

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 2025

RE: S.B. No. 637

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred  
S.B. No. 637 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate  
funds to the University of Hawaii System for various nursing  
programs.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the University of Hawai'i System, Hawai'i Primary Care  
Association, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, Healthcare  
Association of Hawaii, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that meeting the growing demand for  
skilled nursing professionals is critical to addressing health  
care shortages and ensuring the well-being of the State's  
communities. Your Committee further finds that expanding nursing  
education programs at the University of Hawaii System is essential  
to developing a robust workforce capable of meeting the needs of  
an aging population, addressing health care disparities in  
underserved areas, and responding to future public health  
challenges. This measure invests in the nursing programs of the  
University of Hawaii System to improve health outcomes in the  
State and enhance the State's capacity to provide equitable and  
accessible care for all residents.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing each appropriation amount to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee notes that this measure, as amended, contains unspecified appropriation amounts. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider an appropriation amount of:

- (1) \$447,936 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 respectively, for University of Hawaii, Manoa (UOH 100)-University of Hawaii, West Oahu Nursing Collaboration Phase III;
- (2) \$111,984 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 respectively, for the University of Hawaii, Manoa (UOH 100) for the Online Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science Program (BS);
- (3) \$424,364 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 respectively, for the University of Hawaii, West Oahu (UOH 700) for the Pre-Nursing Pathway Program; and
- (4) \$297,500 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$595,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UOH 210) to increase its School of Nursing cohort size.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 637, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 637, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,



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DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Higher Education**  
**HRE**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
<b>SB637</b>	<b>HRE, WAM</b>	<b>2/4/2025</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	X			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt				X
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:             Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes