
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 demand for nurses on the island of Oahu, it is essential to
3 expand the state's capacity for developing and providing
4 qualified nurses through an expansion of nursing programs.

5 Currently, Kapiolani community college offers an excellent
6 nursing program to train registered nurses. The program
7 provides a flexible, accelerated curriculum that is less costly
8 than its baccalaureate counterpart.

9 However, the existing capacity of the University of Hawaii
10 system's 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 students' successful
2 completion of training. The leeward community is also
3 experiencing an increase in hospitals, clinics, and health
4 centers and has the largest concentration of residential care
5 home facilities on Oahu.

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

15 Offering a nursing program in the leeward area would assist
16 in stimulating and raising the economic status not just of
17 individual students but of the entire community by providing a
18 focal point for educational opportunity and employment in a
19 developing community.

20 A nursing program for the leeward community could be
21 established through a partnership between Leeward community
22 college and Kapiolani community college. Kapiolani community



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

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

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

19 (1) An associate degree in nursing program at the Leeward
20 community college campus similar to the Kapiolani
21 community college nursing program; and



1 (2) A registered nursing training program and prerequisite
2 course offering for the registered nursing program.

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

8 (1) \$1 for the establishment of a registered nursing
9 training program; and

10 (2) \$1 for the coordination of a prerequisite course
11 offering for the registered nursing program.

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.



Report Title:

Leeward Community College; Nursing Program

Description:

Requires the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii to establish an associate degree in nursing program at Leeward Community College, similar to the Kapiolani Community College nursing program, and a registered nursing training program and prerequisite course offering for the registered nursing program. Appropriates funds. (HB1811 HD1)

