



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Labor  
March 20, 2018 at 1:05 p.m.

By  
John Morton  
Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

### HB 1638 HD2 – RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS

Chairs Kahele and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Kim and English, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i is in concurrence with the intent of HB 1638 HD2. This measure would provide funding to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at the University of Hawai'i community colleges.

In February 2017, Kapi'olani Community College (KapCC) entered into a contract with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for \$1,167,291 for the purpose of establishing apprenticeship programs for culinary and healthcare. Of this amount, \$510,609 was for the area of healthcare for Community Health Workers, Pharmacy Technicians, and Optometry Assistants. This contract runs through the end of April 2018, and given the projected balances, the College will be requesting a no-cost extension to continue these programs.

In terms of our progress on partnering with the industry, since September 2017, KapCC has fostered eleven instructional apprenticeship partnerships with nine employers including Queen's Medical Center, Hawai'i Pacific Health, Hawai'i Primary Care Association, Hawai'i Optometric Association, Retina Institute of Hawai'i, Partners in Care Hawai'i, ALEA, and Hawai'i Independent Physicians Association.

The College is also looking to expand apprenticeship programs to Nursing Assistants and Medical Laboratory Technicians, Phlebotomists, and Sonographers; funding for these additional fields was not included as part of the original contract.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1638 HD2  
RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS.**

SENATOR KAIALII KAHELE, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Hearing Date: March 20, 2018

Room Number: 224

**WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY**

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for Department of Health.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of HB1638 HD2, which
- 3 is to appropriate funds to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at University
- 4 of Hawaii community colleges, but defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request for
- 5 appropriations priorities.
- 6 Provider supply is a determinant of health care access, and research suggests that community
- 7 health workers can complement a thinly stretched health workforce, as well as bring a unique
- 8 local perspective and level of trust other health professions are unable to match.
- 9
- 10 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

Tuesday, March 20th, 2018 at 1:05pm  
Conference Room 224

**Senate Committee on Higher Education**

To: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Labor**

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

From: Carl Hinson  
Director, Workforce Development

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1638, HD 2, Relating to Apprenticeships**

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My name is Carl Hinson and I am the Director of Workforce Development at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I write in support of HB 1638, HD 2 which provides funding to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at the University of Hawai'i community colleges.

With the increasing shortage of Medical Assistants (M.A.s), we have had to explore alternative staffing strategies to meet the operational needs of our clinics and hospitals. Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH) and Kapi'olani Community College (KCC) are currently partnered in the coordination of apprenticeships for Community Health Workers. These individuals work as "Care Coordinators" through Hawai'i Health Partners (HHP) to visit our patients in their home setting and to provide assistance with medication, treatment compliance, and other essential primary health care services.

While the Apprenticeship Program trains workers to provide primary health care services, it also equips them with skills required to play important leadership roles in our health care systems, which previously required formal M.A. training. For example, one such apprentice is currently working in HPH Human Resources and upon graduation will assume the role of our New Hire Health Clearance Coordinator.

The Apprenticeship Program helps to fill our industry's need for qualified medical professionals. We are hopeful that you will consider continuing and expanding the Apprenticeship program which provides great value to our industry and health care workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB 1638, HD 2.

**HB-1638-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 12:59:18 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/20/2018 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1638 HD2**, relating to UH; Community Colleges; Apprenticeships; Health Care; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB1638 HD2** and support its passage.

**HB1638 HD2** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at UH community colleges.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e believe a major role of education is to develop critical and creative thinkers who are knowledgeable about issues and able to evaluate and solve real-world problems. The curriculum also should emphasize cultural learning, the arts, career and trade skills, and physical education so that we may preserve our health and rich cultural history. A variety of learning strategies should be used, including group projects, cooperative learning, discussion, games and technological innovations." (Platform of the DPH, P. 6, Lines 310-314 (2016)).

"Access to health care is a basic human need. Our citizens and visitors have an inherent right to high quality, high standard health care. The state legislature and the federal government should take all appropriate steps to create and support a health care system of public, for-profit, and nonprofit hospitals and other medical facilities that follow best practices to enhance and protect and preserve life." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 361-364 (2016)).

Given that **HB1638 HD2** appropriates funds to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at UH community colleges, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s / Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee  
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

**HB-1638-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:42:45 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/20/2018 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
June Munoz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB1638 to appropriate funds to provide Community Health Worker programs in our schools. This is a valuable work that supports the health and well being of our community from Kupuna to Keiki!

**HB-1638-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:03:04 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/20/2018 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Oshiro-Taogoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1638 HD2, please appropriate funds to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at UH community colleges.

I am currently enrolled in the Community Health Worker certificate course at Kauai Community College and was unable to secure a practicum site outside of my current employment because of my financial situation. This bill will allow students to experience valuable practicum time while getting paid.

PLEASE support HB 1638 HD2!

Sincerely,

Susan Oshiro-Taogoshi



**HB-1638-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:23:19 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/20/2018 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Teresa Belardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of this bill, HB 1638. Community Health Workers (CHWs) are an important resource in the community. CHWs create connections between our communities' vulnerable populations and also help navigate our not-so-easy to understand healthcare system. Please support the increase in funding to healthcare apprenticeship and expand its programs.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Maria Belardo

CHW student at Kauai Community College