



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 7, 2019 at 2:50 p.m.

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

SB 452 – RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 452, Relating to Apprenticeships. This measure provides funding to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at the University of Hawai'i community colleges in partnership with Hawai'i healthcare employers.

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 2019.

KapCC and healthcare employers made great progress in establishing instructional apprenticeship partnerships. Since September 2017, KapCC fostered seventeen partnerships with Oahu 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, Hawai'i Independent Physicians Association, Diagnostic Laboratory Services, and Clinical Laboratories of Hawai'i. These health apprenticeships registered nearly 100 apprentices. There is interest by these and other employers to expand health apprenticeship programs to several additional occupations including occupational therapy assistant, medical assistant, billing and coding, and others. In addition, healthcare employers on the neighbor islands also have need for the apprenticeship training provided.

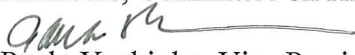
There is strong interest by several high schools to bring both registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships from the University of Hawai'i community colleges to their students because of the training available at KapCC. Delivering health apprenticeship programs to high school juniors and seniors provide them with the tools to earn a competitive wage immediately upon high school graduation and addresses shortages in high demand areas of Hawai'i employers. In addition, high school graduates can better manage student debt if they have the ability to work in their apprenticed field while attending school.

Thank you for considering this testimony in your deliberations.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Higher Education

From:  Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 5, 2019

Hrg: Senate Committee on Higher Education Hearing; Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 2:50 PM in Room 229

Re: Support for S.B. 452, Relating to Apprenticeships

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 452, which appropriates funds to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at the University of Hawai'i, Community Colleges. Through the apprenticeship program curriculum at Kapiolani Community College (KCC), Queen's has been able to mentor and training Community Health Workers (CHWs) across our system. The impacts of this program and working with KCC on the implementation, has been a positive experience for Queen's. We utilize a competency check list designed for the apprenticeship program as a way to measure progress. By allowing CHWs to complete their practicum hours while working at their place of employment, more students have been able to leverage the skills and knowledge, producing better prepared workers.

These CHWs are members of our Queen's Care Coalition (QCC), which navigates approximately 225 homeless patients annually, providing them coordinated care and connecting them to community resources such as supportive housing services, social services, behavioral health, etc. to address underlying issues that may stem from their unique circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 7, 2019; 2:50 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 0452, RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS.

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. -452, RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of General Funds for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and the same amount for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to the University of Hawaii for health care apprenticeship programs at community colleges, and take effect on July 1, 2019.

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-452

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:07:50 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Vega	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Apprenticeship programs support individuals in furthering their education whilst working in their chosen field. They also provide companies such as ours assistance in formal training, ensuring the success rate of the individual higher.

SB-452

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:58:51 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle McGee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I've worked as a Medical Assistant in the OB/GYN field for about 14 years and wanted a career change. It was hard. I tried working in infertility, although very similar, there were a lot I didnt understand and it resulted in mistakes with patients. I felt lost, because I was just going through the motions without understanding the need. So that job didnt work out. When I found my current job in an Optometrist office, I was completely starting from scratch. Although everyone has been very helpful with teaching me how to do things, this apprenticeship program helped me understand why. Helped me to know when something might mean something serious. I found we'd discuss things in class that I would come across in the next days ahead and vice versa. I'd come across things at work and just so happen discuss it in class in the next few nights. People think I'm crazy for taking a class all the way in KCC when I live Wahiawa but the knowledge had been worth it. The doctors are most of the time busy seeing patients to be able to educate us in the field. These apprenticeship programs work. I know because I've been out of school since 2001 do I was sure I'd fail the class. Currently I'm scoring a 98% overall and cannot believe it myself. Nor can I believe how much I'm appreciating it. These apprenticeship programs will help people stay in their jobs and excel. Instead of jumping from job to job because of the lack of knowledge.

SB-452

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 8:12:01 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gayle Stephens	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My work as a community health worker apprentice has been a great benefit to my workplace, my professional development, and the healthcare community we serve. I work as an office manager in a small private practice in Aiea, and the combination of my education at KCC and my work experience in 2018 has both contributed to an increase of patient education opportunities and improved communication. As a result of this training, our staff and provider have become more aware of the wide variety of social determinants affecting the health of our patient population. Such awareness helps us work on alternative approaches to reach out and get our patients' needs met.

Many healthcare students cannot afford to take weeks to months without salaries to train within an unpaid externship or clinicals. This creates a major hardship financially for these individuals who are working hard to get ahead. Some students are in a position to accrue vacation time that allows them to continue getting paid, but others work full time in positions that do not earn leave. As a former health educator, I saw several students drop their program due to the requirement to be available for an on-the-job unpaid externship with 40 hours weekly requirement for 5 to 10 weeks. These students, then, are responsible for major student loans but have no diploma to show for it. They gave up on their dream because they couldn't afford to hold on to it.

If these students had been able to search for an entry-level apprenticeship opportunity in their chosen field, they would have been better able to prepare for a successful career in healthcare, on the job. Apprenticeships are the way to go, and I encourage you to pass this bill.

SB-452

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 3:50:29 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/7/2019 2:50:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments: