



January 30, 2024

To: Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair, COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair, COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair, COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION &
TECHNOLOGY

RE: Strong Support of HB 2805 – RELATING TO HEALTH

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

Representatives Ichiyama, Poepoe, Perruso, Kapela,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 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.

HPHA is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2805. 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.

I humbly ask for your **SUPPORT** of HB 2805 for state funding.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler
Executive Director