

June 18, 2024

Contact: Stacy Wong
swong@hah.org
(808) 521-8961 (office)
(860) 805-2472 (cell)

HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII CONFERS ACHIEVEMENT IN ADVOCACY AWARD ON HOUSE SPEAKER SCOTT SAIKI

Award recognizes work on key healthcare initiatives such as vaccination and workforce development.

HONOLULU, HAH.org The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) has conferred its 2024 Achievement in Advocacy Award on House Speaker Scott Saiki, who represents the 25th district encompassing McCully, Kaheka, Kakaako, and Downtown Oahu.

Speaker Saiki has been a steady champion for ensuring that all Hawaii residents have access to critical services, including preventive care. He was a leader in bringing together public and private resources to stand up COVID-19 vaccination sites throughout the state, ensuring that vulnerable residents could be protected as soon as possible. Hawaii was lauded for its vaccine rollout and the important role that the speaker played is acknowledged with this honor.

The speaker has also supported innovative programs to grow our healthcare workforce. In the years between 2019 and 2022, the number of vacant patient-facing, non-physician jobs nearly doubled. The industry, in partnership with educational institutions and key partners in the executive and legislative branches, was able to quickly stand up programs to better recruit and retain home-grown talent into critical professions. This session, the speaker helped to push through a House Majority Caucus package that included funding to continue these programs, and to start the renovation of healthcare classrooms in every applicable public high school in the state.

He has also shown a commitment to ensuring that underserved communities receive access to important care, such as screenings that can help to identify certain diseases early and provide interventions as appropriate. He has also shown a commitment to protecting practitioners providing reproductive health services and ensuring that families are able to make the decisions that are best for them.

“House Speaker Saiki’s support for these measures has, without doubt saved lives,” said HAH President and CEO Hilton Raethel. “His support on numerous healthcare priorities has shown his commitment to

making Hawaii a healthier place, and supporting keeping our local talent here in the state working in good jobs in the healthcare industry.”

HAH is the nonprofit trade organization serving Hawaii’s acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, Type II adult residential care homes, home healthcare companies, and hospices.

Saiki will be honored at HAH’s Awards and Scholarship Gala in October.

###

About the Healthcare Association of Hawaii

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is the nonprofit trade organization serving Hawaii’s hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, Type II adult residential care homes, home healthcare companies, and hospices. It is the state affiliate for national organizations that include the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Health Care Association / National Center for Assisted Living, the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. For more information, go to HAH.org. Find us on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter, @HealthcareHAH), and Instagram.