

Benjamin C. Chu

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A driven Ph.D. Economics candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a research focus in health economics, public health, and applied econometrics. Possesses 6+ years of experience in academic research, data analysis, econometric methods, and statistical modeling. Skilled in drafting and disseminating statistical reports, conducting independent research, writing for academic journals, and teaching at the university level. Currently seeking employment as an economist.

EDUCATION

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- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Honolulu, Hawai'i
Ph.D. - Economics *Expected: May 2023*
Dissertation: *Three Essays on Public Insurance Policies Affecting Low-Income Populations*
Committee: Tim Halliday, Victoria Fan, Ruben Juarez, Sang-Hyop Lee & Teresa Molina
 - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Honolulu, Hawai'i
M.A. - Economics *May 2019*
 - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Honolulu, Hawai'i
B.S. - Family and Consumer Sciences *May 2015*

WORK EXPERIENCE

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- **Research Assistant | Public Health Analytics Collaborative** Honolulu, Hawai'i
Hours per week: 20 *Sep 2019 - Present*
Salary: \$24,000/year
 - Applied statistical, econometric, and financial techniques to address and resolve issues of substance use and abuse within the State of Hawai'i.
 - Prepared technical reports, evaluation results, and key deliverables to be presented to various community stakeholders and academic audiences.
 - Implemented several techniques to extract, clean, and analyze data using various programming languages and software.
 - Supervised fellow team members in performing rapid lit reviews; preparing reports; and learning techniques in data science.
 - **Lecturer | Department of Economics, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa** Honolulu, Hawai'i
Hours per week: 10 *Jan 2019 - Present*
Salary \$5,000 (per course)
 - Taught undergraduate courses in the subjects related to microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory, and data analysis and visualization.
 - Created and implemented a six-week intensive summer data analysis and visualization course for students pursuing quantitative economics.
 - Designed and constructed a learning curriculum that is easily accessible for students both in classrooms and online environments.
 - **Educational Coach | Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa** Honolulu, Hawai'i
Hours per week: 10 *Aug 2019 - Jan 2020*
Salary: \$15/hr
 - Assisted students with special health care needs in improving their academic and self-management skills such as time management, organization, and study habits.
 - Helped students identify and build strengths to transfer abilities across domains, develop individual plans for academic support, and foster the growth of affective skills.
 - **Teaching Assistant | Department of Economics, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa** Honolulu, Hawai'i
Hours per week: 20 *Aug 2017 - May 2019*
Salary: \$20,000/year
 - Taught weekly sessions for undergraduate students.
 - Assisted in the creation and grading of assignments and exams for undergraduate economic courses.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

6+ years of experience (20 hours per week) conducting independent, original economic research in the applied microeconomics field (i.e., health, econometrics, and health policy). Details of research-related experience include:

- Conducting predictive and explanatory models of policy issues related to Medicaid, risk adjustment, and other relevant issues in health care.
- Performing independent and original research in topics related to health economics, health policy, and econometrics.
- Implementing appropriate statistical econometric techniques (i.e., difference-in-differences, linear discriminant analysis, instrumental variable regression, etc) in the analysis and interpretation of economic research questions.
- Preparing a written analysis of statistical findings to be disseminated in reports or submitted to academic journals.
- Presenting research at conferences and meetings with various professional organizations, stakeholders and academic audiences.

From Dissertation: *Three Essays on Public Insurance Policies Affecting Low-Income Populations*

- **Who Did the ACA Medicaid Expansion Impact? Using Linear Discriminant Analysis to Estimate the Probability of Being a Complier (Job Market Paper) (Revise & Resubmit to Health Economics)**
 - Used data from American Community Survey (ACS) to estimate probability of being a complier from the ACA Medicaid expansion.
 - Introduced a novel method that utilizes machine learning and econometrics to estimate the posterior probabilities of the compliers.
- **Laying Down the Welcome Mat: Measuring the Impacts of the Medicaid Expansion for Children Previously Eligible for Medicaid (Working Paper)**
 - Used data from the American Community Survey (ACS) to estimate the impact of the ACA Medicaid expansion on children who were previously eligible for Medicaid.
 - Applied Modified Gross Adjustment Income Thresholds from the Kaiser Family Foundation to determine Medicaid eligibility of children across various age groups, states, and years.

Other Research:

- **Assessing the Effectiveness of Risk Adjustment Systems in Recognizing Dual Diagnosis and Co-occurring Conditions for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (Work in Progress)**
 - Estimating the performance of current risk adjustment models for health insurance exchanges in estimating the risk score that accurately reflects the cost associated with treating those experiencing simultaneous conditions in mental health and substance use.
 - Developing a novel comorbidity index that captures the prevalence of co-occurring mental health conditions and dual diagnoses.

POLICY PAPERS & LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

1. **Chu, B.**, Nakano, L., Do, B., Emory, C., Fan, V.Y. Hawai'i State Epidemiologic Report and County Profiles. Honolulu, HI. August 6th, 2022. Web Version: Report
2. Aoki, C., Valdez, K., Abe, A., Burke, K., **Chu, B.**, Subia, C., Lumbao, S., Untalan, R., McKee, S., Ha, E., Talagi, D., Fontanilla, T., Worley, K., Galanis, D., Bolan, A., Fan, V.Y. Hawai'i Opioid Initiative Evaluation Report 2021. Honolulu, HI. August 31st, 2021. Web Version: Report
3. Abe, A., **Chu, B.**, Fan, V.Y. State Opioid Response Technical Assistance Plan, 2021.
4. **Chu, B.**, Fontanilla, T., Fan, V.Y. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Overdose Data to Action Plan (OD2A) Laulima Outpatient Dataset - Data Quality Assessment, 2021.
5. **Chu, B.**, Fontanilla, T., Fan V.Y. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Overdose Data to Action Plan (OD2A) Laulima Inpatient Dataset - Data Quality Assessment, 2021.

SKILLS SUMMARY

- **Programming Languages:** R, Python, SQLite, HTML, MATLAB
- **Software Experience:** Stata, RStudio, Microsoft PowerBI, Microsoft Excel
- **Operating Systems:** Microsoft Windows OS, Mac OS
- **Media/Design:** L^AT_EX, Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft PowerPoint
- **Research:** Health Economics, Risk Adjustment, Regression Analysis, Model Evaluation, Statistical Modeling, Research Design, Academic Writing, Quantitative Analysis, Econometrics

TEACHING

- **ECON 130:** *Principles of Microeconomics* (Teaching Assistant) - Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019
- **ECON 130:** *Principles of Microeconomics* (Instructor) - Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2022
- **ECON 131:** *Principles of Macroeconomics* (Instructor) - Summer 2021
- **ECON 256:** *Data Analysis and Visualization* (Instructor) - Summer 2022
- **ECON 300:** *Intermediate Macroeconomics* (Instructor) - Summer 2019, Summer 2020
- **ECON 425:** *Introduction to Econometrics* (Teaching Assistant) - Spring 2019
- **ECON 627:** *Econometrics II* (Grader) - Fall 2022

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Burnham O. Campbell Scholarship, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa - 2022
- Pi Gamma Mu, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa - 2022
- Frances Davis Graduate Student Teaching Nomination, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa - 2017-2019
- Graduate Assistantship, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa - 2017-2019
- Phi Upsilon Omicron, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa - 2012-2015
- Golden Key International Honor Society, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa - 2012-2015
- Band Scholarship, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa - 2010-2016

CONFERENCES

2022:

4. "Who Did the ACA Medicaid Expansion Impact? Using Linear Discriminant Analysis to Estimate the Probability of Being a Complier". *Hawai'i Economic Association Graduate Student Showcase, Honolulu, Hawai'i, TBD.*
3. "Find Your Peace, Find Your Space". *Special Parents Information Network Conference, Honolulu, Hawai'i, October 22nd, 2022 (with Thao Le).*
2. "Who Did the ACA Medicaid Expansion Impact? Using Linear Discriminant Analysis to Estimate the Probability of Being a Complier". *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Applied Microeconomics Workshop, Honolulu, Hawai'i, September 20th, 2022.*
1. "Does Smoking Affect Wages?". *Workshop on the Economics of Risky Behavior, Honolulu, Hawai'i, July 9th, 2022 (Discussant) (with Gregor Pfeifer).*

2021:

3. "Who Did the ACA Medicaid Expansion Impact? Using Linear Discriminant Analysis to Estimate the Probability of Being a Complier". *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Applied Microeconomics Workshop, Honolulu, Hawai'i, November 16th, 2021.*
2. "Laying Down the Welcome Mat: Measuring the Impacts of the Medicaid Expansion for Children Previously Eligible for Medicaid". *Hawai'i Economic Association Graduate Student Showcase, Honolulu, Hawai'i, November 4th, 2021.*
1. "Laying Down the Welcome Mat: Measuring the Impacts of the Medicaid Expansion for Children Previously Eligible for Medicaid". *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Applied Microeconomics Workshop, Honolulu, Hawai'i, October 12th, 2021.*

2020:

1. "Autism Supports See Through My Eyes". *Special Parents Information Network Conference, Honolulu, Hawai'i, October 17th, 2020 (with Alysha Kim).*

2019:

2. "Laying Down the Welcome Mat: Measuring the Impacts of the Medicaid Expansion for Children Previously Eligible for Medicaid". *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Applied Microeconomics Workshop, Honolulu, Hawai'i, March 5th, 2019.*
1. "A Horse of Different Color: Strategies to Support Students with Autism Focusing on Motivation". *Special Parents Information Network Conference, Honolulu, Hawai'i, April 13th, 2019 (with Ann N. Garfinkle).*

2018:

1. "Mindful Meditation and Communication Strategies". *Special Parents Information Network Conference, Honolulu, Hawai'i, April 21st, 2018.*

2017:

1. Keynote Address. *Special Parents Information Network Conference, Honolulu, Hawai'i, April 22nd, 2017.*

REFERENCES

Prof. Timothy Halliday

Professor

Department of Economics

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Prof. Victoria Fan

Associate Professor

Center on Aging

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Prof. Sang-Hyop Lee

Professor

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