

FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF DEWANNE@HOOKELEHEALTH.COM

From the Pacific Business News:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2020/07/16/partnership-tests-screening-app-for-caregivers.html>

## Mainland companies, University of Hawaii partner to create Covid-19 screening app for caregivers

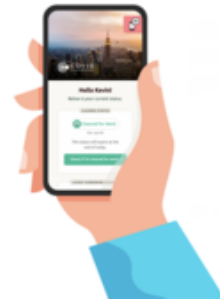
Jul 16, 2020, 7:42am HST

Two tech companies with Hawaii roots, iHealthHome and MediKeeper, created the Covid Navigator mobile app that automates Covid-19 screening of employed caregivers who serve seniors. The Seattle and San Diego-based companies partnered with the University of Hawaii's Pacific Urban Resilience Lab and the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center to conduct research and put the app to the test in Hawaii.

"Without realizing it, there is lot of administrative burden with screenings, so we asked: how do we do this in a simpler way?" said Dew-Anne Langcaon, CEO for iHealthHome, noting ongoing screening is part of the new normal. "If we can get people into the habit of doing it everyday, it instills personal responsibility of keeping the virus contained in the community."

The Covid Navigator was designed to help employers navigate the complexities of conducting and documenting daily health screenings. The mobile app takes an employee less than one minute to complete on their phone and the answers to questions about symptoms, temperature readings and other tasks needed by the employer are automatically logged, tracked and reported for the employer's records.

"It's less about the technology, and more of embedding it into the workflow and routine of the organization," Langcaon said. "How do we have caregivers to remember to open the app? Employers turn it into part of the workflow, and have clients ask to



COURTESY IHEALTHHOME, INC.

iHealthHome, Inc. developed an app that makes daily symptom screenings fast and easy.

look for the badge before they come into a home."

Once employees complete the screening and pass, they get a "cleared for work badge" on the app before reporting to the worksite. This way, when they enter the workplace, they can flash the badge and pass through, or take a quick temperature reading if the workplace requires it. The pre-screening process eases the congestion at facility entry points.

Current screening processes can be especially challenging for senior care organizations.

"One of our challenges as a home care agency is that we don't have a front door to stop and screen employees since they report to work at our client's homes," Tanya Fernandes, CEO for Hookele Home Care said in a statement. "Our screening must be done in the field ... the mobility of the app and the cleared for work badge ... helps to give peace of mind to our senior clients and their families before our caregivers perform services in their home."

The University of Hawaii collaborated with three organizations earlier this month: Kahala Nui, a senior living community, Caring Manoa, an adult residential care home, and Hookele Home Care. Each organization will implement the Covid Navigator app into its workday for 60 days and UH will evaluate the success of the integration of the automated screening process.

"Screening employees at the door was knee jerk reaction," Langcaon said. "The study with UH is looking at how we can use technology to reduce those administrative burdens, the barriers and challenges of implementing tech, and how we can overcome all that to implement it on a widespread basis."

The app keeps employees honest about the symptoms they report with a simple solution — a required signature.

"People think twice when they sign their name," Langcaon said.

Employees must sign off that the questions were answered truthfully, which is recorded for the employer. If the employer finds out the employee did lie when reporting symptoms, there is documentation that can hold the employee accountable.

"Covid-19 will be with us for a long time and inevitably, there will other health related disruptions in the future," Dr. Karl Kim, executive director of the Pacific Urban Resilience Lab and the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawaii, said in a statement. "Screening and testing are key factors for control over the spread of the disease in the short term, but in the long run, analysis of data will help us better understand how to improve systems as a society to

respond more rapidly to protect vulnerable populations. We are excited to work with these progressive organizations to understand the role of automation and data analysis in protecting our seniors.”

While the app was originally created to aid the senior home care and healthcare field, Langcaon said that the app can prove useful to other businesses too.

The Covid Navigator is also seeking additional senior care organizations locally that may be interested in joining the study.

**Megan Fernandes**

Reporter

*Pacific Business News*

