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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A NURSING PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S  
LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that to meet the growing  
2 need for nurses on the island of Oahu, it is essential to expand  
3 the state's capacity for developing and providing qualified  
4 nurses through an expansion of nursing programs.

5           Currently, Kapiolani community college possesses an  
6 excellent nursing program for preparing registered nurses (RN).  
7 This program provides a flexible, accelerated curriculum that is  
8 less costly than its baccalaureate counterpart.

9           However, the existing capacity of the University of Hawaii  
10 system nursing program remains below the projected need for  
11 qualified nurses on the island of Oahu. The university's  
12 capacity is also concentrated in southeast Oahu, leaving the  
13 leeward side of the island severely underserved.

14           The leeward community, however, is expanding at an  
15 astounding rate, and with this population boom comes an  
16 abundance of talented and skilled workers who are in need of a  
17 challenging, high quality, and affordable nursing program that



1 offers solid employment opportunities upon successful completion  
2 of training. The leeward community is also experiencing an  
3 increase in hospitals, clinics, and health centers, and has the  
4 largest concentration of residential care home facilities on  
5 Oahu. A nursing program within the leeward community would  
6 assist in stimulating and raising the economic status of not  
7 just individual students, but of the entire community by  
8 providing a focal point for educational opportunity and  
9 employment in this developing community.

10 In 2004, the department of education's senior exit survey  
11 revealed that forty-four per cent of the graduating high school  
12 seniors who were interested in pursuing a career in nursing or  
13 dental hygiene were located in the leeward region of Oahu. To  
14 acquire such a degree, these students currently must travel or  
15 relocate to southeast Oahu. It is time to tap this resource by  
16 providing a rapid response to the need for quality training,  
17 while at the same time establishing a viable means of addressing  
18 our current nursing shortage.

19 A nursing program for the leeward community could be  
20 established through a partnership between Leeward community  
21 college and Kapiolani community college. Kapiolani community  
22 college's associate degree in nursing program could be expanded



1 to the leeward side by using the Leeward community college  
2 campus, which is optimally located. The Leeward community  
3 college nursing program would initially employ Kapiolani  
4 community college's curriculum to provide a rapid response to  
5 community needs. However, the long-term objective would be for  
6 Leeward community college to develop a more community-based  
7 program.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support  
9 collaboration and coordination between Kapiolani community  
10 college and Leeward community college to establish a quality  
11 registered nursing program located at Pearl City's Leeward  
12 community college campus on Oahu.

13 SECTION 2. The board of regents of the University of  
14 Hawaii shall, with the assistance of Kapiolani community college  
15 nursing program and through coordination and collaboration  
16 between the program and Leeward community college, establish:

- 17 (1) An associate degree in nursing program at the Leeward  
18 community college campus similar to the Kapiolani  
19 community college nursing program; and  
20 (2) A registered nursing training program and prerequisite  
21 course-offering for the registered nursing program.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,300,000 or so much  
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for the  
 4 following expenses relating to the establishment of a University  
 5 of Hawaii Leeward community college associate degree in nursing  
 6 program:

- 7 1. Establishment of a registered nursing
- 8 training program \$1,000,000
- 9 2. Coordination of a prerequisite
- 10 course-offering for the registered
- 11 nursing program \$300,000.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
 13 Hawaii's Leeward community college for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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HB 1811

**Report Title:**

Leeward Community College; Nursing Program

**Description:**

Requires the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii to establish a registered nursing program at the Leeward Community College campus and appropriates funds to Leeward community college to support the nursing program.

