



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Education
The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Woodson, Representative Ilagan, and Committee members:

SUBJECT: HB714 HD1 Relating to Health Care Workforce Development

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB714 HD1**, which appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce, including health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools and education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities strongly supports HB714, which seeks to strengthen Hawaii's health care workforce through targeted education and training programs. This measure is particularly vital for addressing the critical shortage of **Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)**—the frontline caregivers who provide essential services to individuals with disabilities in home- and community-based settings.

Hawaii is facing an alarming DSP shortage, resulting in service delays, increased caregiver burnout, and limited support options for individuals with developmental disabilities. HB714 takes a proactive approach by investing in workforce development initiatives that will directly increase the pipeline of skilled, entry-level healthcare workers, many of whom could transition into DSP roles.

Specifically, HB714 funds:

1. **Public High School Health Care Certificate Programs** – These programs provide students with the foundational skills needed for entry-level health care roles, including DSP positions. By covering tuition, transportation, and work-related

expenses, the initiative removes financial barriers and makes DSP work a more accessible and attractive career path for young professionals.

2. **CNA to LPN Glidepath Program** – Many DSPs begin their careers as CNAs, and this program offers a pathway for them to advance in their careers while remaining in the workforce. By providing tuition assistance, stipends, and career coaching, this initiative helps retain essential workers in caregiving roles, ensuring long-term stability in Hawaii's direct care workforce.

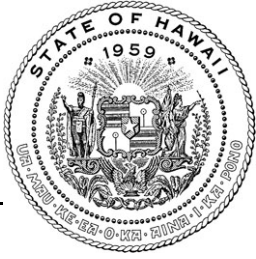
By supporting career pathways into direct care roles, this bill will improve access to services for individuals with developmental disabilities, reduce workforce turnover, and ensure continuity of care for Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB714 HD1**.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
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Telephone: (808) 586-2355
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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
And
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Thursday, February 13, 2025
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB 714, HD1
RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs Woodson and Ilagan, Vice Chairs La Chica and Hussey, and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** H.B. No. 714, H.D.1, which appropriates funds for the:

- Public High School Health Care Certificate Program which provides students with the foundational skills needed for entry-level health care roles and the;
- CNA to LPN Glidepath Program which offers a pathway for certified nurse aides (CNA) to advance in their careers to Licensed practical nurses (LPN) while remaining in the workforce.

These programs strengthen Hawaii's health care system by preparing new health care workers to enter the workforce and supporting the career advancement of existing workers.

DBEDT currently administers these two programs, and efforts from the 2024 appropriation are currently underway.

In 2023, the high school certificate programs supported 105 students working to get certified as CNAs, phlebotomists, medical assistants, and patient service representatives at 14 schools across the state. Students in the program saw a 98 percent completion rate with a 74 percent employment rate, which is a significant improvement from previous years due to the heavy employer involvement and wrap-around services. Over the same period, the CNA to LPN Glidepath program supported approximately 40 individuals to continue working full-time while pursuing their education and licensure as LPNs over a year-long course that allows them to increase their salaries by 50 percent at the end and provide higher-level support in our long-term care facilities.

We support the intent of this measure provided it does not replace or adversely affect the Administration's priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/13/2025

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Education

House Economic Development & Technology

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0714, HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce, including health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools and education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 714, HD 1, which advances the Department's workforce development efforts within the health services pathway.

The Department has prioritized work-based learning to promote workforce readiness, supporting Goal 1.3 of the Board of Education Strategic Plan – "All students graduate high school prepared for college and career success and community and civic engagement." We appreciate the proposed funding to continue and expand the public high school healthcare certification program currently administered by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii. HB 714, HD 1 will increase access to healthcare training for all students, providing them with the requisite skills to enter the healthcare workforce pipeline.

The Department also appreciates the proposed funding to renovate and equip our high school health services classrooms. As the education landscape continues to evolve, the Department must ensure teachers have access to the appropriate instructional tools and resources necessary to provide our students with the education they need to succeed in the current and future workforce. Updating our classrooms to replicate actual clinical settings will allow the Department to focus on innovating instruction and engaging students through the use of technology and true-to-life scenarios to better prepare students for entry into the health services workforce.

The Department notes that Act 89, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024 (Act 89), provided similar funding for the renovations of our high school health services classrooms “as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for Hawaii3R’s” provided that the renovations are coordinated through a public-private partnership with a non-profit healthcare organization (page 222). The Department is currently engaged with Hawaii 3R’s and the Healthcare Association of Hawaii to coordinate the healthcare classroom renovations as outlined in Sections 4 and 5 of Act 89. Thus, the Department respectfully requests that the funds provided in this measure be allocated to the Department in the same manner to ensure continuity and best advance the work that has already begun.

The Department appreciates the Legislature’s continued support of our work-based learning initiatives and our goal for all students to be globally competitive and locally committed. Preparing our students for the current and emerging workforce here at home will not only address our workforce needs, but will also lead to a thriving Hawaii.

The Department defers to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism with regards to the glidepath program for certified nurse aides in Section 2.2. The Department requests that the funding proposed in this measure does not adversely affect the priorities in the Department’s Governor-approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

LATE



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO HOUSE BILL 714 HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

House Committee on Education
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 13, 2025

2:00PM

Room 309

Dear Chairs Woodson and Ilagan, Vice Chairs La Chica and Hussey, and Members of the House Committees on Education and Economic Development & Technology:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 714 HD1 which seeks to strengthen healthcare workforce development in Hawai'i. OHA recognizes the availability and quality of healthcare services are deeply influenced by the capacity and diversity of the healthcare workforce, and believes this bill will play a vital role in addressing the longstanding healthcare disparities faced by Native Hawaiians and other underserved communities.

Native Hawaiians are disproportionately affected by health disparities, including higher rates of chronic diseases, mental health challenges, and inadequate access to culturally competent healthcare providers. Strengthening the healthcare workforce through initiatives like those outlined in House Bill 714 HD1 will directly benefit Native Hawaiians by ensuring the workforce is better equipped to meet their unique healthcare needs. This includes not only improving access to care but also ensuring that care is delivered in a culturally sensitive and respectful manner.

Further, expanding opportunities for individuals from Native Hawaiian and other underrepresented communities to pursue careers in healthcare will help bridge the gap in healthcare access, particularly in rural and remote regions. Creating pathways to healthcare careers for Native Hawaiians, who can then serve as trusted providers in their own communities, could reduce the barriers to care that many face today.

For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges these committees to **PASS House Bill 714 HD1** as it represents an important step toward addressing the systemic inequities that Native Hawaiians and other marginalized communities face in healthcare. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-714-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:10:53 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/13/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Cabatu	Hilo Benioff Medical Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept our strong support for HB714 to fund workforce development programs for the healthcare field.



January 31, 2025 at 9:15 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Chair Gregg Takayama
Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy

From: Hilton R. Raethel
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Strong Support**
HB 714, Relating to Healthcare Workforce Development

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

We write today in **strong support** of this measure, which would provide two years of funding to continue proven healthcare workforce development programs for high school students and current nurses. This request is largely similar to funding that the legislature passed in Act 89, SLH 2024, which has already been deployed to support these innovative programs and address the persistent healthcare workforce shortages in the state. We are requesting an amendment to the measure to have the funding go to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, which currently administers the program.

In our organization's most recent demand survey, we found that there are nearly 4,700 openings for non-physician, patient-facing positions in the State's hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other health care settings. The needs for entry-level positions, especially certified nurse aides (CNAs), continues to grow as our population ages. Not only are more people requiring care, but that care is often more complex and requires more resources.

Recognizing that there is a need to invest heavily in our workforce, the legislature passed funding to support high school healthcare certificate programs and an innovative CNA to Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) glidepath that has attracted significant interest. This measure would continue, for two additional years, the funding needed to continue and expand those programs. *Importantly, at the end of the next two years, the program will be funded entirely*

through private or federal funds. There are active efforts underway to achieve this—however, two more years of funding is needed to ensure that all funding streams are in place.

In 2023, the high school certificate programs supported 105 students working to get certified as CNAs, phlebotomists, medical assistants, and patient service representatives at 14 schools across the state. Students in the program saw a 98 percent completion rate with a 74 percent employment rate, which is a significant improvement from previous years due to the heavy employer involvement and wrap-around services. Over the same period, the CNA to LPN glidepath supported approximately 40 individuals to continue working full-time while pursuing their education and licensure as LPNs over a year-long course that allows them to increase their salaries by 50 percent at the end and provide higher-level support in our long-term care facilities.

Healthcare employers have also invested heavily in these programs. For example, employers have provided clinicians to teach some of these courses and have invested in hands-on training opportunities for high school students to learn in a real-life setting. Employers have also often provided stipends to students, especially in the glidepath program, to ensure that participants are compensated as if working full-time. Our organization has also provided significant staffing resources to recruit students, coordinate programs, and find federal, state and private dollars to keep everything running smoothly.

The additional years of funding in this measure will be critical to continuing and expanding these necessary, innovative programs. Thank you for the opportunity to support this important measure and for this committee's continued commitment to supporting our healthcare workforce.

We are requesting the following amendment to replace the entirety of the current Section 2, page 4 line 13 through page 5, line 9, to read:

"There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,450,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to support the glidepath program for certified nurse aides and high school certificate programs. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of this Act."



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

AND

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

February 13, 2025
2:00 pm
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 309 & Via Videoconference

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 714, H.D. 1
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce, including health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools and education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Edward N. Chu
President & Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in support of H.B. 714, H.D. 1, Relating to Health Care Workforce Development.**

HHSC requires skilled, trained, dedicated professionals to care for patients in our unique island communities in a labor-intensive, demanding, and multi-disciplinary environment. However, due to Hawaii's substantial shortage in healthcare workforce, HHSC is supportive of all possible innovations to develop and secure staff for our rural healthcare facilities in the State of Hawaii.

To that end, HHSC has been working closely with the Healthcare Association of Hawaii in their efforts regarding the Healthcare Workforce Initiative. Our regions have benefited from their collaborative efforts in strengthening the relationships and training opportunities in both the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii. The funds that would be allocated through this measure are important to support as they will benefit all of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Wednesday, February 13, 2025 at 2:00 PM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 309

House Committee on Education

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

To: Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 714, HD1
Relating to Health Care Workforce Development**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of HB 714, HD1 which appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce. Funds would be allocated to the Department of Education for health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools, and to the University of Hawai'i for education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

The *2024 Healthcare Workforce Initiative* survey conducted by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i found that there are nearly four thousand seven hundred openings for non-physician, patient-facing positions in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other health care facilities in the State. The Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Initiative, coordinated by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, has played a crucial role in mitigating this issue through various workforce development programs. Two key program types are the public high school health care certificate programs and the certified nurse assistant (CNA) to licensed practical nurse (LPN) glidepath program. Both programs aim to strengthen Hawaii's health care system by preparing new health care workers to enter the workforce and supporting the career advancement of existing workers.

Additionally, a 2022 survey by the Healthcare Workforce Initiative found that more than 1,500 existing health care job openings in Hawai'i could be filled by graduates of the high school certificate programs or CNAs who advance to LPNs through a glidepath program. This measure ensures that these programs are continuously supported and scaled up to meet the ever-increasing health care needs of Hawaii's people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HB714 HD1 Healthcare Workforce Development

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Thursday, Feb 13, 2025: 2:00: Room 309 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB714 HD1:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery-oriented services including transition housing.

HSAC supports the funding needed to expand Hawaii's health care workforce by developing public high school health care certificate programs and the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) to Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) glidepath program.

Behavioral health. Moreover, HSAC reminds Hawaii about the shortages for behavioral health workforce. The increase in demand for behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorder services in the United States is well-documented. So much news about it, we hardly need to justify it. However, here is a report from HRSA

The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) projects shortages in 2037 for many key behavioral health occupations, including¹:

- 113,930 addiction counselors
- 87,840 mental health counselors
- 79,160 psychologists
- 50,440 psychiatrists
- 34,170 marriage and family therapists
- 39,710 school counselors

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.

¹ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Behavioral Health Projections November 2024 : <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/data-research/projecting-health-workforce-supply-demand>



Hawaii State House Committee on Education
Hawaii State House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

HB714, HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Good afternoon, Chair Woodson, Chair Ilagan, and Members of the House Committee on Education and the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology.

My name is Palani Smith, and I serve as the Regional Vice President for Hawaii and Guam of Liberty Dialysis. We are an affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care.

Liberty Dialysis Hawaii stands in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 714, HD1** which grows and strengthens Hawaii's healthcare workforce.

This bill is essential in addressing the current healthcare workforce shortage and ensuring that patients receive quality care. The findings of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's 2024 Healthcare Workforce Initiative survey indicate nearly 4,700 unfilled healthcare positions in Hawaii, highlighting the urgent need to recruit and train new professionals. HB714 directly addresses this crisis by providing funding for educational programs that prepare individuals for healthcare positions and support them in career advancement.

The public high school healthcare certificate program and the CNA-to-LPN glidepath initiative offer tremendous opportunities for workforce development. Together, they strengthen partnerships with the Hawaii State Department of Education and the University of Hawaii and Hawaii's healthcare providers. These initiatives help train new healthcare professionals while supporting the career advancement of those already in the field.

Programs' outcomes benefit the entire spectrum of healthcare providers and more importantly the communities and families we serve.

Liberty Dialysis Hawaii truly appreciates all those who introduced this key bill and respectfully urges you to vote in favor of HB714, HD1 to grow and strengthen Hawaii's healthcare workforce. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
and
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309 and via videoconference
By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Supporting Testimony for H.B. 714, H.D. 1

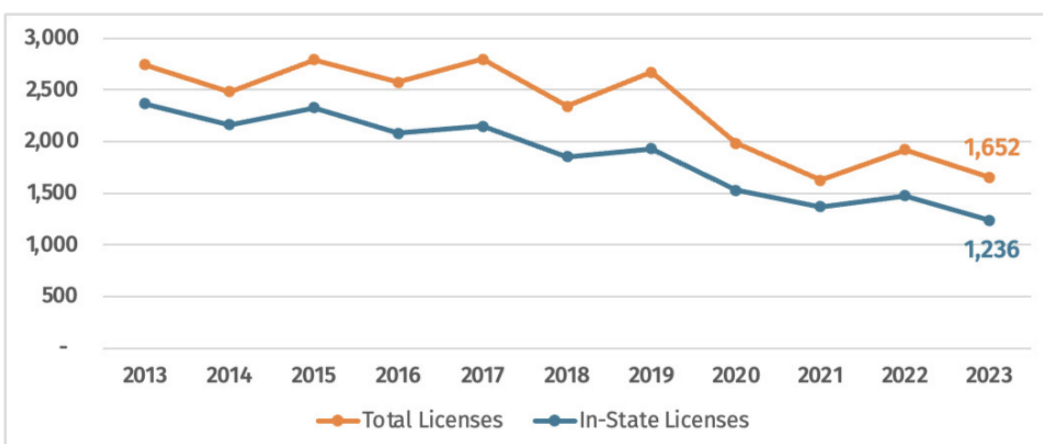
Chairs Woodson and Ilagan, Vice Chairs La Chica and Hussey, and Members of the Committees: Thank you for the opportunity to present **testimony in support** of this measure, which appropriates moneys to the Department Education (DOE) to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce and allocates funds to the University of Hawai'i for education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) has convened nursing leaders for 20 years to identify needs to support the healthcare workforce, and the nursing workforce in particular, and an original partner of the Health Workforce Initiative that launched in 2017. HSCN finds that there has been a 40% decrease in our license practical nurse counts from 2013-2023 and a growing percent of LPNs licensed in state reside outside of Hawai'i.¹ **LPN education expansion efforts are of great need in our state.**

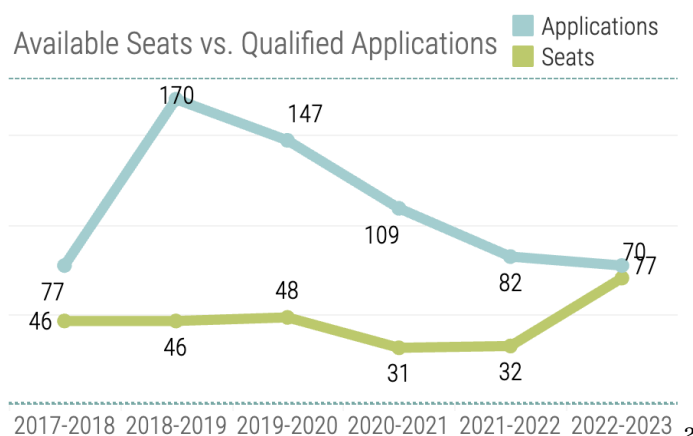
¹ Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (2024). 2023 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply: Statewide Report.
<https://www.hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2023HawaiiNursingWorkforceSupply.vFinal.pdf>

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development, promotes a diverse workforce, and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

LPN LICENSES, 2013-2023



The UH Maui College certified nurse aide to practical nurse program is novel in that it retro-fitted the prerequisites, curriculum, and delivery to target excellent certified nurse aides who both are seeking career advancement and are dedicated to their workplace. By creating cohorts within health settings, this program delivers education where the workforce is. The remarkable growth in our state's capacity to train new LPNs is visible in the dashboard graphic, below.



This LPN glidepath program is remarkable because our state's licensed practical nursing (LPN) workforce is in dire condition. In the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing AY 2020-2021 Educational Capacity report³, we note: "LPN programs suffered substantial losses in seats for

² Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2024), *LPN Education Program Dashboard*.
<https://www.hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/data-reports/dashboards/>

³ Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2022). *Hawai'i State Nurse Education Capacity Report, Academic Year 2020-2021*.
https://www.hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2021-Hawaii-Nurse-Education-Capacity-Statewide-Report-v.Final_.pdf

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development, promotes a diverse workforce, and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

new students... the state lost 35% of its seats for new LPN students in AY 20-21 as compared to the previous academic year.” (page 18).

Promisingly, and largely due to the UH Maui program, our state’s PN programs are delivering results. In the 2022-2023 Education Capacity Report⁴ (page 3), we note the remarkable change in enrollments.

LPN program capacity increased by 119% [in AY 22-23] as compared to AY 21-22. As a result, more than 80% of LPN program applicants were admitted.

Measures like this are paramount to aligning the educational pathways to the current and growing healthcare needs. Thank you for your attention to this pathway and measure. Investing in innovative solutions like this are the key to a successful healthcare future in our state.

⁴ Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing. (2024), *Hawai‘i State Nurse Education Capacity Report, Academic Year 2022-2023*. <https://www.hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024AR-WEB.pdf>

The mission of the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development, promotes a diverse workforce, and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai‘i.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

By
Della Teraoka
Interim Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 714 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chairs Woodson and Ilagan, Vice Chairs La Chica and Hussey, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 714 HD1, which provides essential funding to expand Hawai'i's health care workforce through public high school health care certificate programs and the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) to Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) glidepath program.

The CNA to LPN Bridge Program is a collaborative initiative involving the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, Hale Makua Health Services, Ohana Pacific Health (OPH), Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC). This program was designed to offer practical Nursing training opportunities for working CNAs on Maui, O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island. The hybrid Bridge Program lasts for 12-months and includes online lectures, in-person labs and clinicals provided at selected employer's sites. Participants will maintain part-time CNA hours while working toward becoming an LPN.

In addition, UH Maui College has expanded the CNA program into the high schools. These high school courses allow students to become eligible for certification while completing their high school diploma. The CNA to LPN bridge program then provides working CNAs the opportunity to continue their education while working toward becoming an LPN.

Act 74 funding, received in Fall 2023, increased student access to nursing pathways. With the support of this funding, 238 students across the state received tuition assistance for high-demand pre-requisite courses and entrance exam preparation required to apply to the LPN program. After the funding was provided, the number of students earning their CNA nearly doubled on average, and the number of students earning the LPN degree more than tripled.

Under Act 89, SLH 2024, \$700,000 was provided to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to support the glidepath program for CNAs. We support continuing the funding through DBEDT because it provides greater flexibility in working with multiple training providers for the two programs. Additionally, it allows for the continued use of the student stipends to offset employer costs for coordination and support.

For the UHMC students, funding support will be used to provide student stipends allowing students to continue receiving payment while working towards their degree. The funding will also cover the cost of the instructor, enabling the courses to be offered tuition-free to students.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 714 HD1, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 714 HD1.



Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Date: February 12, 2025

From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)

Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: HB 714 HD 1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – DBEDT;
Education; Health Care Workforce; Appropriation

Position: Support

This bill appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce, including health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools and education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

According to a 2024 Healthcare Workforce Initiative study by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, there exists a shortage of close to 5,000 non-physician frontline healthcare work force across the state. This, vis-à-vis our State's critical physician shortage crisis, further compromises the healthcare delivery for Hawaii's patients.

There is dire need for skilled healthcare professionals in Hawaii, and the support of these programs will certainly have a positive impact on future workforce development. Specifically, initiatives that give high school and working students opportunities to learn, explore and develop

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President

Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia, MD, Chair

Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

skills related to healthcare such as the High School Healthcare Certificate Program and the CNA to LPN Glidepath Program are critical in building a sustainable local healthcare workforce and improving patient access to care.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

Hawai'i Healthcare Workforce initiative 2024 Report. Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

<https://hah.sharefile.com/share/view/s2482a25b1f8e45199adfc3bc4e96263e>

Investing In Health Care Workers Is An Investment In Hawaii's People,

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/01/investing-in-health-care-workers-is-an-investment-in-hawaiis-people/>

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President

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2024 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Beth England, MD, Chair

Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

To: The Honorable Greg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: January 31, 2025

Re: Support for HB714: Relating to Health Care Workforce Development

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB714, which appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce for health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools.

As a member of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, we have seen firsthand how support of various HAH workforce programs helps drive local students into the healthcare workforce pipeline. Queen's supports the efforts of the HAH and the DOE and has committed to providing both resources and healthcare professionals at all levels to mentor and teach; we look forward to continuing these efforts into the future.

These public-private investments in our workforce are critical to ensure that the ongoing shortage of healthcare workers does not continue. The most recent workforce projections from the HRSA National Center for Health Workforce Analysis indicate ongoing demand across healthcare disciplines but, fewer professionals to fill positions¹. Fortunately, Hawaii is taking a proactive approach to the shortage – investing in the medical loan repayment program, funding workforce development projects, public-private partnering at all levels, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB714.

¹ <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/workforce-projections>



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Education
and Economic Development and Technology
Thursday, February 13, 2025; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0714, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Woodson, Chair Ilagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0714, House Draft 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would appropriate unspecified amounts in general funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same amount for fiscal year 2026-2027 for educational programs to expand the State's health care workforce from which unspecified amounts would be expended by:

- (1) The Department of Education to support health care certification programs offered in public high schools and renovate and equip public high school classrooms to make them more suitable for health care training; and
- (2) The University of Hawaii for education programs that support certified nurse aides in obtaining licensure as licensed practical nurses.

This measure would take effect on July 1, 3000.

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

The same can be said for registered and practical nurses, community health workers, social workers, pharmacists, and other disciplines in the field of health care.

The HPCA believes this bill would provide a needed resources to our community by preparing students for meaningful employment, diversifying their learning opportunities, and promoting responsible citizenship. In addition, this bill would help students receive practical experience that will enable them to be productive members of our labor force. This is critical for the field of health care, especially in rural communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



ALOHA CARE

LATE

To: The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Chair
The Honorable Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager
Sarielyn Curtis, External Affairs Specialist

Hearing: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 2:00PM, Conference Room 309

RE: **HB714 HD1 Relating to Health Care Workforce Development.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **HB714 HD1**, which appropriates funds to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce, including health care certificate programs and classroom renovations for health care training in public high schools and education programs that support certified nurse assistants in becoming licensed practical nurses.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 37 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

Workforce shortages are seen across the spectrum of healthcare workers. According to the 2024 Hawai'i HealthCare Workforce Initiative, Hawai'i has a shortage of almost 4,700 non-physician, patient-facing healthcare professions.¹ With regards to physicians, our state is experiencing a provider shortage with the unmet need equaling 768 FTEs statewide.² This shortage means that in certain areas, residents are unable to obtain timely and appropriate healthcare.

AlohaCare understands that a collaborative effort is necessary and aims to be part of the solution to addressing the healthcare workforce shortage. This year we grew our *Imua Loa* community giving program into the AlohaCare Foundation, which includes healthcare scholarships, charitable donations, and grants specifically targeted to

¹ hah.org/s/HAH_2024-HWI-FactSheet_Letterhead-p48k.pdf

² ahec.hawaii.edu/docs/annual-physician-workforce-report-2024



providers.³ This measure will complement existing efforts such as the AlohaCare Foundation's, increasing our state's investment in the healthcare workforce.

We support this measure as a critical and effective way to address chronic healthcare workforce shortages and improve access to care for the residents of Hawai'i, especially in underserved urban and rural communities.

We are grateful to the Legislature for considering this measure. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support** of **HB714 HD1**.

³ [AlohaCare Foundation](http://www.AlohaCare.org)

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

House Committee on Education

LATE

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

LATE

Submitted by: Shaun Kamisato

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Re: Testimony in **support** of HB 714 Relating to Healthcare Workforce Development.

Dear Chairperson Justin Woodson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shaun Kamisato and I am currently pursuing my post-secondary education at the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The views I am expressing in this testimony are my own and do not necessarily reflect my school. I am testifying in **support** of HB 719 which will provide funding to support educational training programs to expand the State's health care workforce.

As part of my Masters education, for the past year, I have been working with high school students on the West coast. Many of whom have expressed their desires to enter the healthcare workforce but are either unable to attend college (due to financial reasons or family circumstances) or have had no exposure to the field to attain a healthcare job right after

graduating. Because of this, their options are limited and most of the time, they will be unable to explore this interest of theirs.

In closing, I fully **support** HB 719 Relating to Healthcare Workforce Development. HB 719 will help to support high school students' healthcare futures by providing rich opportunities at their schools and enhancing available education programs. Therefore, I urge the committee to support HB 719 to brighten the futures of those interested in the healthcare field, especially of our high school students. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shaun Kamisato

Social Work Student