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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE NURSING WORKFORCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that nursing demands in  
2 the State have increased significantly as a result of the  
3 coronavirus pandemic. In addition, increasing demand for  
4 nursing has been further challenged by the dire nursing shortage  
5 and efforts to fill nursing positions. The legislature further  
6 finds that nursing and other health care vacancies have a  
7 negative effect on patient access, quality of care, and nursing  
8 morale.

9           The legislature also finds that there are several ways to  
10 address the nursing workforce shortage in the State. They  
11 include investing in nursing academia by increasing nursing  
12 faculty positions across all University of Hawaii nursing  
13 schools, providing greater nurse training opportunities and  
14 transition to faculty practice training, improving  
15 representation within the nursing workforce by expanding the  
16 number of underrepresented ethnic groups in the nursing  
17 profession, developing specialty nurses, enhancing employment



1 prospects for post-acute care nursing, and providing increased  
2 professional development support for nurses.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support  
4 Hawaii's nursing workforce and address the nursing workforce  
5 shortage in the State.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be  
9 expended as follows:

10 (1) \$ for education grants to qualified students  
11 in nursing who represent underrepresented persons in  
12 nursing to address underrepresentation of persons of  
13 Native Hawaiian ancestry and other ethnic backgrounds  
14 in nursing;

15 (2) \$ for full-time equivalent  
16 ( FTE) permanent nursing faculty positions  
17 across the University of Hawaii system;

18 (3) \$ for twenty new lecturers per semester in  
19 fiscal year 2022-2023 to provide transition to nursing  
20 faculty practice training; and



1           (4) §                   for nursing professional development  
2                           support, including funding to project the nursing  
3                           workforce needs post-coronavirus pandemic, expanding  
4                           nursing professional development and lifelong learning  
5                           opportunities offered to in-state nursing, and  
6                           improving clinical education capacity.

7           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
8 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

9           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY:   
JAN 25 2022

# H.B. NO. 2221

**Report Title:**

Nursing Workforce; Nursing Vacancies; Faculty Positions; Grants; Training and Development; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to support Hawaii's nursing workforce and address the nursing workforce shortage by increasing University of Hawaii nursing faculty positions, providing education grants to qualified students who represent underrepresented persons in nursing, and providing greater training and development for nurses.

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