



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 119
RELATING TO NURSING
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 4, 2025

3:15PM

Room 229

Dear Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) submits this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 119** which appropriates funds to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College.

OHA is the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians.¹ In fulfillment of its mandates, OHA seeks to advance policies and programs that strengthen Native Hawaiian well-being. Native Hawaiians face persistent disparities in health outcomes for a variety of reasons including limited access to healthcare in rural areas and on neighbor islands. Within the next 5 years, 22% of Registered Nurses (RNs) are expected to leave the Hawai'i nursing workforce;² already RNs are concentrated in Honolulu County.³ This combination of factors threatens to increase the challenges facing Native Hawaiians when attempting to access healthcare by exacerbating the shortage of qualified nurses.

A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at the University of Hawaii Maui College would play a pivotal role in addressing these issues. The program would equip students with the skills, knowledge, and clinical experience necessary to meet the unique healthcare needs of rural populations, particularly in remote Hawaiian communities. By fostering local talent and promoting a strong presence of Native Hawaiian nurses, this program would help reduce healthcare access barriers, empower individuals to become healthcare leaders in their own communities, and strengthen the overall healthcare infrastructure in rural areas, ultimately

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XII § 5

² "Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's 2023 Workforce Supply: Statewide Report," at p. 29, <https://www.hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2023HawaiiNursingWorkforceSupply.vFinal.pdf>

³ "Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's 2023 Workforce Supply: Statewide Report," at p. 27, <https://www.hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2023HawaiiNursingWorkforceSupply.vFinal.pdf>

improving health outcomes for Native Hawaiians. This program would also expand educational opportunities for students living and working on Maui and who cannot move simply to pursue higher education opportunities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. To improve both educational opportunities for our neighbor island residents and access for Native Hawaiian to culturally competent, community-centered care, OHA urges this committee to **PASS SB 119**.



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
Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 3:15 p.m.

By

Della Teraoka, Interim Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 119 – RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SB 119 which appropriates funds to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program at the University of Hawai'i - Maui College.

The UH recognizes the existing workforce shortages in health care and the high demand for nurses in the state. Additionally, the [UH Regents Policy 4.207](#) Community College System acknowledges the need for the neighbor island community colleges to continue to provide a comprehensive set of courses and programs to make the university accessible to every Hawai'i resident who wants and can benefit from the opportunities and experiences provided by the community colleges. The UH is also cognizant of the importance of using our budget resources wisely and being careful not to duplicate existing programs.

SB 119 indicates "[t]he legislature believes that offering a bachelor of science in nursing program at the university of Hawaii Maui college can help to increase the supply of nurse graduates, reduce the nursing workforce shortage, and allow Maui nursing students to remain on Maui during their entire course of study." The UH concurs with the legislature that the lack of a BSN program in the county of Maui is a matter of statewide concern and will begin an assessment to ensure there is no duplication of programs and an effective use of resources while initiating the new academic program proposal process for the BSN. The funding from SB 119 would support students taking the new BSN prerequisites in preparation for the program curriculum and provide for additional faculty lecturers.

While UH supports the intent of SB 119, we respectfully suggest that should an appropriation be provided, it be included within the general appropriations act. We believe this approach, rather than through a special appropriation, would integrate the necessary funding into the base budget, ensuring greater fiscal stability and predictability for the program's long-term implementation and sustainability. Integrating the funding in this manner would also facilitate better long-range planning and resource allocation.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 119, 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 119.



February 3, 2025

To: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT OF SB119 RELATING TO NURSING

Hrg: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 3:15 pm

Aloha Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Kidani and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy.

Thank you for hearing this measure. This measure appropriates funds to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing conducts research on the nursing workforce at the time of nursing license renewal. The survey questions include inquiry into demographics, licensure, certifications, positions, hours worked, educational history, and more. In 2023, survey responses from nurses in Maui indicated the following:

Local nursing education programs are vital to the sustainability of Maui's registered nurse (RN) workforce (statewide report):

- The statewide RN workforce was 16,390 of which 10% are on Maui.
- 54% of RNs working on Maui were educated in the state.

There is demand for BSN education on Maui:

- Statewide, 76% of RNs hold a BSN or graduate degree in nursing (data tables) vs. 59% in Maui County (statewide report).
- RNs in Maui County are proportionally slightly more likely than RNs statewide to be enrolled in a degree-leading nurse education program (Statewide=6% (data tables); Maui=8% (statewide report)).
- Among RNs in Maui County who are enrolled in a degree-leading program, 45% are enrolled in a BSN program. 80% of all Maui County RNs enrolled in a nursing degree program are enrolled in an out-of-state school (unpublished data from the 2023 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply Survey)

The creation of a BSN program in Maui County would respond to existing demand for BSN education in the county and create an opportunity for students in the county to be educated locally.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holly Kessler' in a cursive script.

Holly Kessler
Executive Director



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 4, 2025; 3:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0119, RELATING TO NURSING.

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0119, RELATING TO NURSING..

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.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate \$100,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2025-2026, and \$60,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 to meet the increased demand for prerequisite courses by students newly enrolled in the bachelor science in nursing degree program at the University of Hawaii Maui College;
- (2) Appropriate \$90,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2025-2026, and \$60,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for supplies, equipment, and simulation and laboratory upgrades associated with establishment of the bachelor of science in nursing degree program at the University of Hawaii Maui College; and
- (3) Appropriate \$250,000 in general funds for 2026-2027 for instructional costs associated with providing a third year of nursing courses following the establishment of the bachelor of science in nursing degree program at the University of Hawaii Maui College.

This measure would take effect on July 1, 2025.

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.

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 that the establishment of a bachelor of science degree in nursing at the University of Hawaii Maui College would greatly expand the learning opportunities of future nurses situated on the neighbor islands. This is critical because the shortage of nursing in Hawaii is dire.

Accordingly, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

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@hawaiiipca.net.



**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 3:15 PM
Conference Room 229 and videoconference**

**By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 119

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for hearing this measure. This measure appropriates funds to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing conducts research on the nursing workforce at the time of nursing license renewal. The survey questions include inquiry into demographics, licensure, certifications, positions, hours worked, educational history, and more. In 2023¹, survey responses from nurses in Maui indicated the following:

Local nursing education programs are vital to the sustainability of Maui's registered nurse (RN) workforce (statewide report):

- The statewide RN workforce was 16,390 of which 10% are on Maui.
- 54% of RNs working on Maui were educated in the state.

There is demand for BSN education on Maui:

- Statewide, 76% of RNs hold a BSN or graduate degree in nursing (data tables) vs. 59% in Maui County (statewide report).
- RNs in Maui County are proportionally slightly more likely than RNs statewide to be enrolled in a degree-leading nurse education program (Statewide=6% (data tables); Maui=8% (statewide report)).
- Among RNs in Maui County who are enrolled in a degree-leading program, 45% are enrolled in a BSN program. 80% of all Maui County RNs enrolled in a nursing degree program are enrolled in an out-of-state school (unpublished data from the 2023 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply Survey)

The creation of a BSN program in Maui County would respond to existing demand for BSN education in the county and create an opportunity for students in the county to be educated locally.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing commends the legislature for addressing the opportunities for nurses to advance their education in-state.

¹ Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (2024). 2023 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply: Statewide Report.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.



February 4, 2025 at 3:15 pm
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
AVP, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Support**
SB 119, Relating to Nursing

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 submit testimony in **support** of this measure, which appropriates funds for the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program at the University of Hawaii Maui College. Addressing Hawaii's critical nursing workforce shortage is an urgent priority, and this measure takes an essential step toward increasing the pipeline of qualified nurses, particularly for the county of Maui.

According to our most recent healthcare workforce demand survey, Hawaii currently faces a deficit of just over 900 registered nurses. Expanding access to nursing education is an important piece of addressing this shortage, especially in neighbor island communities. Establishing a BSN program at UH Maui College will help to ensure that more individuals interested in nursing as a profession can live and study where they live, without having to relocate to Oahu or even the mainland. This can help to ensure a more stable and well-trained nursing workforce across the state, but especially on Maui.

This program will also serve as an important piece of an initiative that the Association is currently engaged in with UH Maui College to help certified nurse aides (CNAs) to become licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and, eventually, registered nurses (RNs). This type of glidepath program is essential to retaining our nursing workforce, especially in post-acute care settings.

We appreciate the legislature's continued interest in investing in nursing education and the health and well-being of our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration of this measure.

LATE

Testimony in Support of SB119: Relating to Nursing Education

Submitted by: Marian Horikawa-Barth, Chief Nurse Executive, Maui Health

Date: February 4, 2025

To: The Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature

Subject: Support to SB 119 – Nursing Education

My name is Marian T Horikawa-Barth, and I am the Chief Nurse Executive at Maui Health System testifying today in strong support of SB119, which proposes the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) and appropriates the necessary funds to support this initiative.

Importance of Nursing Education

The demand for registered nurses with a BSN degree is increasing both locally and nationally. The healthcare landscape is evolving, requiring nurses to take on more complex roles and responsibilities. A BSN degree equips nurses with the critical thinking, leadership, and clinical skills necessary to meet these demands and improve patient outcomes. Establishing a BSN program at UHMC is a strategic move to address the shortage of highly skilled nurses in Maui County and the greater Hawai'i region.

Benefits to the Community

The introduction of the BSN program at UHMC will have far-reaching benefits for the community:

- **Improved Healthcare Services:** With more BSN-prepared nurses in the workforce, healthcare facilities will be able to provide higher quality care, leading to better patient outcomes.
- **Economic Growth:** The program will attract students from across the state and beyond, contributing to the local economy through tuition, housing, and other expenditures.
- **Job Creation:** The establishment of the program will create faculty and administrative positions, closing the gap on needed nursing instructors and professors.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Offering a BSN program locally allows Maui residents to pursue advanced nursing education without the need to relocate, making higher education more accessible.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Committees to pass SB119 and HB617. The establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College is a vital investment in the future of healthcare in Maui and the state of Hawai'i. By supporting this bill, we can ensure that our community has access to highly skilled and educated nurses who are equipped to meet the challenges of modern healthcare.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marian Horikawa-Barth DNP RN CPHQ CENP
Chief Nurse Executive
Maui Health System
808-269-2029 (cell)

Written Testimony Presented Before the

The Senate

Ka‘aha kenekoa

Committee on Higher Education

HEARING: Tuesday, February 54 2025, 3:16 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

SB 119 – RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, members of the SEenate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in strong support of SB 119**, appropriating funds to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College (UHMC).

As background I am an alumnus of Maui Community College (MCC) and graduated with an LPN in 1981. Since then I have obtained my Associate in Nursing in 1983, my Bachelor’s in Nursing in 1991, my Master’s in Nursing in 1999. and finally my PhD in Nursing in 2013 All through UH Manoa and sacrifice to my family. I started teaching at then MCC in January 1992 and retired from UHMC in December 2020. Since I started nursing school in 1980 I have seen all healthcare professions raise their educational basic requirements with the exception of nursing, because of the complexity of healthcare continues to increase. As I used to tell my students, “When I started nursing individuals in ICU are now being cared for on medical-surgical floors and what is in ICU today would have been dead 40+ years ago. In spite of the complexity of

healthcare hospitals insist on overburdening nurses with very sick patients. Hospitals have set patient;RN ratios that increase mortality and morbidity and have done so since at least I became a nurse in 1981. This is despite the fact that Magnet hospitals such as Queens Medical Center must have at least 80% of their workforce be bachelor's prepared nurses. Currently at UHMC nursing program in order to obtain an associate in nursing students must complete 4.5 semesters while with only 1.5 more they would obtain a bachelor's degree. This isn't fair to the student nor to the faculty. As one faculty member noted years ago, we are trying to shove 4 years of education into two and expect our students to take the exact same national licensure exams. Make no mistake, I am proud to be an alumnus of MCC/UHMC, but we need to do better for our students and keep up with the times. Our students are at a disadvantage when they must compete for jobs with Bachelor-prepared nurses from other islands or the mainland. We need well prepared nurses from the Maui community who understand the culture of Hawai'i. We need well-prepared nurses who do not need to leave home to achieve their dreams.

I strongly support and promote the BSN program being offered on Maui to increase the number of graduating nurses in our state to attract and retain local applicants for our nursing positions caring for our community.

I respectfully ask the committee to pass HB 617 through your committee. I thank your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i, in ensuring that we educate and retain high quality nurses throughout the state.

Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, RN, FNP-BC
Email: denisecohen@mac.com
Cell: 808-283-5414

Cheryl Keyhani

Lahaina, HI 96761

ckeyhani@hawaii.edu



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
MAUI COLLEGE

February 3, 2025

Troy Hashimoto

Hawaii State Senator, District 5

Hawaii State Capitol Room 222

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha e Senator Hashimoto,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Cheryl Keyhani, and I am a native Hawaiian with multiple generations of my family residing on Maui. I am writing to express my strong support for the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC). As both a nursing student at UHMC and someone deeply impacted by the Lahaina wildfires in 2023, I have seen firsthand the immense importance of supporting our community through education, healthcare, and local opportunities.

As a current student in the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program at UHMC, I am set to graduate in May 2025. While I am excited to move forward in my nursing career, I have encountered challenges along the way—one of the most significant being the financial strain of taking online classes off-island. Because I am not a local resident of the state where I take classes, I do not qualify for the same financial assistance that students from that state do. This situation only further highlights the need for accessible, local educational opportunities that benefit not just students, but also the broader community.

Having a BSN program at UHMC would directly address this need. It would provide current and future nursing students, like myself, with the opportunity to continue our education and training right here on Maui, without the financial burden of traveling or relocating to another island. More importantly, it would allow students to remain on the island, serving and supporting our community, especially in the wake of disasters such as the wildfires. The nurses we train

here will be more inclined to stay and work locally, fostering long-term relationships with the people and communities they serve.

The tragic events of the Lahaina wildfires have reinforced the importance of community-based healthcare and education. It is vital for us to not only rebuild but to ensure that we are creating sustainable systems that support the people of Maui in the long term. By having a BSN program here, we can better retain local talent, increase the number of skilled healthcare professionals on the island, and strengthen the capacity of our local health systems to respond to future challenges.

I am passionate about the future of nursing on Maui and believe that a BSN program at UHMC would be a critical step toward improving healthcare outcomes and opportunities for our residents. Please consider the positive impact this program would have for students, healthcare workers, and the Maui community as a whole.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to seeing this program come to fruition, and I am hopeful that with your support, we can ensure that future generations of nurses will have the opportunity to build their careers here on our beautiful island.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Cheryl Heyhani, LPN

Nursing Student, UHMC Class of 2025

SB-119

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:48:03 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/4/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Desiree Constance De La Espriella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is [Your Name], and I am writing to express my strong support for the appropriation of funds to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College. As a current student and future nursing professional, I can attest to the growing need for more advanced nursing education in our community, and the UHMC BSN program would directly address this need.

Maui, and the surrounding islands, are facing significant healthcare challenges, particularly in rural areas where there is a shortage of skilled nurses. The creation of a BSN program would not only help bridge this gap but also enhance the quality of care provided to our residents. Currently, many students must leave the island to pursue higher-level nursing education, which can be both financially and emotionally burdensome. By establishing a BSN program here at UHMC, we can retain local talent and produce highly skilled nurses who are deeply connected to the community they serve.

Furthermore, the healthcare industry increasingly demands nurses with a BSN due to the advanced clinical skills and leadership abilities that the degree imparts. By offering this program at UHMC, we would be equipping local nursing students with the knowledge and tools necessary to excel in a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, ensuring that they are ready to take on leadership roles in the future.

The UHMC BSN program would also benefit the broader economy by providing more opportunities for local employment, reducing the reliance on mainland-trained nurses, and strengthening Maui's healthcare infrastructure. This program would align with the state's commitment to addressing healthcare disparities, especially in underserved communities, and would be a key investment in the health and well-being of our entire population.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support the appropriation of funds to establish the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at UHMC. This program will not only provide much-needed educational opportunities for our students but will also help build a more sustainable and resilient healthcare workforce for Hawai‘i's future.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Desiree De La Espriella
954-397-9355
Current UHMC Nursing Student

TESTIMONY OF DR. ALLAN WEILAND

HB 617 AND SB 119

Good morning. I am Dr. Allan Weiland, a retired Medical Administrator for Kaiser Permanente and Assistant Governor for Rotary on Maui. I am testifying in favor of creating a 4-year Bachelor's of Nursing degree program at UH Maui College.

Maui has a substantial shortage of nurses and other health personnel. The only nursing training program on our island currently is at UH Maui College. They offer both a Certificate and an Associate's Degree program for nurses, but not a 4-year Bachelor's degree. The students in the program are mostly older, with a family. They are less mobile than younger students, and often are sole family support. There are lots of job opportunities, and so after graduation, these students are able to get work here. Very few go on to get a more advanced degree at a school off-island that would open the door to a large array of nursing careers.

After the fires of August 8, 2023, Maui has a shortage of housing. It is difficult to bring in trained nursing staff to fill the gaps in care that exist. It would be more effective to train our own on Maui, by allowing UH Maui College to offer the advanced nursing degrees.

The need exists; there are jobs available; many students would take advantage of a local advanced degree program if it existed here.

Thank you for your time.

Allan Weiland, MD

Rotary Assistant Governor for
Maui Coastal Clubs

Esperanza Turrieta

Pukalani, HI 96768

turrieta@hawaii.edu



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
MAUI COLLEGE

24th January 2025

Troy Hashimoto

Hawaii State Senator, District 5

Hawaii State Capitol Room 222

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha e Senator Hashimoto a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike,

As a soon-to-be graduate of the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program, I have experienced firsthand the exceptional quality of education and support provided by UHMC. Introducing a BSN program would offer a seamless transition for students like myself, allowing us to continue our education and professional development within the same supportive environment.

Moreover, I hope this program will include an online option similar to the RN to BSN programs offered by other schools in the state. This flexibility would be incredibly beneficial for ADN students who are eager to advance their education while balancing work and personal commitments. The ability to pursue a BSN online would enable us to remain active contributors to our local healthcare system, ensuring that we can continue to serve our Maui community with the highest level of care.

This initiative is a significant step forward for our educational community and a vital investment in the health and well-being of our Maui residents. I wholeheartedly support this bill and believe that it will have a profound and positive impact on both the students and the broader Maui community.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Esperanza Turrieta

UHMC Nursing Student, Cohort-18