government officials cannot pick and choose when this right is applied. As a woman who plans to have a child soon I cannot even fathom not having the choice to choose a home birth option for both religious and personal convictions. It is a gross over reach of the state government to ban this birth option as the statistics of safe home birth practices are overwhelming, there is science supporting home birth as the safest birth option, but regardless of the evidence, this is not a topic the state government has any bearing over. This bill should absolutely not pass.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:27:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
yasmin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwives are incredibly necessary in the education of birthing and birth health. It is a natural, ethical & comfortable way to grow with your community and creating a village as you grow with your child. These are such vital characteristics and principles of Hawaii. Women should have the choice to have a local midwife if that is their choice. Completely oppose this bil.

Testimony in strong opposition of HB955

My name is Dr. Diana Kumar, and I am an obstetrician-gynecologist with an office in Waipio. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 955. As someone who spends most of my time with pregnant patients in the office and delivering their babies in the hospital, this bill seeks to open a door that will likely increase the maternal and fetal mortality and morbidity of the state of Hawaii.

This bill seeks to set standards and accountability to birth attendants by citing respect for different cultural values, improved access to people of color, and highlighting choice. I believe the key here is that we should be providing improved access to healthcare that addresses and prevents diabetes, nutrition and postpartum care, obesity, and hypertension. Allowing a group to set their own standards of education and experience, when the current laws have set strict training and regulation of certified midwives, is a disservice to women who may not recognize this is an unsafe choice.

In my experience, if a home birth goes wrong, it goes wrong quickly. Our system is not built for quick transfers of moms to the hospital. These lay midwives/attendants/doulas do not have access to medications or have been properly trained to quick life saving measures. They will transfer a mom who may be infected, septic, bleeding, or a baby that appears without a heart rate. Some will stay with the patient, but the majority leave without good transfer of care. This leaves a mighty burden on our staff, on the parents who may not recognize the issue at hand and likely could have been presented, and extreme liability to our teams-pediatrics and obstetrics. There are no protection for the liability upon all the health care workers who accept these patients.

Most states record maternal morbidity (sepsis, ICU admission, postpartum hemorrhage, etc), maternal mortality, fetal morbidity (NICU admission, cerebral palsy, infection, etc), and fetal death in the location where it is first called. In these cases, for example, if a baby is delivered with a heart beat but in severe distress dies several days later in the NICU, this is recorded as a hospital death and not a home birth death. This makes tracking effects of mortality/morbidity in states such as Oregon, who have more lax bills, difficult if not impossible. The evidence that having increase home births improves care is not there.

This bill is being introduced with passion, and albeit the idea of choice/freedom at hand. We should, however, be highlighting SAFE choices. The idea of a 3 year period is also underestimating and diminishing the amount of training our nurses, certified nurse midwives, and myself a physician have spent learning this art. We can associate the birthing process with a cultural and happy experience, and the majority of the time, it is. However in light of today's pressing patient's needs and health issues, the experience and training needed for patient safety so they CAN enjoy their delivery and their healthy baby should be exemplified by much higher standards and training, reflected in licensure and official training programs. The patients of today do not reflect the patients of 20 years ago, even 10 years ago in their rates of diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and age related risks. They deserve better care, and HB955 does not support this.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diana Kumar

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:17:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer A Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2/2/2023

Personal Testimony

Bill HB955

Position: OPPOSE

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife licensed in Hawai'i to practice Midwifery and currently practice full scope midwifery and provide hospital birth.

I oppose this bill due to the following:

1. Traditional, Indigenous birth attendants should not be allowed to call themselves midwives nor practice without a license in Hawai'i. This practice is unregulated and there is no accountability for outcomes.
2. There is incorrect wording regarding certified nurse midwives in the following revised portion of the bill Section 3 exemptions. This is incorrect. Certified Nurse Midwives in the State of Hawai'i do have a license to practice Midwifery. It reads," **Exemptions.** (a) A person may practice midwifery without a license to practice midwifery if the person is: A certified nurse-midwife holding a valid license under chapter 457"
3. Under Application for License as a midwife: Certified Professional Midwives and Certified Midwives should be separated. Certified Midwives are accredited by the same accrediting body (AMCB) American Midwifery Certification Board that Certified Nurse Midwives are.

Finally, an argument in previous bills is that there are no formal midwifery programs available on Island for those wanting further education to become licensed or that it is a hardship to leave island to get proper training and education. There are pathways for student midwives to complete formal education and to provide care in their home communities. The American College of Nurse Midwives has a Midwives of Color committee (MOCC) and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) chapter addressing healthcare disparities, the need for birthing persons to have culturally appropriate care and to address diversity. These groups also offer scholarships for midwifery students to complete midwifery programs and grants available

for CNMs to open clinics and births centers. The following programs offer distance education to become a Certified Nurse Midwife.

Georgetown, University of Cincinnati, Frontier

Respectfully,

Jennifer A Cook DNP, CNM, FACNM, FNPc



Hawaii Homebirth Collective
1188 Bishop Street Suite 1509
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Testimony of the Hawaii Home Birth Task Force Chair
And Board President of the Hawaii Home Birth Collective**

Before the House Committee on Health
Monday February 3, 2023 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Via Video Conference HB 955, Relating to Chapter 457J

Aloha Chair Belatti and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Kristie Duarte and I was the Chair of the Hawaii Home Birth Task Force created by Act 32 (2019). I am also the Board President of the Hawaii Home Birth Collective, a home birth midwifery organization dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation, and diversity of home birth practices and autonomy in home birth midwifery care. We continue to offer full **support of HB 955 with additional comments on this bill.**

As the Chair of the Hawaii Home Birth Task Force, I want to stress how important this 2023 session is. On July 1, 2023, birth attendants with different cultural skills and practices will become illegal unless we pass new legislation this year. Act 32 (2019) stated “By the end of the three year period, the legislature intends to enact statutes that will incorporate all birth practitioners and allow them to practice to the fullest extent under the law.”

The Hawai‘i Regulatory Licensing Reform Act states that “**regulation must not unreasonably restrict entry into professions and vocations by all qualified persons**”. Hawaii's midwifery law currently leaves out a nationally recognized pathway to certification which would allow for more local midwives to obtain licensure through an approved educational route of entry provided by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) through the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP). People certified through this educational evaluation process have completed a rigorous approved educational route and attended at least 55 births under the supervision of a registered preceptor, demonstrated clinical skills, and passed the same exam that is required for certification of those who attend a MEAC accredited college (which is not available in person on island). Although a few of the MEAC accredited colleges are available online, this does not make it accessible for those who do not have steady online access (like our rural areas) and for those who are not financially supported. Requiring only the MEAC accredited pathway is causing a disproportionate hardship for people who live in Hawaii, especially women of color and people who live in underserved communities.

The Hawaii Regulatory Licensing Reform Act also states that:

*“Regulation in the **form of full licensure or other restrictions** on certain professions or vocations shall be retained or adopted when the health, safety, or welfare of the consumer may be jeopardized by the nature of the service offered by the provider”.*

Regulation of the birth attendant through use of “other restrictions” other than licensure is found in the requirements set forth in HRS 457J (6)-5, which outlines informed consent disclosure forms and very specific conditions under which the birth attendants are allowed to practice. These restrictions on the birth attendant has allowed the community to still have access to culturally appropriate care and still have a choice when it comes to their reproductive rights. **Ultimately, the health, safety and welfare of the consumer is protected through the regulations set forth in HRS 457J(6)-5.**

We are open to exploring any amendments that may allow the community to continue to access culturally appropriate care provided by the (1) birth attendant and (2) the CPM who has obtained certification through the educational route of entry through the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP).

Respectfully,

Kristie Duarte

President, Hawaii Homebirth Collective

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:13:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Becky Coolidge	Midwives Alliance of North America	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Midwives Alliance of North America strongly supports HB955, to preserve the Portfolio Evaluation Process pathway to becoming a Certified Professional Midwife. This competency-based model of certification is essential to ensuring that consumers of community birth services have access to a well-trained provider from their own community that meet established standards for care.

-Becky Coolidge, CPM

President (Interim) - Midwives Alliance of North America



2/1/2023

OPPOSITION TO HB955

To: House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Berentania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: **Midwives Alliance of Hawai'i**
Le'a Minton, MSN, APRN, CNM, IBCLC, President
Richard Chong, Treasurer
Melissa W. Chong, LM, CPM, Maui Representative
Nina Millar, LM, RN, CPM, Hawai'i Island Representative
www.midwiveshawaii.org

Time: Thirty-Second Legislature Regular Session of 2023
Friday, February 3, 2023 at 8:30AM

Dear Representative Della Au Belatti, Representative Jenna Takenouchi and committee members:

Midwives Alliance of Hawai'i (MAH) opposes HB955 Relating to Chapter 457J, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- MEAC accredited education is obtainable in Hawai'i. Requiring a minimum accredited education to be a healthcare provider is important for the safety and welfare of the public. Requiring mandatory licensure is in accordance with HRS Chapter 26H. All licensed midwives and student midwives can participate, offer and engage in cultural practices while licensed and/or enrolled in a MEAC accredited educational program.
- Hawai'i has a history of regulating midwives that was rightfully restored in 2019

- HRS Chapter 26H requires mandatory licensure “when the health, safety, or welfare of the consumer may be jeopardized by the nature of the service offered by the provider.”
- Midwifery care meets the criteria for mandatory licensure under HRS Chapter 26H Hawai‘i Regulatory Licensing Reform Act.
- Continuing an exemption for self-identified birth attendants creates voluntary midwifery licensure, a permanent ability for anyone to practice midwifery without a license, and invites midwives and birth attendants who have lost their license in other states or had poor outcomes to move to Hawai‘i to practice without oversight. This occurred during 1998-2019 when there was no midwifery licensure.
- HRS Chapter 26H Hawai‘i Regulatory Licensing Reform Act states “the purpose of regulation shall be the protection of the public welfare and not that of the regulated profession or vocation.” Exemption serves birth attendants rather than the public welfare.
- There are no current recommendations from the Hawai‘i Maternal Mortality Review Committee, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, American College of Nurse-Midwives, National Association of Certified Professional Midwives, or the Center for Disease Control that encourage reducing and/or removing resources from maternal and infant health care in order to improve birth and health outcomes (morbidity and mortality). Changing midwifery licensure from mandatory to voluntary is removing a safe healthcare resource from the public.
- If Hawai‘i supports continued exemption of practicing midwifery without a license and minimum education and competencies, the State will be condoning and supporting autonomous independent primary maternity healthcare providers to diagnose, manage, treat, utilize modern tools, and care for the public under the same scope of practice of a licensed midwife, except for the use of legend drugs.
- The Portfolio Evaluation Process was recommended to be phased out as of January 1, 2020 by US Midwifery Education Regulation & Association (US MERA). US MERA included all national midwifery education accrediting bodies, accredited certifying bodies, professional organizations and the International Center for Traditional Childbearing. This was an updating of minimum educational training requirements for the certified professional midwife to align with the International Confederation of Midwives educational standards.
- All healthcare professions have updated their minimum required educational standards over the years as knowledge, skill set and scope of practice have grown.

Currently licensed midwives do not have a minimum required degree and this is why it is also important that they minimally achieve a MEAC accredited education.

- All 28 Hawai‘i licensed midwives are eligible to be clinical hands-on trainers for students enrolled in MEAC accredited educational programs. Some currently are precepting student midwives in Hawai‘i.
- The difference between PEP and MEAC pathways: MEAC is receiving standardized accredited education (curriculum) while also working with hands-on trainers (midwives). PEP is apprenticing with a hands-on trainer (midwife) and learning the midwife’s knowledge. The same midwives who can precept for PEP can precept for MEAC schools. The hands-on portion for skills is the same in both programs.
- MEAC accredited schools can be attended exclusively while in Hawai‘i and cost \$4-7.5K per year for 3 years. After passing the national exam, they can be licensed as autonomous independent primary healthcare providers in Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i Department of Health regulated midwives for over 65 years, providing registration, then certification, then licensure, while overseeing that competencies were met by the regulated midwives. By an oversight of the legislature in 1998, they repealed the midwifery law under the Department of Health and moved the licensure of midwives to the Board of Nursing. However, only certified nurse-midwives were eligible for licensure and there was no longer a law that stated one must be licensed in order to practice midwifery. It was not the legislature's intention to allow anyone to practice midwifery without oversight who was not a nurse from 1998 through 2019, yet it was the result of the licensure of midwives being moved out of the Department of Health to the Board of Nursing.

Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) 457-J was enacted in 2019 to license all midwives who were not nurses, after two State Auditor reports in 1999 and 2017 concluded the same - midwives need mandatory licensure. HRS 457-J provided a temporary exemption for birth attendants to attend births without a license until June 30, 2023. The four year exemption was to provide birth attendants time to either define a pathway that they preferred that is not midwifery but demonstrates minimum education and competencies of birth attendance, or to obtain the necessary minimum midwifery education and competencies from accredited schools.

HRS 457-J recognized certified professional midwives (CPMs) who had been trained using the portfolio evaluation process (PEP) through a grandmothering in process. They were eligible to obtain licensure if they received their CPM certification prior to January 1, 2020 and completed a Midwifery Bridge Certificate. Some of the midwives who became licensed qualified through this route. This was a nationally recommended time frame to update midwifery educational policies by all national midwifery organizations and the International Center for Traditional Childbearing, who participated in a work group to determine the recommended minimum requirements for midwives in the US. This also aligned with the International Confederation of Midwives minimum education and competencies for midwives. Ensuring a baseline standardized education for midwifery is a minimum update for this health profession, as the profession does not yet require a minimum degree. Several accredited midwifery educational programs confer a diploma or certificate to midwife graduates. This leveling up of midwifery education is normal progress in the profession, just as other health professions have updated their educational requirements over the years from hospital diplomas, to certification, to associates, to bachelors, to masters, to doctoral degree programs. Updating educational requirements as our global knowledge increases within a health field is necessary to keep up with the skill sets and scope of practice of any health profession.

This date for educational requirement changes was publicly provided for several years prior to the law becoming enacted. The North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), who nationally certifies CPMs, also provided a pathway for self-taught birth attendants to apply through a portfolio, called the experienced midwife pathway, through December 31, 2019. NARM chose to close this pathway nationally on December 31, 2019. Some birth attendants in Hawai‘i were certified through this pathway and eligible for licensure.

HRS 457-J does not impede one’s ability to provide cultural practices while providing services as a licensed midwife. HRS 457-J supports the continued passing of cultural knowledge within midwifery as student midwives obtain their clinical hands-on training with midwives within their communities, including here in Hawai‘i. Of the eight accredited midwifery education schools and programs, six of them allow for and encourage student midwives to obtain their hands-on training (clinical skill sets) in their own home communities. This can be done in Hawai‘i as there are now 28 licensed midwives since HRS457-J became law. Some of them are currently precepting student midwives at this time. Two of the eight schools offer hybrid programs, meaning students travel a minimal amount of times in the year to the school campus on the continent, with the majority of all standardized curriculum being taught through online platforms. Four

of the eight schools offer a completely online course curriculum, meaning that student midwives do not have to choose to attend a school that requires travel to the continent. The average cost of accredited midwifery schools whose curriculum is completely online is between \$4K-\$7.5K a year for three years. This is cheaper than going to UH, Manoa or UH, Hilo and is within the range of cost for a resident attending classes full time at UH Maui College. All of the accredited midwifery schools offer scholarships, half are eligible for government assistance (FAFSA and GI Bill), and five offer payment plan options.

Birth attendants who are not licensed in Hawai‘i and are caring for clients utilize modern tools such as blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, doppler ultrasound, needles and suture materials, resuscitative equipment, and more. We believe that using these modern tools requires minimum education and clinical competencies, as families expect that their provider knows how to appropriately utilize the tools they are implementing in a client's care. We respect and support incorporating the cultural practices of the family and of the person attending a birth, and we find that HRS 457-J supports a licensed midwife to incorporate both their midwifery knowledge and cultural practices. There is nothing within HRS 457-J that impedes a person's ability to incorporate their cultural practices while providing midwifery care as a licensed midwife.

Midwives Alliance of Hawai‘i agrees with Chapter 26H Hawaii Regulatory Licensing Reform Act requiring mandatory licensure “when the health, safety, welfare or consumer may be jeopardized by the nature of the service offered by the provider.” Further, that “the purpose of regulation shall be the protection of the public welfare and not that of the regulated profession or vocation”. Providing continued exemption for self-declared birth attendants to practice midwifery without a license serves birth attendants not the public.

The attainment of minimum education and competencies to practice midwifery is needed for an independent, autonomous healthcare provider to safely care for Hawai‘i’s community and families. Therefore, Midwives Alliance of Hawai‘i does not support House Bill 955. This would remove public protections for consumers and allow an open number of people to practice without minimum education and training in midwifery while utilizing modern tools as autonomous healthcare providers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. We strongly urge you to vote NO on HB955.

Respectfully,
Midwives Alliance of Hawai‘i Board

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:21:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asacia K. Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Traditional Midwifery NEEDS to be preserved and available to ALL Hawai'i families. As an individual citizen with much resource and knowledge on the following subject, I strongly support HB955 (House Bill 955).

Mahalo nui loa,

Asacia K. Andrade

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:33:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Nwosuocha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I recently received excellent care from my midwife in my prenatal, homebirth and postnatal journey. My midwife and her support team were all very knowledgeable and experienced which put my mind at ease that they would know what to do in every possible situation and also know when hospital attention and a transfer from home care would be needed. My care always felt like it was tailored to me and my family individually and guidance was given so I could determine my preference of action. In contrast, when I receive prenatal care through a traditional OBGYN, it felt like the doctor's preferences were always pushed. I was asked, at every appointment, if we could schedule an induction because I lived an hour away from the hospital and the doctor deemed it easier for everyone if I would just schedule my birth. I ended up delivering my healthy and strong boy at 41 weeks gestation with no complications or concerns -- something I doubt the OB would have allowed. I'm so grateful for my midwife experience which allowed my baby to develop fully in my womb, knowing exactly the right time to arrive, without rushing or stress.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:25:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Ivie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. It should always be a woman's choice on how to safely welcome their baby into the world. Again, I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:34:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Shayler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:35:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955 because I believe that traditonl midwifery needs to be preserved and avaiable to all Hawai'i families.

I had a midwife for my last pregnancy and also a home birth and it was the best decison I could have made for myself, my baby, and my family. I gave birth to a healthy 8 lb 9.5 oz baby boy in Sept 2022.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:49:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leia M Latronic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I personally have never had a homebirth. I did have a midwife though and it was the best natural labor out of all my 4 pregnancies. However if i had another baby I definitely would do a homebirth and i should have that right. This is just another move from our government to gain more control over the people and for hospitals to monopolize on our healthcare. I strongly support this bill because traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:57:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support anyone's right to choice how they and where they want to give birth. i think midwives and other birthing support doulas are vital to us all having sovereignty to our bodies.

mahalo!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 3:57:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nichole Yessamie Calagias	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha

I am Yessie. I have lived in Hawai'i for over 2 years. I am homebirth mother and have been a Certified Professional Midwife since 2013. I support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

This bill addressed the need to increase reproductive choices for our communities by

- 1) including another nationally approved educational route of CPM certification (the Portfolio Evaluation Process) as a pathway to licensure and
- 2) permanently protecting a family's right to culturally appropriate care through their choice of the "Traditional Birth Attendant"

Exemptions to HRS 457-J allows options for the profession of Midwifery to grow in equitable ways and allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

If this exemption expires, it would criminalize Midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. Many Birth Attendants in Hawai'i are cultural practitioners who serve our most rural and under-resourced communities.

The Birth Attendant exemption to HRS 457-J allows for the sovereignty of Midwifery to continue. This exemption supports a pregnant persons right to autonomy over their bodies and a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health.

Keeping the birth attendant exception to HRS 457-J allows for the legal cross cultural collaboration with Midwives globally. We unite to bring Maternal Health Care out of the current public health crisis we are in.

Midwifery in all forms is essential to protect and we must stop the criminalization of Midwives in Hawai'i. We stand for a better future and support Midwifery in Hawai'i.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:00:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maxine Fontes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again that I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:13:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
hanna hobensack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Traditional midwifery and the choice how to birth your children should be protected. Each woman should be able to feel safe while birthing if that's at a hospital or in their home, with an obgyn or a midwife or birth support person.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:15:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Muriel Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:16:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliana Koo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it is imperative to allow a woman to choose where she would like to give birth, regardless if it is at a hospital, birth center or at home. Should a woman choose to have a home birth, she should be able to choose who is present, including a traditional birth attendant/midwife.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:30:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuipo Pepee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:30:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Deanna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Hawaiian midwifery must be preserved as an option for all Hawaiians. I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:36:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Brayden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be presurved. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:01:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirsten Seibert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and I strongly support this bill!!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:06:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I am a 37 year old professional who has moved with my partner to give birth here in Hawaii where our family lives. We lived in Australia previously where home birth is very common--most of my colleagues and friends gave birth at home and many women in my community are respected career midwives. Last year, under the care of a PEP trained certified professional midwife (CPM) as well as a MEAC trained CPM, I gave birth to a healthy 11 lb baby boy at home, completely naturally. He is now six months old and the happiest little boy, sleeps through the night, eats from my breast, and shows all great signs of development. He is calm, secure, and beautiful. I attribute this to the calm home birth environment and the skillful midwives that helped him come through and straight to my breast and skin, instead of the jarring experience of the hospital. I have no problem with women who choose to give birth in the hospital, none at all, but I am shocked to hear that our choice to give birth at home, where we live, where we are comfortable, is being threatened by reducing the number of midwives who will legally be able to care for us. Considering how normal homebirth is, how revered natural motherhood is and the international reclamation of natural living, I am horrified to hear that restrictions are being placed on one of the oldest and most revered professions in the books--midwives!

It is a choice that we make about who we want at our birth and what care we desire. This is our right as birthers, as mothers. We should not be forced into hospitals due to a shortage of legal midwives. We should not be forced into hospitals where we will be assigned a doctor we've never met, nurses will go into autopilot poking and prodding without consent, where we could be administered drugs without proper warning or explanation, where our babies will be taken away, our partners pushed to the side, etc. This sounds horrible.

To many of us birth is still sacred. To many of us this is one of our very last true rites of passage. And we wish to do as our ancestors did. We wish to do as our bodies are designed to. To birth with power, with women around us, with midwives guiding us.

The PEP midwives take the same test as the MEAC midwives. So let them both practice. Let them both serve Hawaii's birthing mothers. Let women pursue the paths that call them, if that is birthing at home, if that is becoming a midwife, if that is serving in government. We need more freedoms for women, not less.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:13:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sajko matthew	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly believe that Traditional MidWifery should be preserved and available to all Hawai'i citizens. I also strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:16:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:17:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jade mcgaff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB GYN doctor, one of the few left on big island.

WE MUST keep our Traditional Midwives and ALL DIRECT ENTRY midwives available and Honored for their work.

Birth is NOT the great emergency. It is natural and normal and should be at home,

WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE HOW TO BIRTH, WHERE TO BIRTH, and WITH WHOM TO BIRTH. PLEASE SAVE THESE OPTIONS.

Mahalo and I am available for any questions:

Jade McGaff, MD

cell 808-640-1558

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:24:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liz OShea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be available for all of Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:44:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiara Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery is extremely important in all cultures. Do not take away more of their traditions. Women deserve the right to choose how they birth and with whom. I strongly supported HB955

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:52:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Kline	All Wize Wombyn. All Humanz with a Womb. All Midwivez. All Doulaz. All Motherz, Fatherz & Keiki	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the notion of allowing non-certified Midwivez to practice legally.
I believe it to be a God given Rite to have a Wize Wombyn prezent to support All thingz birth related - that They may be celebrated & kept safe from persecution or otherwise ill intended attention.
I will be One of thoze Midwivez - until I can get certified, once I am ready & called upon in Natural Order.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:53:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katja Krishok	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved in Hawaii and remain legal and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:21:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kleinsmith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women have the right to a natural birth with the support of a midwife.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:23:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Casserley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony respectfully submitted to Hawai'i 2023 Legislators,

I am Charlene Casserley. I have lived in Hawai'i for 38 years. I support SB1047 and HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all Birthing people and their children. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023 the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing Midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of Midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Support maintaining active pathways for the perpetuation of traditional practices of health and healing in our communities.

Please support Resolution 23-28 and traditional midwifery in Hawaii. These women do not deserve to be criminalized or lose their profession. Many of these women have practiced for years or decades providing safe and affordable childbirth options to our diverse community.

Sincerely,

Charlene Casserley

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:24:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Doherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:29:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alisha FarquharMarquis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Its important that native hawaiiians have the ability to up hold traditions. Birthing traditions are no acception. I Stronly support native birthong resources remain avialable

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:30:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elyse Klein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support this and have been married for a few years now and have started having conversations about having children. The fact I am not able to give birth with this as an option in the future is absolutely heartbreaking. Women deserve the right to chose how they want to give birth and this should not be taken away.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:33:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand with HB955. How we as women birth is unique per person and should be left to each woman birthing to choose what makes them feel safe. The standard for those who assist birthing need not be so legalized; nature made our bodies to know how to birth, let us honor the ancient knowing of these female forms without imposing modern laws upon the intelligence.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:33:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maly creso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I strongly support HB955. Thank you

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:40:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955

I SUPPORT TRADITIONAL MIDWIFERY NEEDS TO BE PRESERVED AND AVAILABLE TO ALL HAWAI'I FAMILIES.

WOMEN ALL OVER THE WORLD ENGAGE IN THIS BIRTHING METHOD. IT'S BEAUTIFUL AND AN AMAZING LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE.

I FIRMLY SUPPORT HB955

MAHALO - THANK YOU

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:43:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Goldsmith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian families need to have the right of midwives! Traditional midwifery is so important and I wouldn't have had the safe birth of my son without it. I strongly support this!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:53:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Araja Flash	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:59:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Di Rosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:08:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paisley Veilleux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Safe birthing methods and professionals, especially Traditional Midwifery, are things that need to be accessible to all patients and families. I strongly support HB955 for our mothers and families. Traditional Midwifery is healthcare.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:32:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson(Nani)	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko'o loa au

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:49:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendela Berkes	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955 because I believe it is the right of a women to have the choice to choose whom and how they birth. My daughter has been able to have a home birth here with a traditional midwife and hopes to continue to do so with her children in the future. Taking this away makes Hawaii take five steps backwards because it's not giving you the choice for how you birth as a women. As well as being traditional in Hawaii and keeping natural and cultural beliefs in place is something important that makes Hawaii as a state appealing.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:33:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Amos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please allow people to continue to choose to give birth at home through the use of midwives. Being able to choose home birth is about bodily autonomy, freedom over our own bodies and lives. It is an essential choice and freedom to uphold for people who bring new life, the next generation, into our world. As a soon-to-be mother, I could not imagine not being able to choose home birth and have the support of midwives.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:38:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wes Shinsato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:39:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merle Shinsato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:41:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Motu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Birth is a birth right. Women should be able to decide for themselves how and where they want to give birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:43:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan mcginley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill women need support at home and have free choice in how they give birth and who helps them on this journey!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:49:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moana Day	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to Hawaii families and I very strongly support HB955. I had a natural birth last year and I think that option needs to be available to anyone who wants it. Being in the hospital environment can be traumatizing for many people.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:49:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nora	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and state again that. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:54:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARLA BEN-DOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families and state
I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:54:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Andrea Martinez. I have lived in Hawai'i for six years. I strongly support HB955 and Resolution #23-28.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Andrea Martinez

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:02:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. I have personally assisted several Home Births with a traditional midwife and I could not imagine anything other than that for myself when I birth my own children one day. It is one of the most profound and sacred spaces to be in, witnessing a woman be able to birth at home, and how she chooses. Midwifery should always be protected and an available option for any birthing woman and family. Again, I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:09:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Robins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SAVE OUR TRADITIONAL MIDWIVES IN HAWAI'I Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

I had an amazing homebirth in Hawaii. I got the most amazing care and if you take this away from mothers they will just birth at home unassisted. That is not safe.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:24:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Levy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I had two safe and successful home births. The first wasn't easy; yet my midwife was skilled and administered IV fluids, among other interventions. She performed APGAR test and administered a PKU test. I was so supported, I chose her for my second home birth as well, which was easy and wonderful. I respect midwives and value them. Please safeguard access to midwifery for mothers who wish to birth in a home or non clinical setting. Birth is a natural human developmental milestone, and our right to choose how we wish to give birth and who may be present should not be infringed.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:26:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tirtha Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwives are important!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:31:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Holland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in Support of Bill HB955 and Support Native Hawaiian Midwives and Birthing Practices. They are important to the preservation of the Hawaiian Culture and the Hawaiian Community. The Native Hawaiian Culture and Practices were almost completely destroyed by Colonization and Thankfully there were those who kept the flame lit and passed on the practices for future generations. This is the time of The Hawaiian Cultural Renaissance and it is important these practices and services be available and passed on so it can perpetuate this knowledge and connections to Hawaiian Culture for the Native Hawaiians as well as all the people of Hawaii. Stopping these Midwives and these practices are stripping us of the abilities to practice and will eventually this knowledge will be lost. Besides Cultural importance this is important to the health of Native Hawaiian Mothers and Babies. These are methods tried and true through that work for Native Hawaiian Mothers and Babies. It not only offers Natural Solutions to the birthing experience, but Solutions specifically for those of Native Hawaiian Descent. Modern Medicine is mainly designed for the majorities, Not the minorities such as Native Hawaiians. The population of Native Hawaiians is very small compared to the population of other races. Most studies are not done specifically on the effect of medications effects, pregnancy risks, body chemistries, etc. in the Native Hawaiian Community. The knowledge of these things play vital roles in the ability to apply effective healthcare, These things are not common knowledge to most Hospital Doctors or the creators of pharmaceuticals. This is knowledge that was collected through observational science and years of tried and true methods practiced by the Native Hawaiian Community. Midwives trained in the practice Native Hawaiian Birthing practices are taught this knowledge, and taught the indicators/remedies for pregnancy problems and risks that afflict the Natuve Hawaiian Community. This important knowledge and vital knowledge to ensure the wellbeing of Native Hawaiian mothers and babies. Not supporting this Bill will cause irreconcilable damages to the Native Hawaiian Communities Health and Culture. Mahalo for taking the time to read my Testimony in support of this Bill. Aloha

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:34:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie McGowan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families! Please keep this practice alive, it is vial to so many women.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:38:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope Bourne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. As a pregnant woman myself, I've always advocated for midwifery because it should be an option for women to choose between midwife care or hospital care. It's an ancient practice that has been proven to be so beneficial for mothers.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:42:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bren Bartol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to preserve traditional Hawaiian midwives as choices for people giving birth in Hawai'i. I support the accessibility of traditional Hawaiian midwives to all Hawai'i families. Again, I STRONGLY support this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:50:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susanna Farmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is wrong for the government to decide how women should be allowed to give birth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:53:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna gloria F.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditonal Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:53:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Higdon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

My name is Kylie Higdon. I have lived in Hawai'i for 19 years. I strongly support HB955 and Resolution #23-28.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing women & families. This secures a good start to people's lives and Human Resources in our community. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Aloha

Kylie Higdon

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:54:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Foss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery in Hawai'i needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families! Who are you guys to tell women where we can or cannot give birth? It should be where the mother feels the most comfortable, confident, and strong, to do what she needs to do in order to bring life into this earth. I strongly SUPPORT HB955!

Mahalo

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:58:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Cardenas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:01:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Luisa Wessel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices"

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:05:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Bednarek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am filing in support of this bill, HB955. It is really important to continue to support birth attendants and midwives and the decisions of a women's birth choices overall.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:12:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:17:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Wessel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Heidi Wessel. I have lived in Hawai'i for 15 years and have given birth at home with a midwife and plan to do it again. I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Heidi Wessel

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:25:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa saville	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Please maintain the freedom of choice for mothers like me who prefer different options for birth and for caregivers who wish to pursue midwifery, a different path. We need to keep options open !

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:40:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica McMillan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislative members,

I appreciate you taking the time to read my testimony in favor of HB955. I am a mother of 5 children all born at home in Hawaii under the care and supervision of competent midwives. I am so thankful for the care they made available to me, my family , and so many others in our isolated island communities.

Our isolated location is one of the strongest reasons for you to support this bill as it will protect career pathway options for home birth care providers to receive competent training without having to leave their own families to travel far away. The expenses of leaving the islands to seek training and education are a huge obstacle that prevents women from obtaining the education they need to serve the growing need for home birth care providers in our islands.

I have only seen the need for midwives increase here and across the nation in the past 26 years since I became a mother and sought out the services of a midwife. This trend will only continue to increase as more people discover the benefits of home birth and demand access to safe and competent care providers.

Currently our reproductive rights are threatened as well and if women lose the ability to make safe choices for birth control and abortion we will see alarming birth rate increases and these increases will make the need for midwives even more urgent.

it would be irresponsible for you all to block legislation that will protect educational pathways for home birth care providers in Hawaii as you require them to obtain licensure and certifications to prove their skill sets. Passing this HB955 is a win-win piece of legislation that serves everyone on either side of the political arena and of any religious faith. It protects those seeking training as midwives which will in turn protect our birthing communities by ensuring they have enough providers to serve their needs.

Mahalo for your consideration and please support HB955!

with Aloha, Erica McMillan

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:41:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Gallardy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having the option to have support during birth is crucial to the well being of the mother and child. Giving birth outside of a hospital setting is the best decision I made during the recent (September 2021) birth of my son. This would not have been possible without my midwife and doula. Please let these women, whose goal is to help women, continue to help women.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:50:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jelli OKAMURA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved & available to all families. Families should have the choice to decide how they welcome their baby into the world!

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:01:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Junker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I strongly support HB955.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

Thank you for reading my testimony!

Katie Junker

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:14:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Lyste	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The birth process is imperative in our functioning as a species and the way that it takes place truly matters. Generations of experiential and research driven data supports this statement. Often, tho not always, home births are more conducive environments for birth. Hospitals can often be harmful environments for entire families. Midwifery is a profession that has been with us for thousands and thousands of years. Rather than taking access to this profession, and therefor this intrinsic service, away, I would like to see us investing more in honing this craft for the highly esteemed and important position it is. Thank you very much for your attention and decision following this urgent testimony and supporting the passing of this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:19:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposed to the legalization of midwifery in hawaii, women have a right to choose what, how and when to bring their babies into this world. Home births and midwifery are a source of empowerment for truly safe and sacred births. This must not be taken away from the women of this community.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:15:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery is essential to safe pregnancies both at home & in hospital. As a RN, I can say I oppose this legislation from a healthcare provider perspective.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:23:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briony Sington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully disagree with this being approved.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:38:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Szuyin Leow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother who gave birth last year in a hospital setting, I was so grateful for the opportunities I was given to deliver my baby in the way I desired. However, because of the setting, there were also many ways in which I felt I was not given a choice and was not allowed to labor and birth naturally and comfortably. This experience showed me how fundamentally important it is for women and families to have the right to choose how they birth, including the option to birth with a traditional midwife.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:49:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Coker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 2, 2023

HB 955: RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES (Sovereign's Law)

Aloha Honorable Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and representatives.

My name is Abigail Coker and I am in full support of HB 955.

It is important to have a choice. Each woman has the right to choose what is right for her body. The right to their own birth sovereignty. My midwife gave me the most beautiful support to allow me to give birth at home to a beautiful and healthy baby girl. My midwife is Dr. Ye Nguyen she is a naturopathic doctor and traditional midwife. Without her support and knowledge of birth I would not have had the natural birth experience in my home. This type of birthing is important to humanity. To have untraumatic births. To have the right to have knowledgeable, traditional, educated midwives by your side during your birthing journey. I am in favor of HB 955 to support not only women, but to save the traditional natural and spiritual methods of birthing. To save the midwives of centuries past and future. To save the tradition. To save the rights of woman's reproductive rights.

thank you,

Abigail Coker

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:53:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Mawae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support HB955. Government should not be able to tell a mother who is and is not able to attend her birth. The government has no right to dictate a mother's birth choice. This right is essential to protecting women.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 10:56:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am _____Carol Perez_____. I have lived in Hawai'i for _____2.5 years_. I strongly support HB955 and Resolution #23-28.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Carol Perez

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:17:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christin sambor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm Christin Sambor, a resident and future mother. I strongly support hb955. As a woman especially in remote areas, having access to these services is essential for island life. On the mainland services are way easier to come by, but here just a road closure puts undue pressure on families. Additionally their choices and indigenous practices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:32:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina La Mantain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:51:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Venna Jean Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We women, Mom-To-Be's, have the right to decide what to do with our own bodies and that includes how we choose to deliver our babies into this tumultuous world.

I have had 2 home births within the last 3 years, with the most recent home birth in December of 2022. My first was in February of 2020 and it was incredible! So perfect. I chose this home birth path mainly because of my mother. But also for me. I wanted to be at the comfort of my own home, I wanted the intimate care of birth attendants and not Doctors or nurses that had multiple patients to care for within that same hour or day or week. I wanted my body to naturally do its job by doing what women are born to do, give birth. Back in the day, it was normal. It's what women did, birth at their own bed, in their own home. These days, society is so sucked up in media, in technology, in liabilities, etc, that they forget, They forget it was normal for women to birth at home! I myself, was birthed at my mothers home. At that time, it was a choice she made because we lived poor and couldnt afford additonal hospital bills. I chose it because I wanted the comfort of my loved ones near, I wanted to birth at my most comfortable space during the most vulnerable moment of my life. Will I do it again? Absolutely! I will always choose home birth because I have had the most amazing births and birth experiences with it! Birth attendants become family, they care for you during your pregnancy, during labor, during birth, and after birth in a way doctors and nurses don't. And that, is the winner! They genuinely and intimately CARE.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:55:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emilee Summers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Modwifery needs to be preserved and kept as an available option for all Hawai'i families. Women have a right to chose how, where, and whom helps them birth their babies. This means also having the right to choose a midwife to help them. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 11:59:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Schrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

As a woman in with the intention of having a child it is extremely important to me that I have access to traditional midwifery care. I have deep respect and trust in traditional midwifery practices. I am in support HB955.

Mahalo!

Jaime Schrack

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 12:02:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ania Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mental health professional, I support trusting that women are intelligent enough to chose for themselves which type of support is best for them individually during the highly personal rite of passage that is childbirth.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 12:45:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 1:41:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmy Nation	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 2:02:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
anna fry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families! I strongly support HB955!!

To the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to contribute my testimony and support for HB 955. It seems only reasonable to preserve all lineages of birth workers and support multiple paths forward to ensure expertise in midwifery. My wonderful, safe, homebirth experience would not have happened without these wholistic practioners.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Anniken Rose
Of Waimanalo
Honolulu County

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 3:52:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Viktoría Mörk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be available to ALL Hawai'i families. Anything else would be putting peoples lives at risk.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:47:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maryn Green	Indie Birth Private Association/Indie Birth Midwifery School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As women, independent traditional midwives and midwifery educators, we believe that it is imperative that we remember, honor and create more traditional midwives in the model of woman centered care and autonomy.

Midwifery is an ancient sacred calling; it is not medicine and goes beyond the Western view of pregnancy as a physical condition. Birth is a rite of passage, an initiation in a woman's life, and true midwives have always been with women during birth, since the beginning of time.

We are in full support of and in total alignment with traditional midwifery remaining strong and growing even stronger in Hawaii; we lend our support and voices and energy at this crucial time in history.

Respectfully,
Maryn Green

Traditional midwife, sovereign being and director of the Indie Birth Midwifery School and Indie Birth Association (a global organization that serves women and midwives; indiebirth.org)

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:31:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariel Jackson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a woman who has birthed 4 children under the care of midwives, one of whom currently resides and practices in Kauai. I also have a medical background and have witnessed the births of many friends and family members in hospital settings. Currently, the US is in crisis - we have the highest rate of maternal deaths of any developed country, and yet less than 1% of babies are deliberately born out of the hospital with midwifery assistance. Statistics have shown that trained midwives caring for women who are low risk have better outcomes than those who give birth in hospitals. Furthermore, informed consent is a cornerstone of our healthcare system, and nowhere is it more frequently dismissed than in hospital birth settings, where mothers often report being bullied, physically violated, and told they cannot make the choices that they feel are right for their bodies or their babies. Codifying protections for midwives means that many midwives who are currently practicing with loyal clients will be able to keep serving their communities and giving women true options when it comes to birth. Please pass this bill.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:50:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved. I support a woman's right to choose her health care.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:53:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Thayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep the right to have sovereignty over who may help in the birthing process.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:53:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheree Kuo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a licensed physician who cares for ill newborns, I feel obligated to oppose this bill. I have saved too many severely damaged newborns who were born at home with a 'birth attendant' present. So many of these tragedies could have been avoided if a formally trained, knowledgeable responsible birth attendant were present. Moreover, because of our lack of licensure for 'birth attendants', we are nationally known as a state where midwives and other birth attendants who have been BANNED to practice elsewhere can flock to and restart their potentially dangerous, unlawful practices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:58:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua O Eleili Kelsi Pinto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am a mom and oiwi birth advocate. My family and I have lived in Hawai'i for over 17 generations. I strongly support HB955 and Resolution #23-28.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Pua O Eleili Pinto

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:22:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEVIN J WATSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwifery needs to continue in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:34:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly K. Joslin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. This needs to remain a choice across the world however specifically in places like Hawaii where it is an intergal part of the culture. Modern culture included. This is a chioce where the parents involved should have the right to choose how to have thier birthing experience and in what in a setting... with the birthing support of their choosing. THIS is the natural way a child should meet this world...minus the strangers, lights, beeps, and chaos hospitals bring.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:45:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Ngo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawaii families.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:46:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Mau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

https://docs.google.com/file/d/1P2PfRfC9i_toy45Bp2Y35a5Ong1gC09P/edit?usp=docslist_api&filetype=msword

I am currently a college student and a mother of two. I was able to express and share my experience through my English class within an Essay.

To Hawai'i 2023 Legislators,

I am Kristina Mau. I have lived in Hawai'i for my entire life. I support SB1047 and HB955 RELATING TO CHAPTER 457J, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all Birthing people and their children. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J as written in SB1047 and HB955.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023 the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing Midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of Midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Support maintaining active pathways for the perpetuation of traditional practices of health and healing in our communities.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:19:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Bowman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Ashley Bowman. I have lived in Hawai'i 8 years. I strongly support HB955 and Resolution #23-28.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Ashley Bowman

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:34:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan Ayau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. All families in Hawaii should have the right to traditional midwifery. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:40:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Cordasco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and made available to all Hawai'i families. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:43:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hokulani Kishida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Hōkūlani Kishida

Support HB955
February 3 2023

To the legislative committee, my name is Hōkūlani Kishida and I support HB 955.

I support HB 955 because I believe that every birthing mother should have the choice to have person or persons by her side to give her the comfort and care that she needs to deliver her child safely and within her wishes. That being said if birthing parents prefer a midwife who is unlicensed and yet, aligns with their birthing wishes, I believe they have the right to decide what is best for them, as well as their unborn child.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:50:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Danielle Haile	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou, My name is Melissa and I have lived in Hawai'i for seven years. I would like to acknowledge the traditional, indigenous, and invaded territory of the Kānaka Maoli on whose land we are gathered. It is important to acknowledge the land as both a Black woman and as a transplant as it relates to this bill, which attempts to preserve traditional Hawaiian healing practices and birth traditions, as well as the traditional and indigenous practices of those who practice midwifery and the people that live, love, and give birth in Hawai'i.

I would also like to acknowledge the history of obstetrics and gynecology, whose foundations are built upon the unethical experimentation on, procedures, treatments, and exploitation of enslaved and other vulnerable women. The medical model of obstetrics and nurse midwifery have co-opted and appropriated the traditional and indigenous midwifery practices as its own. All of this informs a family's choices in childbirth.

I am a mother who gave birth in the childhood home of my partner, surrounded by a highly competent midwife and apprentice midwives. As a Black woman, my decision was based on the documented and undisputed fact that it is not safe for Black women to give birth in hospitals, even in Hawai'i, where Black residents make up less than 2% of the population. To deny my right to choose the model of reproductive care I believe is safest and best for my health and well-being as well as for the health and well-being of my child and any future children I may have makes the state complicit in perpetuating poor maternal health outcomes. And based on the current state of maternal health care, to deny me access to all the ways midwifery is practiced in Hawai'i constitutes an act of violence towards me and other mothers and birthing people.

I come from a legacy of grand midwives, Black women who offered a continuity of care to women and their families at a time when Black women were not allowed to give birth in hospitals. It is important to highlight that it's been less than 60 years that Black and indigenous women of color have been allowed to birth in hospitals.

This legacy gave shape to modern midwifery and obstetrics. To deny access to the full practice and scope of midwifery which includes home births dishonors this legacy.

Access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all who give birth. The current licensing of midwives severely restricts and limits the profession and its ability to grow and sustain itself. It severely limits the ability of aspiring midwives to learn from the practitioners that have been passing down birth traditions and cultural competencies for generations that the current pathway does not have access to. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023 the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing Midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of Midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for safe and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Native Hawaiian, Black, Indigenous and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Limiting the pathways for practitioners perpetuates systems of oppression that have and continue to dispossess Native Hawaiians and Black and indigenous people of color of their lands and their rights to self-determination, which includes birth autonomy. To deny native Hawaiians and other residents their right to choose the model of reproductive healthcare that is best for their family is to be complicit in a system that continues to cause harm to mothers and birthing persons.

If we are committed to improve maternal health outcomes in Hawai'i, then we must include ALL choices in childbirth that are available to residents.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Mahalo for your time and attention on this matter.

Melissa D. Haile

Kailua, Oahu

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:00:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sonora mather	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My mother, Dr Patricia Mather ND has been a Naturopathic Dr and midwife for over 35 years. She began offering home births, specifically home water births, in the mid 80's and has since delivered hundreds of happy, healthy babies.

As a mother of two beautiful children and Aunty to many more, I stand behind my personal right and the right of all women, to be able to chose their Dr/midwife, their birth center/hospital location and how they wish to deliver their baby. These are all choices that should remain in the hands of the mother and her partner- with advisement from their Dr or midwife professional of choice.

Delivering babies at home, in a safe and controlled environment- with reasonable access to acute care if need be- is one of the most natural and precious gifts you could give a new mother. The most ideal environment for the expecting Mama and baby, is their most comfortable environment, where they will be at the most ease. This is usually their home. In many cases women chose birthing centers, which offer similar environments. Many women chose to deliver within a hospital setting, which is where they will feel most comfortable- it's a matter of choice.

Please, do NOT take away the ability for us to choose our birth path, the path of our childrens entry into the World should be ours to make- heart to heart- with our child.

I personally know more women who have had traumatic experiences during delivery within a hospital setting than those in a home birth setting.

I am 100% in support of midwifery and home births being an option for all in Hawaii.

Thank you

Sonora Mather

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 4:57:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness,

My name is Sara Harris and I am an OBGYN. I practice in Central Oahu and I live in Nuuanu.

I am writing in opposition of HB955. I believe this bill will affect the health safety of the birthing people of Hawaii.

Rigorous requirements for state licensure are required for so many professions in Hawaii. Midwives providing out of hospital births should be held to the standards as outlined by our current midwife licensure law.

While it is always a person's choice where and how to have their baby, I strongly feel that these choices need to be educated and informed. Patients need to be offered choices that not only make them feel safe but are actually safe. HB955 will not make out of hospital birth safer for birthing parents.

Thank you for your time,

Sara Harris, MD

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 2:46:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This legislation would hinder the rights of women to deliver their child naturally, as it has been done for all of human history (before the medical industry turned it into profit). Birthing freedom gives women deeper connection to their bodies and to their children. Midwife support is essential to this for both mother and baby. Your fear and rejection of naturalness should not be subjected onto everyone. Protect the sovereignty of Hawaiian women. Do not pass this.

Aloha mai kakou,

Kalauokekahuli is a non-profit organization based on Maui who supports Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander families by providing culturally-based prenatal, birth, and postpartum education and services.

We support HB 955 and the purpose of this act to:

- 1) Permit persons acting as birth attendants after July 1, 2023, to practice midwifery without a license, and
- 2) Include the North American Registry of Midwives Portfolio Evaluation Process as proof of a successful completion of a formal midwifery education and training program for Certified Professional Midwives.

We support a birthing person's right to informed choice of birth attendant, especially for the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. We recognize the many factors that birthing people consider when choosing who will attend their birth, including social factors such as institutionalized racism, cultural practices and traditions, immigration status and religious beliefs. The licensure exemption for birth attendants as described in Act 32 requires the birth attendant to disclose verbally and in writing important information to the birthing person, including their licensure status, education and training, that the person is not authorized to acquire, carry, administer, or direct others to administer legend drugs, and a plan for transporting the birthing person, among other requirements of the birth attendant. We believe that amending ACT 32 to permanently exempt birth attendants as described will allow birthing people to make a more informed choice as to who their birth attendants may be. Without this exemption in place, birthing people will still choose who they desire to attend their birth, but without the requirement of disclosure by the birth attendant.

We also support the proposed amendments to section 457J-8 of Act 32 to allow State Licensure of Certified Professional Midwives (CPM) who

- 1) Has obtained certification through the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP),
- 2) Holds a Midwifery bridge certificate issued by the NARM for Certified Professional Midwives; and
- 3) Has a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification for adults and newborns and for neonatal resuscitation.

The NARM allows for both MEAC (Midwifery Education Accreditation Council) graduates and those who complete the Portfolio Evaluation Process to sit for the exam and if passed, receive their Certified Professional Midwife credential. It is crucial that ACT 32 include the PEP process as a pathway to the CPM credential and state licensure. There are currently 8 MEAC accredited programs and institutions in the United States, of which only 3 have distance-learning programs, and of those 3, only 1 has Title IX funding. By only allowing CPM's who graduated from a MEAC school to apply for state licensure, we are not only disenfranchising qualified CPM's from practicing in Hawaii (those who completed the PEP process), we are disenfranchising our own community by eliminating an integral educational pathway to the CPM credential. This disenfranchisement disproportionately will affect our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

Kalauokekahuli encourages the healthy growth of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander families by supporting and enhancing the well-being of birthing people, parents, and their infants with holistic, multi-generational, and culturally-rooted care regardless of socioeconomic privilege. In doing so, we seek to revitalize and normalize 'Oiwī prenatal, birth, and postpartum practices foregrounding 'ike kupuna and Indigenous knowledge and by centering the care/support of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander families through community outreach. By offering culturally relevant educational classes and workshops, in addition to providing access to high quality prenatal, birth, and postpartum services, we strive to positively influence birth and postpartum outcomes for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Kalauokekahuli supports HB 955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:30:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melisa D. Haile	Melissa Danielle & Co	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Melissa and I have lived in Hawai'i for seven years. I acknowledge that Hawai'i is the traditional, indigenous, and invaded territory of the Kānaka Maoli and work to preserve and protect traditional Hawaiian healing practices, birth traditions, and practitioners through advocacy, allyship, and mindful perpetuation of the language, culture, and practices of the people who live, love, and birth in Hawai'i.

As a full-spectrum doula, perinatal community healthworker, and licensed massage therapist (MAT-15990), I provide continuous nonmedical education, emotional and physical support to individuals and families during pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, abortion, and pregnancy and infant loss.

Access to Midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all Birthing people and their children. I support continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023 the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing Midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of Midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of Midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to Midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and

Women of Color families today and for future generations. Restricting this pathway will erase the legacy of cultural and traditional midwifery in Hawai'i, further perpetuating systems of oppression that have and continue to dispossess Native Hawaiians and Black and indigenous people of color of their lands and their rights to self-determination, which includes birth autonomy.

To become a licensed massage therapist I can choose to go through an approved massage therapy training program or become an apprentice to a licensed massage therapist. Either pathway allows me to sit for the state licensing exam. I can choose from several school-based massage therapy programs or licensed massage therapists.

Currently, there are no midwifery schools in Hawai'i, which severely restricts access to the profession and limits its ability to grow and sustain itself in ways that are culturally appropriate and reflect the values of Native Hawaiian and other cultures that are represented throughout the islands. The current licensing has, however, allowed for a number of non-residents to become licensed. These licensed midwives have not been required to demonstrate core cultural competencies and cultural humility or even a commitment to preserving Native Hawaiian and traditional birth practices, and by doing so, risks harm to both the profession as practiced in Hawai'i as well as the values of the community.

The National Association of Registered Midwives accepts the same two pathways to be eligible to sit for the national exam. It is incongruous to allow massage therapists the opportunity to become licensed through either pathway and not extend the same rights to student midwives.

Respecting a person's right to choose where and how they give birth means lawmakers must also do their due diligence with regards to acknowledging traditional and indigenous birthing traditions and birth autonomy as they work to protect these rights and establish a standard of midwifery care.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Melissa Danielle

Melissa Danielle & Co

Kailua, Oahu

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:07:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Petersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We demand FREEDOM to CHOOSE how to BIRTH! Why must we fight for this?? Hospitals often DO NOT have our health in mind, we do not trust them! But we do trust MIDWIVES. Those who have trained and have many hours experience keeping Mothers and Babies HEALTHY then helping to deliver them unto this world. If this bill does not pass, we are moving from Anti-Mother Hawaii!! SUPPORT TRADITIONAL MIDWIFERY in HAWAII! Mahalo.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:23:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery is an essential service and should remain a women's choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 9:52:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Tyler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 10:19:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Whittington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This comes down to a Woman's choice. The more options that are available, the safer birth will be for the women of our community. Better healthcare systems not only support midwifery but include it in their care. Our system is deficient and often leaves women feeling that their healthiest choice is to birth at home. Having a trained professional in a Home birthing scenario is more safe than not. To take away access to midwifery will not force when to have unwanted hospital births, it will Instead force them to have free births at home without any assistance from a medical professional. It time for us to align with our progressive values and support women's right to chose how they safely birth their babies.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:23:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Midwifery is an essential service and should remain a women's choice.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 9:32:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Mawae-Lujan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman’s birth choices”

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 9:27:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ela Castillo	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery must be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 10:49:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cleopatra Tauanu'u	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The reason us mothers need midwives and doulas goes back to our ancestors times when they had no hospitals or OBGYN visits. They had the local village midwife or aunty come and help deliver the baby.

As a Samoan descendant growing up in these modern times where every health concern we have we run to the hospital for answers. I felt deeply in my soul that giving birth was something more spiritual than just giving birth.

My midwives were of such great help and support for me and my family. Hale Kealaula welcomed my husband and I with open arms ready to support our birth plans and what we had in mind. We honestly didn't know what to expect because we were first time parents and it would be our first home birth, midwife and doula service everything was new to us, but something about giving birth in the comfort and safety of my home and next to family just felt right.

I had two successful home births so far. I choose to have home births for all my babies to come. After having two beautiful babies outside of hospital scenes I don't think I could ever see myself going to the hospital willingly to give birth there.

I am grateful to have a midwife and doulas that empower me to give into my power during my most vulnerable time. It's a marathon experience going through labor and giving birth and our midwives and doula help prepare us leading up to the moment we are pushing, helping me breathe, helping me stay grounded and just reminding me that I am capable of bringing my child into this world safely.

This testimony may be found late, but I strongly stand with the Sister Bill because these ladies are holding the light for us moms who just want to reconnect with our power as women - giving birth to life.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 11:12:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alexandra Kontrimas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional midwives and their practices must be preserved for the benefit and health of the people and tradition. I strongly support HB955.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 11:58:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. That women should have the right to choose how they go through the birth process.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in OPPOSITION of HB955 I'm Melissa Chong a licensed midwife in Maui.

HRS 457-J was enacted in 2019 to license all midwives who were not nurses, after two state auditor reports the latest being 2017, concluded midwives needed mandatory licensure HRS 457-J provided a temporary exemption for birth attendants, this was to allow time for anyone who felt they were a Traditional Birth Attendant, to define their own pathway towards recognition. We had in 2019, 15 Midwives in Hawaii that qualified for licensure. Currently, we have 28 licensed midwives, and it is true that some of these new providers moved here because we became a favorable state towards midwives. But what we also see are several individuals that testified, previous to licensure, that "they would be put out of business" "erased" -- Many of the charged words you may hear again today, but in fact when HRS 457-J was enacted they became the first few midwives licensed here. The state of Hawaii is asking autonomous healthcare providers to support core competencies'. The MEAC school programs have a requirement of two sections to the schooling, didactic education, which allows midwives to have standardized core knowledge and a community based apprenticeship or preceptorship. This structure is supportive of someone learning any traditional, cultural or regional aspects to the care they provide. There is no part of the model that inhibits a person from practicing their culture or any cultural aspects to their practice. There are 8 MEAC schools that offer some hybrid or online elements. 4 out of 8 of these programs can be completed online and all but two of the programs expect and encourage you to complete your preceptorship in your community. We have 28 licensed midwives that would eventually become the preceptors. These students can attend and complete school all without leaving Hawaii. I'm asking the committee to **vote no to HB955**.

Sincerely,

Melissa W. Chong LM, CPM

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 12:21:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Long	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB955 as it limits access and options for women to receive care in the manner they choose. This limits personal freedoms, impacts the livelihood of persons providing care and ultimately is an unnecessary bill as it targets a small minority of people (in comparison to those who have hospital births). People who trust in you to do the right thing and not ostracize them.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 12:28:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Traditional Midwifery. It needs to be preserved and available for all families in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 12:36:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dru	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You should definitely keep Traditional Midwifery in Hawaii.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 1:34:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Alex	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955!!! Please REMEMBER in your SOUL. Mahalo nui loa.

This is in-regard to HB955 (Sovereign's Law - Midwifery Bill) to be combined with my in-person testimony at the Health and Homelessness Committee.

I have learned much about the midwife profession over the last 6-years of living on Oahu and have come to understand the importance of these amazing knowledgeable individuals who assist women plus families with their pregnancies and births.

To summarize my verbal and in-person testimony, the midwifery field is invested and dedicated to the emotional plus physical well-being of each woman making positive impacts for each family.

A midwife provides many sources of information to assist with the women involved to make educated decisions that are personalized for each family.

To narrow the midwifery options or to make this choice difficult to obtain, is to deny the pro-choice of all women who want to choose this viable and safe option for their baby plus family.

Any monopoly of a field is extremely scary, especially when it comes with prenatal care for all women and their baby.

Please know that I strongly support this HB955 and appreciate your consideration approving for the ability to secure the natural choice for Hawaii's future generations to come.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:35:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caren Charles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Traditional Midwifery is important and needs to be preserved & available to all Hawaii families.

I SUPPORT HB955!

Thank You,

Caren

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:53:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Ramsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB955. Traditional midwifery needs to be preserved and available to all Hawai'i families who want it.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:06:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

Thank you so much for hearing this bill. Sincere apologies, my testimony is late. I strongly support this bill as a mother of two healthy and thriving homebirth babies. I want my children and all birthing people to have the same rights that I had. It is a basic human right to choose where, how, and with whom they would like to go through, one of the most sacred, transformative, and private experiences of their life. This is something that should always remain a personal choice based on the wishes and well-being of the birthing person. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:44:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Frutoz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let will women choose what they do with their bodies. Government should not be involved.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:07:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Hanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB955. Let women choose who they want to attend their birth. Government has no right to dictate a woman's birth choices.

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:38:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erynn Duquette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Committee members,

I am Erynn Duquette. I have lived in Hawai'i for 23 years. I strongly support HB955 and Resolution #23-28.

Access to midwifery care improves health outcomes and safety for all birthing people and their children. I support the continuation of the Birth Attendant exemption and the addition of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP), certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives (NARM) to be included in HRS 457-J.

These exemptions allow for the profession of Midwifery to continue to grow in equitable ways, allowing accessibility, diversity, and cultural and religious freedom for Hawai'i.

After July 2023, the temporary exemption is set to expire, criminalizing midwifery practitioners who are filling a vital need in our communities. I support the sovereignty of midwifery to continue through traditional apprenticeship pathways in Hawai'i.

The perpetuation of community-based apprenticeship for the training of midwives is essential for safety and equitable access to midwifery care for all people, especially Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color families today and for future generations.

Please Support Birth Attendant Exemption and the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) for Hawai'i. Maintain a pathway for local people to learn traditional practices of health and healing from elders in their own communities.

Mahalo for reading my testimony,

Erynn Duquette

HB-955

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:21:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/3/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joleen Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii's women need freedom of choice in selecting who they entrust to deliver their babies. Birthing is an intimate, sacred act, and every woman should be able to have access the perfect birth attendant for her. Traditional midwifery offers an alternative to mainstream birthing with medical attendants. Traditional midwifery needs to be respected and preserved, and traditional birth attendants need to be able to continue serving the families of Hawaii.