



March 11, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY INTERGOVERNMENTAL MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

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

Hrg: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 3:00PM

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