



The Committee on Health and Human Services
&
The Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Thursday, February 16, 2023
3:00 pm
Room 229, Videoconference

RE: **SB 1015, Relating to Health Care Education**

Attention: Chairs Joy San Buenaventua and Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chairs Henry Aquino and Michelle Kidani, and members of the Committees

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) **supports the intent and purpose of SB 1015**. The appropriation of funds for instructional costs and student aid for Maui College to expand nursing care education at this time is vital.

This bill not only appropriates funding for instructional costs as outlined in section 2, it also appropriates funding for student tuition, fees, supplies and related costs. This bill provides for the student to fully engage with the faculty at Maui College for a full educational experience.

UHPA supports and encourages the joint committees to **pass SB 1015**.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony
Hō‘ike Mana‘o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

By
Della Teraoka
Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1015 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

Chairs Kim and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Kidani and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1015, which would provide funds for the expansion of the Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) to Practical Nurse Bridge Program at UH Maui College. This innovative program was developed in partnership with industry employers to streamline entry of currently working CNAs into the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) training program.

SB 1015 will enable UH Maui College to further expand the program statewide and meet the statewide LPN workforce shortage by supporting instructional costs and student aid. The instructional funding will encourage Registered Nurses in the field to become clinical and lab lecturers for expanded cohorts across the state. The student aid funding will increase access to the LPN program by supporting tuition, fees, supplies, and related costs. According to the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, the current LPN statewide vacancy rate is at 30%, with 211 LPN job openings statewide.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1015, 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 SB 1015.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
and
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.
By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Comments on S.B. 1015

Chairs San Buenaventura and Kim, Vice Chairs Aquino and Kidani, members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, and members of the Committee on Higher Education: Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on this measure, S.B. 1015, which appropriates funds for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, including funding for instructional costs and student aid.

The Maui College certified nurse aide to practical nurse program is novel in that it retro-fitted the pre-requisites, 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.

This program is remarkable because our state's licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs are dwindling, and are in dire condition. In the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing AY 2020-2021 Educational Capacity report¹, we note:

“LPN programs suffered substantial losses in seats for new students... the state lost 35% of its seats for new LPN students in AY 20-21 as compared to the previous academic year. This loss is especially worrisome because of the heavy reliance that many non-acute facilities place on LPNs and the fact that the LPN workforce in the state has been shrinking for several years despite consistent capacity in LPN programs prior to the pandemic” (page 18).

In addition, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing 2021 Nursing Workforce Supply Report² stated that *“it is certain that the number of LPNs in Hawai'i continues to decline which will exacerbate a critical shortage, especially in postacute/long-term care” (page 13).*

¹ Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2022). *Hawai'i State Nurse Education Capacity Report, Academic Year 2020-2021.* https://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2021-Hawaii-Nurse-Education-Capacity-Statewide-Report-v.Final_.pdf

² Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2021). *2021 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply Report.* http://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/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.

Without innovative models for LPN education, our state's healthcare system will have to shift rapidly and dramatically. Measures like S.B. 1015, and the UH Health Initiative as proposed in the Governor's budget, are paramount to aligning the educational pathways to the current and growing healthcare needs.

Thank you for your attention to this pathway and measure. Innovative solutions like UH Maui College's program are the key to a successful healthcare future in our state.

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.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Higher Education

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

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

Date: February 16, 2023

Re: Testimony in support for SB1015: Relating to Health Care Education

The Queen's Health System (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 SB1015, which appropriates funding for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawai'i Maui college.

The 2022 Healthcare Workforce report produced by HAH noted a statewide demand for 211 additional LPNs. Unfortunately, there are not enough opportunities to educate and train for this particular type of clinician, which is why HAH, in partnership with stakeholders and UH Maui College, are creating the first of its kind CNA to LPN Glidepath program. This program coupled with increasing entry-level certification programs and expanding nurse residency programs reflects a concerted effort by the healthcare community to invest in our local workforce.

Investing in our overall healthcare workforce is essential to meeting the need for professionals at all levels in our state - especially on our neighbor islands. Thank you for allowing Queen's to provide testimony in support of this measure.

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



February 16, 2023 at 3:00 pm
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

Senate Committee on Higher Education

To: Chair Donna Mercado Kim
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Support
SB 1015, Relating to Health Care Education

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support** for this measure, and for the funding included in it to support the workforce glidepath supporting certified nurse aides (CNAs) in their journey to become licensed practical nurses (LPNs). There is a great need for more LPNs in the state—we found in our 2022 Healthcare Workforce report that there is a statewide demand for 211 additional LPNs. Unfortunately, there are not enough opportunities to educate and train for this particular type of clinicians, which is why HAH, in partnership with Ohana Pacific Health/Hale Makua and UH Maui College to create an innovative, first of its kind CNA to LPN Glidepath program. This program enables an “earn and learn” glidepath model that delivers online didactic curriculum and hands-on clinical education at a student's place of work. The program is one year long, and CNAs can double their salary if they successfully complete the program.

This pilot program was launched in January 2023, and serves students through UH Maui College on Maui, Oahu, and Kauai who are employed by Ohana Pacific Health and Kaiser Permanente. There was a huge demand for participation in the program, which ultimately included 40

students. This funding will enable the program to continue and, hopefully, expand to all islands and include more students to meet the demonstrated interest in this glidepath.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important program.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services**

and

Committee on Higher Education

HEARING: Wednesday, February 16, 2023, 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room 229 and via videoconference

By Hawai‘i – American Nurses Association (Hawai‘i-ANA)



SB1015 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, and Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani, members of the Committee on Higher Education, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in strong support of SB1015**, appropriating funds for the expansion of the bridge program in nursing education at the University of Hawaii Maui college .

We are the Hawai‘i- American Nurses Association (Hawai‘i-ANA), speaking for over 17,000 Registered Nurses in Hawai‘i who care for patients every day in our state. The American Nurses Association (ANA) mission is to “Lead the profession to shape the future of nursing and health care”. ANA supports the nursing profession across the nation in standards of practice including the Code of Ethics, advocacy, certification, accreditation, advanced practice, and education, to evolve the practice of nursing and transform health and health care. Hawai‘i-ANA “Empowers nurses to advocate for the improvement of the healthcare system in the communities where we live and work”.

Hawai'i-ANA acknowledges that supporting and promoting education programs to increase the numbers of graduating nurses in our state is in keeping with our intent to support all measures that advocate for the strengthening of nursing education programs in our state to attract and retain local applicants for nursing our programs. Hawai'i-ANA provides testimony in strong support of this measure both for the intent of the measure and for full funding of this initiative.

Hawai'i-ANA respectfully asks the Committee to pass SB1015 through your committee. We thank your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i, in ensuring access to high-quality nursing care by nursing education across our state.

Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:

President: Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch, DNP, CCHN, FAAN, president@hawaii-ana.org

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