

February 15, 2023

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
2:00 pm  
Via Videoconference



RE: **HB955 HD1** Relating Chapter 457J (**Support with Amendments**)

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce testifies in **support of HB955 HD1**, which Permit persons acting as birth attendants after July 1, 2023, to practice midwifery without a license 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 workers, consumers or the environment; we echo the words of Ho'opae Pono Peace Project: "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."

With that, we urge this committee to pass HB955 HD1 **with amendments**: return HB955 to its original form, including an effective date "upon its approval." We must allow consumers of midwifery services greater choice in selecting their birth attendant, while ensuring that midwives have credible and accessible pathways to practice without being persecuted.