



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Denise Eby Konan, Dean
College of Social Sciences

And

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Interim Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2805 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 2805 HD1, provided its adoption does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. This measure appropriates moneys for the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) to conduct a multiethnic cohort study regarding the 2023 Maui wildfires.

The full impact of the Maui wildfires and the resulting devastation on the affected communities remain largely unknown. The effect of the wildfires on the health and welfare of Maui residents as well as the needs of the community should be examined carefully so that informed decisions can be made toward the implementation of policies necessary to the recovery process.

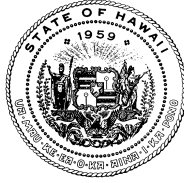
This bill, which supports UHERO, within the Social Sciences Research Institute, in collaboration with the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the UH Cancer Center, the UH Pacific Disaster Center (in Kihei, Maui), and numerous community-based organizations, seeks to conduct a comprehensive social and health study on the impacts of the 2023 Maui wildfires on a diverse group of individuals. Additionally, the study aims to establish a registry of those affected by the wildfires to assess their long-term health and well-being, and the impacts on communities. We firmly believe that this research endeavor will provide invaluable information for the State of Hawai'i, local organizations, and policymakers.

The UHERO and related University of Hawai'i partners, including the John A. Burns School of Medicine, are ideally positioned to conduct a multiethnic cohort study which

would provide policy makers with vital information concerning the Maui wildfires, health risks, and both short-term and long-term community needs.

UHERO has already begun the process of inviting Maui residents to participate in the study. Providing the funds needed to continue the study would benefit Maui and the state as a whole. The information gained from this study will add to the knowledge gained from work done in partnership between members of the Maui community, emergency, social and health systems with many University of Hawai'i units and additional JABSOM investigators exploring mental health, preparedness, response, recovery, and resiliency efforts. All of this will be helpful to mitigate the consequences of future disasters, including those attributed to climate change.

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



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of (HB2805 HD1)
RELATING TO HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing: Wednesday, February 28, 2024; 10:00 AM; Conference Room 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be
2 considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the
3 priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division
6 (CDPHND) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 The Department of Health supports this measure to fund the University of Hawai‘i’s Economic
8 Research Organization’s multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the 2023 Maui wildfires. This
9 study is vital to enhance the understanding of the broad and long-term health impacts of
10 wildfires and other natural disasters on the diverse communities of Hawai‘i.

11 The Maui wildfires caused not only immediate devastation but has also created long-term
12 health risks to the communities impacted, many of which are unknown. This study will allow
13 public health workers to better understand these health risks to guide resource allocation and
14 prevention activities. Further, the study’s design as a prospective cohort study using a pre-
15 existing multiethnic cohort for comparisons is vital to understanding the many ways Maui’s
16 diverse communities have been impacted, especially those communities that were already

1 experiencing inequitable health outcomes before the wildfires. Understanding these different
2 health outcomes is crucial for state and local organizations, as well as policymakers, to best
3 allocate resources and develop health interventions and policies that meet the specific needs of
4 these communities. In addition, strengthening the local capacity to investigate and monitor
5 post-disaster health effects will benefit Hawaii into the future.

6 The Department is available to provide technical assistance and support the project from a
7 public health perspective and staff are collaborating with the Investigators.

8 The Department also recognizes the significance of this study in contributing to our broader
9 understanding of the human health impacts of wildfires and other climate-related disasters.
10 Climate change is a public health crisis, and our State needs as much data as possible to
11 strengthen our public health resiliency as we move into the future.

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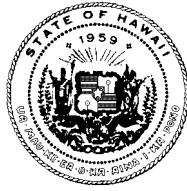
15

16

17 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 27, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2805 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Hearing: February 28, 2024, Time 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this important measure.

PURPOSE: This bill appropriates moneys for the University of Hawai'i to conduct a multiethnic cohort study and registry regarding the health effects of the 2023 Maui wildfires. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The University of Hawaii –Economic Research Organization (UHERO) and the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) are best positioned to conduct the multiethnic cohort study and registry regarding the short and long-term effects of the Maui Wildfires. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the same group of researchers from JABSOM conducted community-relevant research that informed planning and response activities. Already, this study's preliminary findings have led to communication between researchers and the Med-QUEST division regarding available health care coverage. Notably, study participants may gain insight into their exposure as they contribute to the community's data necessary for recovery and future planning needs.

Other states impacted by fire, such as [California](#), have solicited proposals for retrospective studies of exposure to wildfire smoke and are examining direct health effects on individuals with asthma, medication use, hospitalizations, physician/emergency department visits for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and impacts in disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups. Notably, the California proposal aims to estimate the health-related economic impacts of exposure to wildfire-specific air pollutants.

Further, a significant priority and effort of the Maui recovery is developing short and long-term housing options for Maui residents. There is a growing body of research that identifies both housing quality and stability as significant social determinants of health. Housing quality, including overcrowding, is linked to physical illness as well as psychological distress. Housing instability can result in long-term health outcomes, school and employment disruption, and increased family stress. In housing stressed and high-rent environments like Hawaii's, low and fixed-income renters are particularly vulnerable to evictions that negatively impact short and long-term well-being.

Lastly, the DHS supports the study with the Director's staff serving on the study's community advisory board.

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



HIPHI Board

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Department of Pediatrics

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

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

Garret Sugai
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce
Development

Date: February 25, 2024

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

Re: Support for HB2805 HD1 Relating to Health

Mtg: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)ⁱ **supports HB2805 HD1**. This bill would appropriate funding for University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization to conduct a multiethnic cohort study in relation to the 2023 Maui fires.

The impact of the Maui Fires will not be fully realized for decades. The long term effect on people's health and the well-being as well as the environment must be identified in order to inform future decisions.

This bill will help to fund the continued Maui Wildfire Exposure Cohort Study, which is a comprehensive study to understand and mitigate the health and social impacts fo the Maui wildfires. The project is collaborative effort to monitor health and well-being and to identify steps to achieve resiliency during the long recovery process.

The extent of the fires' impact on chronic disease, mental health, as well as land and water are yet unkown. Furthermore, the socioeconomic outcomes are not fully understood. By studying these impacts, we will better be able to inform future healthcare needs, community decisions, policies, and potential diseasters.

The total effects of the Maui Fires are still incomprehensible. It is integral for our state to gain an understanding of steps forward to aid in recovery as well as to plan for the future.

Thank you for considering this important measure that will inform decisions for many years and for allowing us to present this testimony in **support of HB2805 HD1**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peggy Mierzwa'.

Peggy Mierzwa
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Hawaii Public Health Institute

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.



January 26, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

RE: Strong Support of HB 2805 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Hrg: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 400 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT of HB 2805 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler
Executive Director



'Ahahui o nā Kauka

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 1015

Honolulu HI 96813

Phone 808.548.0270

E-mail huikauka@gmail.com

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February 26, 2024

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Group Testimony in support of HB2805HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated to the health of the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians in particular. Several of our hui members volunteered for the medical relief efforts after the Maui wildfires, experiencing first-hand the immediate devastation as well as the emerging effects on the physical, mentally, and social determinants of health. We support the appropriation of moneys to the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires. In our continued dedication to the people we serve, we believe the data from this study will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.



Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Date: February 28, 2024
From: Hawaii Medical Association
Beth England MD, Chair- HMA Public Policy Committee

RE HB 2805 HD1 Relating to Health - UHERO; Multiethnic Cohort Study; Maui Wildfires; Appropriation; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded Position: Support

This measure would appropriate moneys for the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization to conduct a multiethnic cohort study regarding the 2023 Maui wildfires, and declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

The Maui Wildfire Exposure Cohort Study (MauiWES) addresses a critical gap in knowledge about the effects of environmental hazards and socioeconomic challenges on the health of those affected by the wildfires. The data that includes biospecimens from over 1000 residents impacted by the wildfires will provide vital insights into the short- and long-term health outcomes such as chronic diseases, mental health issues, and the broader social implications.

Beyond the immediate analysis to address the current crisis, the study will inform preventative strategies and improve future disaster response, prioritizing health and well-being in the wake of natural disasters. We urge our lawmakers to support this study for a strong Maui recovery as well as Hawaii crisis mitigation and management in the future.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify on this issue.

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Beth England, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



fightcancer.org

House Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

ACS CAN SUPPORTS HB 2805 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH.

Cynthia Au, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Guam
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity in STRONG **SUPPORT** of HB 2805 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH which appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii to conduct a multiethnic cohort study and registry regarding the health effects of the 2023 Maui wildfires.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society advocates for public policies that reduce death and suffering from cancer. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Data collection is critical to understanding and reducing cancer disparities that might result from the 2023 Maui wildfires. The University of Hawaii Cancer Center provides important cancer research, access to life-saving treatment including clinical trials which play a critical role in reducing the cancer burden for communities in the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT on this important matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Government Relations Director Cynthia Au at 808.460.6109, or Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org.

Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521 -8995

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

February 28, 2024 10 A.M. – Rm 308 and via VIDEO CONFERENCE

The Hawaii Psychological Association testifies in strong support of HB 2805 HD1.

This measure appropriates moneys to the University of Hawai'i to conduct a multiethnic cohort study on the health effects stemming from the 2023 Maui wildfires – which includes mental health effects.

We have yet to determine and understand the full impact of the Maui wildfires; as well as the stress and chaos associated with recovery efforts on the mental health of the residents of Maui.

Given the collective, familial, individual, and economic traumas felt by the communities affected, extensive psychological effects are expected. The demand for psychological services related to the trauma is already high. Trauma symptoms are expected to become more evident as time goes on.


Thus, data is needed to fully understand the problems so that appropriate treatment is provided based on a diligent analysis of need. It is ill-advised for policymakers to merely guess at the scope of the problem. We need focused data collection and concerted evaluation. This study is an excellent place to start.

Of particular concern is the stress this disaster has had on the capacities of Hawaii's mental health providers – demand for which puts us already at crisis-level shortages.

Accordingly, we support efforts to study the mental health and well-being of those communities impacted; as such efforts will help us working with patients on charting a path toward their full recovery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alex Lichton, Ph.D.
Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.597.6550
www.papaolalokahi.org

House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH
Position: COMMENT

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

Papa Ola Lokahi provides **comment** regarding HB 2805. We uplift that there will be continued need to understand what supports community have and appropriate, timely delivery of such supports on Maui after the August 2023 wildfires.

As the immediate response transitions into medium- and long-term recovery, it is critical to center community needs. We emphasize the importance of remaining connected to the recommended practices identified during initial response, such as in-language resource provision; such decisions affirm to people of Maui that their feedback is being heard and integrated. Providing consistent, resonant actions during recovery activities such as research also aligns with the recent declaration of Hawai‘i as a trauma-informed state ([Executive Order 24-01](#)).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comment** of this legislation.

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:41:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samia Dutra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Samia Dutra, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

The population in Maui is in dire need of support for rebuilding the community. As a nurse, I have been closely following the effects on my healthcare workers peers in Maui, who consistently attempt to address the community's needs. However, the challenge of resources and medical assessment is critical. The multiethnic cohort study provides an opportunity for connection to the community. Expanding such initiatives and supporting new similar ones can improve community connection and trust.

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:02:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To:

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

FINANCE Committee

RE: Strong Support of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH.

Hrg: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:00 pm, Conference Room 309

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Stephanie Yan, MD and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

We need to be Vigilant about the short term and long term health impacts if the fires on our people.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Yan, MD

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:41:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Stephanie Villalobos and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

The wildfire has impacted us all in different ways. One thing these communities should not have to worry about is about their health. These studies that I've been a part of are crucial and so important to understanding something like this. This is all new to everyone, but I cannot stress how important this is. All the information they are getting is helping us understand what's happening. Helping people connect the dots on their health can lead to so many opportunities. They need the resources to heal and this is how we can see the bigger picture. Please support this bill so the community can get their resources they need.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Villalobos

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:52:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Bond-Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee

I wish to express my strong support for HB2805 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

Based on my professional experience as a data scientist at the University of Hawaii at Manoa working on health research, I can assure you that this project is essential. There is no alternative data that could be used to comprehensively monitor and analyze the health impact of the Maui wildfires. This data will make it possible to not only assess the short and long-term impacts for the study cohort, but statistical methods can be used with the proposed study design to derive results that are representative of the health impact of the Maui wildfires for entire population of affected survivors. I also really appreciate that the study works closely with community representatives to ensure that community priorities are included.

I hereby ask for your support and allocation of state funding for HB2805 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration

Dr. Daniela Bond-Smith

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:09:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AnnDionne Selestin	Roots Reborn	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To:

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

FINANCE Committee

RE: Strong Support of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH.

Hrg: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:00 pm, Conference Room 309

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is AnnDionne Selestin and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

The study has helped folks in many ways , it doesn't just focus on the physical, but also mental and emotional. Being a volunteer from the beginning of the study, I have helped , talked to folks who are broken , depressed, and so much more. This study shows them what is wrong internally ,what health risks they might be facing and to take care of themselves so they can see the long term recovery Maui will have.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

AnnDionne Selestin

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:00:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Lowery ND	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Dr. Marsha Lowery, I am naturopathic physician on Maui and have been a volunteer for the MauiWes study in addition to having a private practice. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. It is critical that we are able to continue assessing the health of our community post fires and expand to additional participants. The preliminary data has already shown that the fires have negatively impacted the health of Maui residents. Early detection ultimately leads to earlier treatment of disease, reducing a potential health catosphere in th future.

I ask for your **SUPPORT** and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Marsha Lowery ND

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:29:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Binh Le	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Binh Le and I am in strong support of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

I humbly ask for your support and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Binh Le

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:14:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara De Lucca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Barbara De Lucca, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

First and foremost, such a study will offer invaluable insights into the diverse impacts of the wildfires on different communities, taking into account factors like ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and geographical location. By understanding these nuances, the state, local organizations, and future policymakers will be equipped with critical information to address immediate community needs effectively. Moreover, the data generated from the study will inform the long-term recovery process, enabling tailored interventions to aid those most affected by the disaster. Additionally, the research will play a pivotal role in enhancing future disaster preparedness efforts, facilitating better planning, and mitigation strategies to minimize the impact of similar events in the future. Ultimately, supporting this bill is an investment in the resilience and well-being of Maui's diverse population and will pave the way for more informed and effective responses to future crises.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Barbara



UNIVERSITY
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MĀNOA

Department of Economics and UHERO
Ruben Juarez
HMSA Distinguished Endowed Professor
rubenj@hawaii.edu
Phone: 808-956-7143

01/26/2024

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Finance Committee, Hawaii State Legislature

Re: HB 2805 SD1 – Relating to Health

Dear Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

I'm the HMSA Professor in Health Economics at the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) and I'm in Strong Support of HB2805. HB2805 will fund the expansion of the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study (MauiWES), a multi-ethnic cohort, and the health registry for individuals affected by the wildfire. These two grassroots initiatives are led by UHERO and the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) in partnership with dozens of community organizations. MauiWES stands as the most extensive study to understand and mitigate the health and social impacts of the Maui wildfires. Our study not only provides participants with valuable knowledge about their personal exposure risks (often their first screening since the wildfires) and links them to resources but also contributes vital data to bolster community resilience during recovery. In an unprecedented effort, MauiWES has completed enrolling over 650 individuals in under a month, gathering a diverse array of social and biomedical samples, including urine, blood, lung, and saliva, and health screenings to evaluate their exposure risk. We hope we can follow these individuals over time to evaluate their risk, but equally important, support our community with data to intervene early before diseases manifest. The scope and speed of this data gathering effort are unmatched in Hawaii's history and could be considered a model of efficiency and thoroughness, akin to what would have been highly desired during other major disasters, such as the September 11 attacks in New York.

As part of the team leading MauiWES, I've had the firsthand privilege of seeing the impact of our work. Our mission goes beyond research; it's about real people and their lives post-disaster. Our preliminary results paint a stark picture and a dire need of survivors. They were published the latest UHERO report in February and include:

- **Social Impacts:** A staggering 65% of participants now reside in temporary housing, with 58% experiencing job loss due to the wildfires. Although over half have found new employment, a significant 24% remain unemployed.
- **Health Outcomes:** Nearly half (49%) report deteriorated health post-wildfires. Alarming, 24% lack consistent medical care access, and 13% are uninsured, a drastic increase from the state's 1.7% uninsured rate last year.
- **Physical Health:** We've identified an elevated cardiovascular disease risk, with 20% presenting high blood pressure and a concerning 74% potentially suffering from respiratory issues.
- **Mental Health:** A pronounced rise in depressive symptoms was noted in 55% of participants, with older residents being particularly affected, signaling the extensive psychological trauma inflicted by the wildfires.

Without the support of HB2805, we face the grim prospect of higher mortality, increased hospitalizations, and a community left in the dark about the risks they face. Funding from HB2805 would enable us to maintain a health registry of individuals exposed, continue our screenings and even expand it to children, and most importantly, offer hope and tangible help to those affected. It's an investment not just in the health of our citizens today but in the resilience of our community for years to come. We have a chance to lead by example, to show how investment in health and knowledge can build a stronger, more informed society. I humbly ask you to **pass HB2805**.

Sincerely,
Ruben Juarez, PhD
University of Hawaii

Date: February 26, 2024

To: Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Members of the House Finance Committee

Subject: Strong Support of HB 2805 — Relating to Health

My name is Carl Bonham, I am the Executive Director of UHERO, and a Professor of Economics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the College of Social Sciences, I am writing to offer my strong support for HB 2805 Relating to Health. My testimony is submitted as an individual and not as a representative of the University of Hawai'i.

I strongly support HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. This bill supports collaboration between UHERO, the College of Social Sciences Health Policy Initiative, and the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the UH Cancer Center, and numerous community-based organizations to conduct a comprehensive study of health and social impacts of the 2023 Maui wildfires. The study will establish a registry of individuals impacted by the wildfires, enabling a thorough assessment of the long-term health and well-being effects on these communities.

This collaboration will provide invaluable information for the State of Hawaii, local organizations, and future policymakers. It will deliver crucial health information to both study participants and those addressing immediate community needs, including community organizations and policy makers. Beyond an examination of environmental exposures, the study concentrates on the health and well-being of those deeply affected individuals. The data and insights derived from this research will not only deepen our understanding of the long-term consequences of wildfires but will also contribute to more effective policies and strategies to mitigate the impact of future disasters.

State support for MauiWES, will extend the study's viability beyond our initial funding from the Hawaii Community foundation. We have also applied for a competitive federal grant from the National Institutes of Health, and will need support from all parties to make this work a success. This study continues UHERO's long-standing tradition of public-private partnerships to support research of critical practical significance to the people of Hawaii.

With over twenty-five years of economic and policy research, UHERO has developed a comprehensive and robust data infrastructure. Our public facing data portals and dashboards cover a wide range of topics, and serves as a valuable resource for policymakers and the community daily. Similarly, the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) has successfully established the Hawai'i All-Payer Claims Database, positioning it as the primary data center in collaboration with various state entities such as the Department of Health, Office of Enterprise Services, and Medicaid (Med-QUEST). The combined efforts of UHERO and SSRI's robust infrastructure will be invaluable for informing and guiding disaster recovery efforts, offering insights and data-driven solutions to aid in the rebuilding process.

MauiWES is a collaborative effort, drawing upon the support and expertise of numerous community partners who have been unwavering in their commitment since the outbreak of the wildfires. By supporting this initiative, the legislature can demonstrate its unwavering dedication to the well-being of its constituents and the resilience of the Maui community, ultimately ensuring a faster and more efficient recovery for everyone involved.

I respectfully urge your support for HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH to secure state funding for this pivotal research partnership.

Sincerely,

Carl Bonham
UHERO Executive Director
Professor, Department of Economics
University of Hawaii at Manoa



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John A. Burns School of Medicine
Department of Anatomy, Biochemistry and Physiology
1800 East-West Rd, Office 215
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Email: amaunakea@hawaii.edu

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly,

My name is Alika Maunakea, and I am writing to express my emphatic support for HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. This critical piece of legislation will bolster the efforts of the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization and its partners to conduct a comprehensive multiethnic cohort study. Our focus is the profound health impacts of the catastrophic 2023 Maui wildfires—a disaster whose effects are still felt across our communities.

Through HB 2805, we seek to equip the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with indispensable data that will be pivotal in addressing urgent community needs. Moreover, this information will be instrumental in guiding the recovery process and enhancing our collective preparedness for future calamities.

As a Native Hawaiian biomedical researcher, I am at the forefront of the Wildfire Exposure Study, which is a critical initiative to understand and combat health disparities, particularly among our most vulnerable groups, including Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Our state currently faces a significant data gap regarding the long-lasting repercussions of environmental hazards, like those post-wildfire, on the health of our people. The support of HB 2805 is not a mere contribution; it is an essential investment in the systemic collection of data that will inform and transform the approach of federal, state, and local entities, alongside community-based organizations, in instituting robust policies and practices.

Our efforts have already brought over 650 participants into the fold of the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study (MauiWES), and we are poised to extend our reach into schools and other community organizations. This expansion is not just about numbers; it's about laying down a roadmap for preventative strategies that will substantially curtail the escalating healthcare costs and social challenges linked to heightened morbidity and mortality rates among those affected by the wildfires. Ultimately saving money for the state of Hawai'i.

The absence of this study leaves us in the dark, unprepared for the ongoing challenges faced by Maui's communities, and vulnerable to the health risks of future disasters. This study is, therefore, essential for researchers and the state—each responsible for safeguarding the health and welfare of our diverse citizenry.

I humbly urge you to recognize the gravity of this initiative and to lend your crucial support. I request that you vote in favor of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH, thereby securing the state funding that will enable us to continue and expand this vital work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alika'.

Alika K. Maunakea, PhD
Professor – Epigenomics and Health Disparities Research
University of Hawai'i, Manoa
(Honolulu resident of zip code 96826)

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:51:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jameil Clarke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa

My name is Jameil Clarke, and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

As someone dealing with the long-term medical and socioeconomic consequences of exposure to hazardous environments, I affirm that supporting HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH is crucial to the lasting health and well-being of individuals affected by the 2023 Maui wildfires. Delaying the prognosis and prevention of health problems related to hazardous environments will only lead to steeper costs in the future.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Jameil Clarke

Honolulu, 96822

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:26:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikima Glatt	Maui Medic Healers Hui	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Nikima Glatt, a mother and nurse practitioner residing in Lahaina, where my child attends Lahainaluna High School located just above the burn zone. For years, I've dedicated my life to serving the medical needs of this community, but since the fires, I have dedicated my life and work to treating those impacted by the fires here in Lahaina and Upcountry. I currently hold the position of Medical Director for the Maui Medic Healers Hui and I am working on my PhD in Public Health. I write in support of Bill HB2805.

Having worked 15 years in emergency medicine and as a certified trauma nurse, I thought I was prepared for any disaster. However, the wildfires in Lahaina shattered that illusion. Since that fateful day, I have witnessed and personally experienced the devastating consequences, both physically and emotionally.

I've treated a diverse range of individuals, from pregnant women and newborns to the elderly, who were left without assistance during the fires. Despite wearing proper protective gear, I find myself grappling with respiratory complications, cardiovascular concerns, hypertension, kidney and liver problems, lead poisoning, and awaiting results for additional heavy metal exposure. These resulting medical expenses have pushed me into debt.

My story is just one among many. I've seen children in our community, displaced and haunted by fear, struggling with anxiety. One child told me he has nothing left to come back to here. Another teenager shared the harrowing experience of escaping with his three-year-old brother, narrowly avoiding being engulfed by the flames in his apartment building and having to run out to the bypass barefoot. Their stories are emblematic of the trauma our community faces daily and will continue to face if we do not get the support we need.

This testimony is not just about my personal struggles; it's a plea for the entire Maui community. Bill HB2805 is a lifeline for us. The MauiWES study, in which I am a Co-investigator, is our only chance to address the long-term health implications and provide essential public health education. Expanding the study is crucial to comprehensively understand the impact of the wildfires on our community.

Beyond Maui, this study has the potential to save lives globally by offering insights into managing the aftermath of wildfire disasters. Our community has endured enough trauma, and we deserve better. Supporting this bill will ensure that our residents receive the care they need,

paving the way for healthier outcomes and preventing further complications associated with wildfire exposure.

In conclusion, I implore you to consider the profound impact this bill can have on the well-being of Maui residents and the global community. Let us not be forgotten or left behind. Maui deserves better, and Bill HB2805 is our beacon of hope.

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:47:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Salazar Hyman	Tagnawa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Michelle Salazar Hyman and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – **RELATING TO HEALTH**. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

I am part of a outreach group created to support the Filipino community in Maui and we were able to help the UHERO team connect with and provide health information to over 100 Filipinos just this last weekend. More funding for this project and their partners will allow us to reach even more marginalized groups which in turn can grant the access to valuable health information.

I humbly ask for your **SUPPORT** and pass HB 2805 – **RELATING TO HEALTH** for state funding.

Sincerely,

Michelle Salazar Hyman

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:10:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Montoya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being part of this community (The Lahaina community) we feel the need to take care of our health and that of future generations, that is why we feel obliged to actively participate in seeking support from you in the legislature, you are significant support and requested urgently from you to support the expansion of the group to include children and first responders. Thank you for your support of this proposal

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:08:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Re: Strong Support of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH.

Dear Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Amy Hou, MD and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

I am an internal medicine physician who was practicing in Lahaina. Since the fires, we've been displaced and have moved out of Lahaina to upcountry Maui; however, I have still been involved in health areas for Lahaina post-fire. It is incredible the destruction the fires have caused to our Lahaina community, and it's only fair and right to thoroughly and extensively track the health symptoms, diseases, and outcomes of our Lahaina residents - that have both left or continued to reside in Lahaina. It is our duty - to not try to hide anything - but to openly track the health outcomes, intervene early and provide the best data, care and support to our residents.

Best,

Amy Hou, MD

TO: House Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2024
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2805 HD 1, RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia J. Goto, and I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2805 HD1, relating to health. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Environmental Health states that public health disaster studies help identify associations between disaster-related exposures and mortality or morbidity. Understanding the adverse health effects of disasters provides situational awareness and provides timely and accurate health information for decision-makers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cynthia J. Goto

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:08:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brennan Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brennan Yamamoto and I am in strong support of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires. This group has previously partaken in research surrounding Native Hawaiian health and trying to add information surrounding the health disparities NHPI suffer. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

The research conducted by this department can alleviate some of the long term consequences for those affected by the wildfire. The received \$100 incentive is a small bonus in comparison to the health information provided, and potential for long term advice to be given. Furthering our understanding the affects of the wildfire, both short and long-term, in relation to physical and mental health is essential in further serving our communities.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely, Brennan Yamamoto

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:23:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genesis Gil	Roots Reborn	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To:

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

FINANCE Committee

RE: Strong Support of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH.

Hrg: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:00 pm, Conference Room 309

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Genesis Gil and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

Roots Reborn has partnered with UHERO to recruit members of the immigrant community. Together we have worked tirelessly to run a culturally competent study. Dr.Alika, Dr.Ruben, and the team have advised many people to see their medical provider

because they detected concerning results. Without this preliminary study many people would not be receiving the medical attention needed for their wellbeing. I am in support of this bill because it helps the recovery of a vulnerable community during a difficult time.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Genesis Gil

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 11:19:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miriam Stark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives Nishimoto and Tam,

My name is Miriam Stark (500 University Avenue; Apt. 1437) and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization and its partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

Work by The Maui Wildlife Exposure Cohort Study (MauiWES), the most comprehensive study to understand and address health and social impacts of the Maui wildfires, will help our state develop preventative strategies for future disasters that climate change, among other factors, will cause. We need to support community resilience through the current recovery phase, and understand how to enhance resilience across the state.

I humbly ask for your **SUPPORT** and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Me ke aloha,

Miriam Stark

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:12:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Moynihan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is (Name) and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

I was exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune while in the Marine Corps. Department of defense, department of the Navy and the Marine Corps hid this for many years and it finally became public in 2009. The lack of tracking for health effects or so many years, certainly led to thousands of deaths.

I was a firefighter in New York for 20 years. Our annual physicals were reported to national database that helped track health effects unique to firefighters. It is helped to save thousands of lives.

I was also a first responder on 911 at the trade center with the fire department. The fire department and the city of New York began tracking adverse health effects from the smoke and dust early. They continue to do the same to this day as part of the September 11 healthcare registry. It is a national database that tracks adverse health effects from inhaling the smoke and dust as I mentioned earlier. There are many similar contaminants and toxins from the Maui wildfires and many adverse health effects are already being reported that are very similar to those of the trade center. tracking needed to start as soon as the fires were out, however, they were not. We are already far behind the eight ball, tracking adverse health effects from the Maui wildfires, and we need to make up as much as possible. Please help save lives, and pass this bill

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Daniel Moynihan

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:54:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rafael Aniu Peres-David	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Rafael Peres-David and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

The group is develop a work that is very important for teh community and that needs further support.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Rafael Peres-David

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 3:14:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesley Umeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Representatives Ichiyama, Poepoe, Perruso, Kapela,

I am a student from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa helping with the wildfire study and I am in support of the bill HB 2805. This bill will support the University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

The need the people of Maui have for better support and care is abundantly clear. It is paramount to provide the community with support in a timely manner. It is also important for those affected by the fires to take control of their life, health, and wellbeing and I believe this research is a step in the right direction.

I humbly ask for your support to pass HB 2805 for state funding.

HB-2805-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:11:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Walsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To:

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

FINANCE Committee

RE: Strong Support of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH.

Hrg: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 2:00 pm, Conference Room 309

Representatives Yamashita and Kitagawa,

My name is Catherine Walsh and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH. The bill will support the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization and partners for a multiethnic cohort study on the effects of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires and a health registry. In addition, it will provide the State, local organizations, and future policymakers with critical information and data needed to address imminent community needs, inform the long-term recovery process, and support better planning for future disaster preparedness.

Include a few sentences about why this bill is important to you.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT and pass HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH for state funding.

Sincerely,

Catherine Walsh