
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'S LEEWARD COMMUNITY
COLLEGE.

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

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

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

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

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



1 challenging and offer real, solid opportunities upon successful
2 completion of training. A nursing program within the leeward
3 community would assist in stimulating and raising the economic
4 status of, not just the individual student, but of the entire
5 community as a focal point of educational opportunity in this
6 developing community.

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

16 The coordination of a partnership in which Leeward
17 community college and Kapiolani community college would
18 collaborate in expanding Kapiolani community college's associate
19 degree in nursing program to the leeward side by using the
20 Leeward community college campus, which is optimally located,
21 would create a system that will increase and improve the
22 island's capacity for producing nurses. This initiative would



1 also meet the needs of the leeward community which is also
2 experiencing an increase in the number of hospitals, clinics,
3 health centers, and the largest concentration of residential
4 care home facilities on Oahu. This represents not only the
5 supply, but also the demand concentrated in the same area
6 waiting for such a program.

7 While the development of nursing programs are complex,
8 requiring board of regents approval, board of nursing approval,
9 and usually a National League of Nursing accreditation, a
10 partnership between Kapiolani community college and Leeward
11 community college would develop a new program through this
12 intricate process. Therefore, the importance of a cooperative
13 effort between Kapiolani community college and Leeward community
14 college is essential to the effort of providing a program that
15 is superior in quality and capability to existing programs.

16 Although the Leeward community college nursing program
17 would employ Kapiolani community college's curriculum initially
18 for a rapid response to community needs, the long-term objective
19 would be for Leeward community college to develop a more
20 community-based RN program to continue to complement Kapiolani
21 community college's program and meet the growing need for RNs on



1 Oahu by expanding upon the University of Hawaii's capacity for
2 producing nurses.

3 An exciting and real outcome of such a collaborative effort
4 at the community college level will be the self-supporting
5 outcome of this project as the projected increase in qualified
6 RNs would inevitably increase the number of qualified applicants
7 entering into the University of Hawaii's graduate program that
8 will raise the quality of our nursing workforce and supply our
9 state with nursing instructors that we sorely need.

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

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,300,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the
18 following expenses relating to the University of Hawaii's
19 Leeward community college associate degree in nursing program:



H.B. NO. 3103

Report Title:

Leeward Community College; Nursing Program

Description:

Appropriates funds to Leeward community college to support a nursing program.

HB HMS 2006-1367

