

#### STATE OF HAWAI'I

STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 27, 2024

The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair House Committee on Finance The Thirty-Second Legislature State Capitol State of Hawai'i Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Kyle Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1827 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1827 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Education to support health care workforce development programs, specifically the public high school health care workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides. Appropriates funds to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Individuals with developmental disabilities often rely on healthcare services in settings such as long-term care facilities, Adult Day Health programs, and through one-on-one assistance to actively participate in our communities. These settings require a skilled healthcare workforce to provide the necessary care and support to individuals with developmental disabilities. Unfortunately, Hawaii faces a shortage of healthcare workers, exacerbating the challenges faced by our community in accessing quality care.

By addressing healthcare worker shortages as outlined in HB1827 HD1, our state has the opportunity to improve access to vital healthcare services for individuals with developmental disabilities. This measure is of great significance to the developmental disability (DD) community, because not only can we enhance the quality of care received by our community members but also increase their overall health and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB1827 HD1.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



### STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO

P.O. BOX 2360 HONOLULU, HAWAI`I 96804

**Date:** 02/27/2024 **Time:** 02:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1827, HD1 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

DEVELOPMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial

Relations and Department of Education to support health care workforce development programs, specifically the public high school health care workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides. Appropriates funds to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for

health care training. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

### **Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) wishes to express its strong support of HB 1827, 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 for the public high school healthcare certification program as this will continue the workforce development work that the Healthcare Association of Hawaii has been doing and will increase access to healthcare training for all students, providing our students with the requisite skills to enter the healthcare workforce pipeline.

The Department also appreciates the 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 appreciates the Legislature's support in increasing access to work-based learning opportunities for high school students. The Department's goal is for all students to be globally competitive, having the skills to build a successful career anywhere in the world, and locally committed, choosing to live, work, and grow here in Hawaii. Preparing our students for the current and future 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 Labor and Industrial Relations with regards to the implementation of the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program described in Part II and the glidepath program for certified nurse aides described in Part IV.

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



# STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO HONOLULU DISTRICT OFFICE 4967 KILAUEA AVENUE HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 February 26, 2024

Dear Members of the Committee on Finance,

I am writing to express my strong support for the appropriations proposed in HB 1827, which seeks to allocate funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Education for healthcare workforce development programs. Specifically, I am in favor of the provisions that support the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program and the pathway for certified nurse aides.

These programs play a crucial role in addressing the growing need for skilled healthcare workers in our state. By investing in these programs, we are not only providing valuable training opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in healthcare but also helping to meet the increasing demand for healthcare professionals in our communities.

Furthermore, I am pleased to see that the bill requires these appropriations to be matched using a state-to-private-funds ratio of 3:1. This demonstrates a commitment to leveraging public funds to attract additional private investment, which will further enhance the impact of these programs.

I also support the appropriation of funds to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms (such as Farrington High School) to be used for healthcare training. While the school has "made do" over time with finding their own business partnerships, an investment will create modern, state-of-the-art learning environments that will better prepare students for careers in healthcare.

In conclusion, I appreciate your support of HB1827 and its provisions for healthcare workforce development programs. The funding for these programs are critical for both students and communities alike.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Mahoe, Ph.D.

Janualle Malira

Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area Superintendent



### STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO

WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL 94-1211 FARRINGTON HIGHWAY WAIPAHU, HI 96797 (808) 307-9555

Monday, February 26, 2024

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of HB1827, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1827, HD 1, which advances the Department's workforce development efforts within the health services pathway.

My name is Zachary Sheets, and I am the principal at Waipahu High School. HB1827, HD1 would support health care workforce development programs through a public high school health care workforce certificate program and a glidepath program for certified nurse aides. Additionally, it will provide funding to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training.

Waipahu High School's academy structure prioritizes connection to industry through work-based learning opportunities at every grade-level. In turn, HB1827, HD1 supports 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." The proposed funding would allow our school to continue to develop and improve our healthcare programs within our Academy of Health and Sciences. The funding is vital to ensure our students have experiences to develop the requisite skills, traits, and mindsets to successfully enter the healthcare workforce.

We are in the process of opening our Academic Health Center in partnership with Hawaii Pacific Health. The importance of this facility for our students and community cannot be understated. Our high school students will be able to intern, job shadow, and have an array of hands-on experiences with healthcare professionals. More importantly, our students will be able to give back valuable healthcare services to the community in which they live. Together with industry partners, Waipahu High School is helping to develop doctors, nurses, and a stronger, healthier community. Funding provided by HB 1827, HD 1 will ensure that high schools across the state will be afforded valuable opportunities to develop healthcare workforce readiness.

It is an exciting time to be in education! The continued connection to career and industry within the high school setting are vital to the success of our students, community, and state.

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

Respectfully,

Zachary Sheets Principal

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



### STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO

PEARL CITY HIGH SCHOOL 2100 HO'OKI'EKI'E STREET PEARL CITY, HI 96782

February 26, 2024

**Department:** Education, Pearl City High School

Person Testifying: Joseph Halfman, Principal Pearl City High School

Title of Bill: HB 1827, HD1 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

DEVELOPMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Education to support health care workforce development programs, specifically the public high school health care workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides. Appropriates funds to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1).

### **Pearl City High School's Position:**

At Pearl City High School, we are excited to be part of an initiative to develop the next generation of healthcare professionals. We strongly support the proposed bill that provides funding for healthcare workforce development programs in public high schools, including ours.

This program aims to:

- **Prepare students for rewarding careers in healthcare:** We believe in equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the healthcare field, offering them a fulfilling career path while addressing the critical need for healthcare professionals in our state.
- Support the Public High School Healthcare Certification Program: This program provides students with the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications, giving them a competitive edge in the job market upon graduation.
- **Upgrade our Health Services Classrooms:** With the funding, we hope to renovate and equip our classrooms to replicate real-world clinical settings. This will provide students with a hands-on learning experience, preparing them for the demands of the healthcare field.

Our goal is to empower our students with the skills and training they need to confidently enter the workforce and contribute to a thriving Hawaii. We believe this program is a valuable investment in our students' future and the well-being of our community.

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

SYLVIA LUKE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR

#### STATE OF HAWAI'I KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

February 27, 2024

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,

The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

### Re: H.B. 1827 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The DLIR <u>supports the intent</u> of this measure and offers comments. HB1827 HD1 appropriates funds to the DLIR and Department of Education (DOE) to support healthcare workforce development programs. The department believes the appropriations to the DLIR contained in Section 3 and Section 7 will require a Chapter 103F (Purchases of Health and Human Services) competitive purchase of services award pursuant to §103F-402. The department is unsure if language specifying Chapter 103D should be included in those appropriation sections.

Prior to and during the pandemic, the importance of healthcare workers to Hawaii's healthcare framework came to the forefront. An inadequate workforce can lead to challenges and gaps in healthcare provision and ultimately a disruption in care. Recognizing the critical need for healthcare practitioners, DLIR has in the past provided funding through mini grants allocated by the legislature to help address the huge shortages at all levels within the health community.



### STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO

HILO-WAIĀKEA COMPLEX 75 AUPUNI STREET, RM. 203 HILO, HAWAI'I 96720 ESTHER KANEHAILUA COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT

February 26, 2024

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee,

As the Complex Area Superintendent of the Hilo-Waiākea Complex of schools, I write to you today in unwavering support of HB1827, HD1. This legislation proposes a vital initiative: the establishment of a public high school health care workforce certificate program at Waiākea High School.

The Hilo-Waiākea Complex encompasses diverse schools and communities, and HB1827, HD1 presents an exceptional opportunity to empower our students. This program, along with the glidepath program for certified nurse aides and dedicated funding for classroom renovations and equipment, would equip Waiākea High School students with the essential tools and knowledge to excel in the healthcare field.

Our students are brimming with potential and a desire to contribute to their communities. HB1827, HD1 unlocks a pathway for them to explore and pursue meaningful careers in healthcare, a sector facing a critical shortage of qualified professionals.

This program's benefits extend beyond individual students. By fostering a pipeline of trained healthcare workers, we can effectively address the growing need for qualified personnel in local hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare settings throughout the Hilo-Waiākea Complex. This, in turn, will enhance access to high-quality healthcare for our diverse communities.

Investing in HB1827, HD1 is an investment in our students and the well-being of the entire Hawai'i Island community. I urge you to stand behind this crucial legislation that supports our students to be globally competitive and locally committed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

Sincerely

Esther Kanehailua

Complex Area Superintendent, Hilo-Waiākea Complex



# STATE OF HAWAI I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -LEEWARD DISTRICT WAI ANAE HIGH SCHOOL 85-251 FARRINGTON HWY WAI ANAE, HAWAI 1 96792

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February 26, 2024

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB1827, HD1, which aims to establish a public high school health care workforce development program. This initiative holds tremendous promise for addressing critical workforce shortages in the healthcare sector while offering invaluable opportunities for our students, particularly those residing in rural areas such as ours.

As a concerned administrator deeply invested in the well-being of our school community, I firmly believe that investing in healthcare workforce development is paramount. The proposed certificate program outlined in HB1827, HD1, has the potential to revolutionize access to healthcare education, especially for students in underserved regions. By offering specialized training in various healthcare professions within the high school curriculum, this program not only equips students with essential skills but also opens doors to a multitude of career pathways in the health industry.

One of the most compelling aspects of HB1827, HD1, is its focus on serving rural communities. In these areas, access to healthcare education and employment opportunities is often limited, exacerbating existing disparities in healthcare access and quality. By providing students in rural areas with the resources and training necessary to pursue careers in healthcare, we can empower them to become vital contributors to their communities while addressing critical shortages in the healthcare workforce.

Furthermore, the diverse range of certifications offered through this program ensures that students are prepared for various roles within the healthcare field prior to leaving high school, and may potentially range from patient services to acute care in their future endeavors. This comprehensive approach not only caters to the individual interests and strengths of students but also aligns with the evolving needs of the healthcare industry.

By supporting HB1827, HD1, we are not only investing in the future of our youth but also strengthening our healthcare system from the ground up. The positive impact of this program will be felt far beyond the classroom, as graduates enter the workforce equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to provide high-quality care to individuals and communities in need.

In conclusion, I urge you to give your full support to HB1827, HD1, and to prioritize the establishment of a public high school healthcare workforce certificate programs. Together, we can create a brighter future for our youth, our communities, and our healthcare system.

Should you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at (808-697-9400) or via email at <a href="mailto:r.pikelnycook@seariders.k12.hi.us">r.pikelnycook@seariders.k12.hi.us</a>. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Principal, Wai'anae High School



## STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO KEKAULIKE HIGH SCHOOL KE KULA KI'EKI'E 'O KEKAULIKE

121 Kula Highway Pukalani, Hawai'i 96768 FAX: (808) 573-2231 OFFICE: (808) 727-3500

February 26, 2024

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB1827, HD1.

My name is Amy Strand and I am the principal at Kekaulike High School. HB1827, HD1 would support health care workforce development programs through a public high school health care workforce certificate program and a glidepath program for certified nurse aides. Additionally it will provide funding to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training.

As the principal at Kekaulike High School, I recognize the importance of providing our students access to an educational program that prepares them to successfully enter the healthcare profession. Kekaulike services the upcountry community from the rural areas of Keanae to Kaupo and the many towns in between. Maui faces a shortage of healthcare workers, which exacerbates the challenges faced by our remote communities in accessing quality care.

There is an urgent need for public schools to provide incentive and training for students interested in a career in healthcare. Maui healthcare facilities rely on traveling medical professionals to fill their positions. By providing early access to quality healthcare pathways in public schools, students are well-situated for post-secondary education and training, allowing them to enter the Hawaii workforce and enhance the resources of our island economy.

Healthcare Workforce Development Bill HB1827, HD1 will provide the funding necessary for increased educational opportunities for Maui students. I strongly support this bill.

Thank you for your continued support of Hawaii's children.

Amy Strand Principal

King Kekaulike High School

### HB-1827-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:38:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Disa Hauge	DOE, Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Superintendent	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

### **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Yamashita and Vice-Chair Kitagawa,

I am writing Testimony in support of HB 1827, HD 1, regarding the funding of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Department of Education to support health care workforce development programs, specifically the public high school health care workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides. Appropriates funds to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training.

My name is Disa Hauge, and I am here today as the Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex Superintendent to express my strong support for HB 1827, HD 1, which significantly advances the Department's workforce development initiative within the health services pathway.

This bill represents a crucial step forward in preparing our students for success in the healthcare sector, a field of vital importance to our Nānākuli-Wai'anae community. Besides being a FQHC with clinics on several of our DOE campuses, the Wai'anae Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is the largest employer on the Coast.

Preparing students for jobs in their own community builds economic resilience for our families as it provides students with the skills and training necessary for life-long career success. HB 1827, HD 1 recognizes the importance of expanding access to work-based learning opportunities for high school students. This aspect of the bill ensures that students can gain practical experience and develop essential skills directly relevant to their future careers. Additionally, robust training in health career pathways empowers our students to make better health decisions in their own lives. Given the crisis of diabetes in our community, this is a powerfully positive secondary ramification of this expansion.

When students have access to modern instructional tools and resources in classrooms that mirror authentic clinical settings, their teachers can immerse students in reality-based scenarios, thereby better preparing them for the health services workforce as well as increasing their understanding of the interface between medicine and patients.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 1827, HD 1, as it represents a vital investment in the future of our community's students and our healthcare workforce. Thank you for considering my testimony,

Disa Hauge

Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex Area Superintendent



## Testimony to the House Committee on Finance Tuesday, February 27, 2024; 2:00 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 308 Via Videoconference

### RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1827, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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 <u>SUPPORTS</u> House Bill No. 1927, House Draft 1, RELATING TO HEALTHCARE 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.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate funds to support the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aids, and renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to make the classrooms more suitable for healthcare training.

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.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1827, House Draft 1 Tuesday, February 27, 2024; 2:00 p.m. Page 2

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, the program will facilitate partnerships between businesses and educators for the creation of mentoring ventures and other opportunities so that Hawaii's youth may gain the 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@hawaiipca.net.



Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 2:00 PM Via Video Conference; Conference Room 308

### **House Committee on Finance**

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson

Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1827, HD1

**Relating To Healthcare 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 1827, HD1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLNR) and Department of Education (DOE) to support health care workforce development programs, specifically the public high school health care workforce certificate program and glide program for certified nurse aides.

Hawai'i is facing a shortage of health care professionals at nearly all levels, creating an environment where access to appropriate and timely health care is becoming increasingly difficult for individuals, especially those living in remote areas and neighbor island communities. A concerted effort involving the DLNR and DOE to create pipelines at the high school level to help recruit, train, and employ health care workers through programs that include career-path certificates for high school students and higher education and certification opportunities for nurse aides would be a meaningful step toward building our health care workforce. It has been shown that programs which encourage students at an early age to enter a health care profession have a high success rate.

The efforts of the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i (HAH) have been successful in connecting employers with students who do not plan to pursue higher education immediately upon graduation from high school into jobs with competitive pay and the chance for further career progression. Additionally, through partnerships with the Maui Community College, Kaiser Permanente and Ohana Pacific Health, the certified nurse aide to licensed practical nurse program has successfully graduated 31 individuals in the initial cohort. These 31 individuals were able to join the workforce and make a living while at the same time working towards their licensed practical nurse certification.

In light of the significant outcomes achieved to date, this measure would provide the necessary funding to increase the health care workforce in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 27, 2024 Conference Room 308

### House Committee on Finance

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa

From: Wesley Lo

Chief Executive Officer

Ohana Pacific Management Company/Hale Makua Health Services

Re: Support

HB 1827 HD 1, Relating to Healthcare Workforce Development

Ohana Pacific Health (OPH) / Hale Makua Health Services (HMHS) is the largest provider of post-acute care services in the State of Hawai'i and also, the largest provider of Medicaid nursing facility services. Our organization employs almost 1,500 healthcare workers and manages approximately 950 nursing home beds that provide short-term rehab and long-term care, adult day health services and home health care, and Care Management/Navigation Services on all four major islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT for HB 1827 HD1** and the funding included in it to support this critical "glidepath" to develop more health care professionals.

The current landscape of healthcare in Hawaii is significantly affected by a lack of workers, particularly in the Long-Term Care industry, particularly for CNA's and Licensed Nurses. The affect of this shortage is that many of our facilities are unable to admit patients from the acute care hospitals due to the lack of workforce, which has exacerbated our financial situation. This situation is causing record high census in the hospitals to a "crisis point". Additionally, the lack of workforce and the resulting drop in census has severely affected our industry, as evidenced by the recent closure of Wahiawa Hospital's long term care facility, and several mainland operators are choosing to leave the market.

Over the last year we have successfully started and completed a Certified nurse aide to licensed practical nurse program, which resulted in 31 individuals graduating in December 2023. This has provided much-needed certified nurse aids and nurses to our industry. However, we are still short staffed throughout the state and must continue to expand this program and reach more and more students to provide them opportunity to find a glide-path to a living wage and to provide much needed workers for the Healthcare Industry.























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

Wesley Lo

Chief Executive Officer

Ohana Pacific Health / Hale Makua Health Services





















Osa Tui, Jr.
President
Logan Okita
Vice President
Lisa Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer
Ann Mahi
Executive Director

#### TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Item: HB1827 HD1 - Relating to healthcare workforce development

Position: Support

Hearing: February 27, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB1827 HD1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Education to support health care workforce development programs, specifically the public high school health care workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides and appropriates funds to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training.

With a "silver tsunami" beginning to hit with baby boomers reaching their twilight years, Hawai'i has a particularly aging population which will require more workers to care for them. At the same time, technological advances in the medical field come fast and furious and we need to ensure that the aspiring healthcare workforce will be well prepared to use the new tools that will come along.

To that end, Hawai'i students who have aspirations to join these careers need classroom experiences that mimic what they will encounter in the real world. This includes state-of-the-art training equipment and updated educational facilities which will ease the transition as students move into further education and into healthcare workspaces.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committees to **support** this bill.



## Testimony of Jonathan Ching Government Relations Director

#### Refore:

House Committee on Finance The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

February 27, 2024 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

### Re: HB 1827, HD1, Relating to Healthcare Workforce Development.

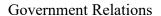
Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1827, HD1, which appropriates funding to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Education to support healthcare workforce development programs, specifically the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides.

### Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 1827, HD1.

Kaiser Permanente is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 274,000 members in Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advanced practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members with coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has more than 19 medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

Thank you for hearing this very important measure that will continue to help build upon our local healthcare workforce. In January 2023, Kaiser Permanente, UNITE Here! Local 5, and the University of Hawaii Maui College launched their Practical Nurse Trainee Program, an 18-month program for current Kaiser Permanente employees who wish to pursue a career in the nursing field. The program's inaugural cohort consisted of 18 students, of which 11 are employees from various Kaiser Permanente departments and disciplines, including medical assistants and hospital aides.

The program's curriculum built and enhanced technical skills in primary and specialty care areas. The goal of the program is to provide a pathway for employees to become licensed and fill open Kaiser Permanente Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) positions across the state.





In December 2023, the first cohort of medical assistants, hospital aides, and technicians completed the rigorous curriculum and graduated from the University of Hawaii Maui College. Participants are preparing to take the NCLEX licensure exam to become licensed and fill LPN vaccines.

The funding from HB 1827, HD1 will support the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program, which is vital to addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals within the state. We ask the committee to PASS HB 1827, HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



### Written Testimony Presented Before the COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

HEARING: Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 2:00pm PLACE: Room 308 State Capital and VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

### RE: HB1827, HD1 (HSCR281-24) RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN <u>STRONG SUPPORT</u>

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, members of the House Committee on Finance,

Hawai'i - ANA is the state's premier professional nursing organization that fosters high standards of professional nursing practice, promotes safe and ethical work environments and advocates on health care issues that affect nurses and the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to present **written testimony in support** of this measure, which appropriates moneys to the Departments of Labor and Industrial (DLIR) Relations and Education (DOE) to support healthcare workforce development programs, specifically the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides.

Growing the workforce that contributes to the healthcare team, including nurse aides, medical assistants, radiation technologists, respiratory therapists, surgical technicians, etc., has been an ever-growing priority. Further, the need to stabilize the post-acute care environment and provide career progression opportunities for people within the post-acute care space is urgent.

The UH Maui College certified nurse aide to practical nurse program is novel in that it retrofitted 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. This program is remarkable because our state's licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs are dwindling, and are in dire condition.

According to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) the state lost 35% of its seats for new LPN students in AY 20-21 as compared to the previous academic year. In the AY 2021-22 report, HSCN noted that enrollment again remained at low rates and hoped to see an increase in LPN admission and enrollment.

Without innovative models for LPN education, our state's healthcare system will have to shift rapidly and dramatically. Measures like this which offer healthcare workforce development support for many initiatives 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.

Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association: President: Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch, DNP, CCHN, FAAN, president@hawaii-ana.org Executive Director: Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN, executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org
500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825. (808) 779-3001



The state of

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 2:00 pm Conference Room 308

### **House Committee on Finance**

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa

From: Hilton Raethel

President and CEO

Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support

HB 1827 HD 1, 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 healthcare 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 submit our **strong support** for this measure. This bill would fund three critical pieces needed to build our healthcare workforce pipeline—supporting high schoolers to get certified in key roles with a large shortage; helping current nurses to further their education and career while being able to earn a living; and creating modern, state-of-theart facilities for our future healthcare leaders to train.

The programs in this measure have been refined over the past several years, with seed funding coming from private sources and the federal government to test and refine models to best recruit and retain talent in the state to fill critical healthcare roles. Our high school certification programs have helped to connect employers with students who do not plan to pursue further education right away—which is nearly 50% of our state's high school students—into jobs with competitive pay, purpose, and the chance for further career progression. The particular program this bill would support provide the needed wrap-around services and employer matching that has made this particular program result in a high job offer and acceptance rate.

Further, the certified nurse aide (CNA) to licensed practical nurse (LPN) program has been a resounding success, with 31 individuals graduating in our pilot cohort in December of 2023. Prior to these programs, any CNA would have had to leave their job in order to further their nursing career. Through a hub and spoke model with UH Maui College and the support of employer partners such as Kaiser and Ohana Pacific Health, these 31 individuals were able to

continue to stay in the workforce and make a living while working towards their LPN certification. Getting this LPN certification meant a 50% increase to their wages, and a further step in their careers.

Lastly, we would note that encouraging students to enter into healthcare must start early—and we must make it attractive for kids and teachers to want to engage in that learning pathway. We believe that we can build a best-in-class network of modernized healthcare classrooms with support from the legislature to kickstart the renovations on 38 classrooms. We do plan to seek other funding through private, philanthropic, and federal sources to support the renovation of every classroom.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our strong support for this measure, and for the legislature's continued support in building the next generation of healthcare workers.



February 27, 2024

To: Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: The Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee
Date/Location: Feb. 27, 2024; 2:00 p.m./Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in support of HB 1827 HD1 – Relating to Healthcare Workforce Development

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) supports HB 1827 HD1. HAHP is a statewide partnership that unifies Hawaii's health plans to improve the health of Hawaii's communities together. A majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a plan associated with one of our organizations.

All of HAHP's member organizations agree that we must work together to address Hawaii's need for more health care workers to ensure that our residents can continue to access high quality health care. We appreciate the efforts of this committee to make it easier and more attractive for Hawaii's high school students to move into the health care field through careerpath certificates for high school students, higher education and certification opportunities for nurse aides, and investments in state-of-the-art classrooms.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1827 HD1.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee cc: HAHP Board Members



To: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair

The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President

Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 308 Hearing:

RE: **HB1827 HD1 Relating to Health Care Workforce Development** 

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB1827 HD1**. This measure appropriates funding to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Education to support health care workforce development programs, specifically the public high school health care workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides; and appropriates funds to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, nonprofit health plan serving over 84,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 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.

AlohaCare is committed to improving access to care and strengthening the Medicaid program. As you may know, Medicaid enrollment in our State has grown by over 46% from 327,000 enrollees in March 2020 to 476,000 in January 2024. This tremendous growth has further exacerbated our State's already severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. AlohaCare supports an all-hands-on-deck approach to attract, grow, and retain our healthcare workforce.

Our commitment to local healthcare workforce development includes the AlohaCare Healthcare Scholarship program<sup>1</sup>. Current AlohaCare members and their immediate family members pursuing a career in healthcare or social services are eligible and encouraged to apply. AlohaCare scholarship recipients receive up to \$5,000 each to help pay for tuition, books, supplies, certification, testing fees, and/or course fees. The AlohaCare Healthcare Scholarship program is offered annually.

We appreciate the legislature's continued leadership in supporting the next generation of healthcare workers for our state. We applaud the workforce development work that the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and other healthcare stakeholders have done, especially to increase access to healthcare training for students at earlier learning stages to successfully enter and advance through the healthcare workforce pipeline. For these reasons, we request your support for this bill which is vital to addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals within the state.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB1827 HD1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://imualoa.alohacare.org/

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 308 and via videoconference
By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Supporting Testimony for H.B. 1827, H.D. 1

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present **testimony in support** of this measure, which appropriates moneys to the Departments of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) and Education (DOE) to support healthcare workforce development programs, specifically the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides. This measure also appropriates funds to support the initiative.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing has convened nursing leaders for nearly 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. Over the last 6 years, growing the workforce that contributes to the healthcare team, including nurse aides, medical assistants, radiation technologists, respiratory therapists, surgical technicians, etc., has been an ever-growing priority. Further, the need to stabilize the post-acute care environment and provide career progression opportunities for people within the post-acute care space is urgent.

The UH Maui College certified nurse aide to practical nurse program is novel in that it retrofitted 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.

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 report<sup>1</sup>, 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

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2022). *Hawai'i State Nurse Education Capacity Report, Academic Year 2020-2021*. <a href="https://www.hawaiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2021-Hawaii-Nurse-Education-Capacity-Statewide-Report-v.Final\_.pdf">https://www.hawaiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2021-Hawaii-Nurse-Education-Capacity-Statewide-Report-v.Final\_.pdf</a>

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 the AY 2021-2022 report<sup>2</sup>, we noted that enrollment again remained at the low rates reported in the AY 2020-2021 report, and hoped to see an increase in LPN admission and enrollment due to the innovative program housed at UH Maui College.

In addition, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing 2021 Nursing Workforce Supply Report<sup>3</sup> stated that "it is certain that the number of LPNs in Hawai'i continues to decline which will exacerbate a critical shortage, especially in post-acute/long-term care" (page 13).

Without innovative models for LPN education, our state's healthcare system will have to shift rapidly and dramatically. Measures like this, S.B. 3225 which offers healthcare workforce development support for many initiatives, S.B. 2634, and the UH Health Initiative, 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.

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2023). *Hawai'i State Nurse Education Capacity Report, Academic Year 2021-2022*. <a href="https://www.hawaiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2021-2022-Education-Capacity-Statewide-Report-v.Final-1.pdf">https://www.hawaiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2021-2022-Education-Capacity-Statewide-Report-v.Final-1.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2021). *2021 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply Report*. http://www.hawaiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Statewide-Report-v.Final\_.pdf

### HB-1827-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:00:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Kelcy Koga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB1827, HD1.

My name is Kelcy Koga and I am the principal at Waiakea High School. HB1827, HD1 would support health care workforce development programs through a public high school health care workforce certificate program and a glidepath program for certified nurse aides. Additionally it will provide funding to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training.

In order to create a robust workforce with the skills they need to be successful, students need access to the tools and resources being used in the industry. Classrooms that replicate the actual clinical settings will allow for authentic learning experiences that truly prepare our students for entry into the health services workforce.

Preparing a pipeline of professionals in the health services workforce not only provides our students with gainful employment upon graduation, but also begins to address the shortage of healthcare professionals within our various communities.

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

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagaw and Committee members:

As a healthcare teacher at Wai'anae High School who is deeply invested in the future of our healthcare workforce, I wholeheartedly support the HB1827 bill related to Healthcare Workforce Development. Specifically, I advocate for the allocation of resources towards the enhancement of the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program and the glidepath program for certified nurse aides.

Investing in these programs is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it addresses the growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals in our communities. By providing high school students with comprehensive healthcare training, we not only equip them with valuable skills but also empower them to pursue rewarding careers in healthcare, thereby addressing workforce shortages and ensuring the delivery of quality care to all individuals.

Furthermore, the renovation and equipping of certain public high school classrooms to be utilized for healthcare training are essential steps toward creating conducive learning environments. Up-to-date facilities and equipment are indispensable for practical hands-on training, enabling students to gain the necessary experience and proficiency vital for their future roles in the healthcare sector.

Moreover, investing in healthcare workforce development programs at the high school level fosters early interest and engagement among students. By introducing them to the diverse opportunities within the healthcare industry, we inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals and cultivate a pipeline of talent to meet future healthcare needs effectively.

In conclusion, supporting the appropriation of funds for healthcare workforce development programs is an investment in our future. It not only addresses current workforce shortages but also ensures the sustainability and excellence of our healthcare system in the long run. As a healthcare teacher, I urge you to prioritize these initiatives, as they are essential for the well-being of our communities and the advancement of our healthcare workforce.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Megahan, Teacher, Healthcare Services Pathway, Wai'anae High School

**House Committee on Finance** 

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa

From: Genevieve Lei Aken

Career and Technical Education Coordinator

Wai'anae High School

Re:: Testimony in support for HB1827 - Strengthening Hawaii's Healthcare Workforce through Education

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee on Finance Members,

I am writing to you as the Career and Technical Education Coordinator at Wai'anae High School, to express my strong support for House Bill 1827, which seeks to appropriate funds to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Department of Education. This bill is a significant step forward in supporting health care workforce development programs, including the public high school health care workforce certificate program and the glidepath program for certified nurse aides, as well as funding the renovation and equipment of certain public high school classrooms for health care training.

At Wai'anae High School, we are deeply committed to providing our students with the education and training they need to succeed in high-demand careers, such as those in the healthcare sector. The programs supported by HB1827 align perfectly with our goals and offer a direct path for our students to gain the qualifications and experience they need to enter the healthcare workforce upon graduation.

The healthcare industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors in Hawaii and across the nation, yet it faces significant workforce shortages. By investing in programs that prepare high school students for careers in this field, HB1827 not only addresses this critical shortage but also offers our young people meaningful career opportunities that can improve their lives and the well-being of our community.

The public high school health care workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides are particularly promising, as they offer students hands-on experience and a clearer understanding of the healthcare field. These programs can spark students' interest in healthcare careers and provide them with the foundational skills needed to excel in further education and training.

Moreover, the appropriation of funds for the renovation and equipment of classrooms is crucial for creating an environment that is conducive to learning the practical skills required in healthcare. Modern, well-equipped classrooms will enable us to simulate real-world healthcare settings, providing our students with a more immersive and effective learning experience.

As someone who will support and benefit from the programs mentioned in HB1827, I can attest to the positive impact this bill will have on our students, school, and community. By supporting this bill, we are not only investing in the future of our healthcare workforce but also in the future of our youth and the overall health and prosperity of our state.

I urge you to support HB1827 and help pave the way for a stronger, more resilient healthcare workforce in Hawaii. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and the health of our community.

Mahalo!