



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
February 13, 2018 at 1:25 p.m.

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

### SB 2475 – RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2475. 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 \$1,167,291.00 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.

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, Medical Laboratory Technicians, Phlebotomists, and Sonographers; funding for these additional fields was not included as part of this contract.

We recommend the following revisions to the current draft of the measure:

- Page 2, Lines 1-3 revised language to read as follows:  
“...alleviate the shortage of community health workers, pharmacy technicians, and optometry assistants.”
- Page 2, Lines 4-9 replace language to read as follows:  
“Research and peer-reviewed studies focusing on the role of community health workers have overwhelmingly documented the positive support of community health workers as part of a professional healthcare team. In addition, community health workers increasingly have become team members in providing services that help to reduce the number of homeless in Hawaii.”

The University of Hawai'i is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and will be evaluating the program to determine whether a request to support the continuation of this program will be included in the University's next Biennium Budget Request.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2475  
RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS.**

SENATOR KAIALI'I KAHELE, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: February 13, 2018

Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for Department of Health.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SB2475, which is to
- 3 Appropriate funds to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at University of
- 4 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 (CHW) can complement a thinly stretched health workforce, as well as bring a
- 8 unique local perspective and level of trust other health professions are unable to match.
- 9
- 10 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO  
DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 12, 2018

To: The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair;  
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2018  
Time: 1:25 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Leonard Hoshijo, Acting Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.B. No. 2475 Relating to Apprenticeships**

Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 372 identifies the Department as the State Apprenticeship Agency, responsible for administering and monitoring Registered Apprenticeship Programs. \$100,000 in state general funds are allocated to support this function for over 7,000 apprentices. DLIR offers comments.

However, because apprenticeship programs are very effective strategies in developing a skilled workforce, the federal government competitively awarded grants to expand apprenticeship programs into occupations and industries outside of construction, such as health care and information technology. International studies, confirmed by more recent national studies, have shown a return on investment of about \$1.40 for every dollar invested, lower turnover rates, and higher productivity as a result of Apprenticeship Programs.

A year ago, the Department was awarded a federal State Expansion Grant of \$1.5 million, of which \$1.1 million was contracted to Kapiolani Community College to develop and implement apprenticeship programs in healthcare and culinary occupations. They have been successful in creating new apprenticeship programs among industry associations and individual employers, and in shifting the paradigm of apprenticeship programs from construction to other areas. However, that funding source exhausts this year.

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 1:25pm

**Senate Committee on Higher Education**

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

From: Liana Peiler, MD, MHCDS  
Director of Quality and Clinical Project Management – Hawai'i Health Partners

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2475, Relating to Apprenticeships**

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My name is Liana Peiler, MD, MHCDS, and I am the Director of Quality and Clinical Project Management for Hawai'i Health Partners. Hawai'i Health Partners is a physician-led Accountable Care Organization (ACO) with the goal of providing high-quality care, increased efficiency, and optimal patient health.

I write in support of SB 2475 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 SB 2475.

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 1:25pm

**Senate Committee on Higher Education**

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

From: Carl Hinson  
Director, Workforce Development

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2475, Relating to Apprenticeships**

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My name is Carl Hinson, 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 SB 2475 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.

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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 SB 2475.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, February 13, 2018; 1:25 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 2475, RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS.**

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, 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. 2475, RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of General Funds for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to the University of Hawaii for health care apprenticeship programs.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health by creating a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health, FQHCs experience even greater challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified health care professionals to service the ever-growing volume of patients.

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.

This bill would provide additional State resources to enhance the the quality and stock of Hawaii's future healthcare workforce. **Accordingly, the HPCA strongly support this important measure.**

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**SB-2475**

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 3:33:48 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ELIZABETH A HILLER VALENTIN	Testifying on behalf of PROJECT VISION HAWAII	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Project Vision Hawaii is an NPO that provides eye screenings and other health screenings out of our mobile clinics Statewide. We have employees in KCC's Optometric Assistant apprenticeship program. This is the only program in the state. We need to expand it to the neighbor islands. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Annie Valentin

**SB-2475**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:57:14 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying on behalf of OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-2475**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:53:28 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2475**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:48:01 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/13/2018 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: