



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 25, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

By

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, PhD, RN  
Interim Dean and Professor  
Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing  
(formerly the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene)

and

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2220 HD1 – RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) to provide testimony in strong support for HB 2220 HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or impact priorities in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.

This bill appropriates funding to the University of Hawai'i to increase the State's capacity to train new nurses and project future nursing workforce needs.

This funding will support 39 positions across the State. Funding was based on Fall 2021 need, but continues to represent the needs today. With equity in mind, the schools with greatest need for instructors will receive the greatest benefit. This strengthens the teaching capacity particularly for our partners in rural areas and at community colleges. While recruiting faculty is a challenge, we also know that introducing teaching to clinical faculty is a valuable pipeline into the nursing faculty career pathway. Thus, the additional transition to clinical instruction training and support this bill proposes will increase the resources and support these individuals need to be recruited and retained.

I serve as the Interim Dean for NAWSON, and have convened the University of Hawai'i Statewide Nursing Consortium, which is the collaborative of associate degree nursing programs and NAWSON that established academic progression standards and articulation agreements from the associate degree programs into the NAWSON bachelors in nursing program. The Consortium has existed since 2012, and through this work, more nurses across the state have access to baccalaureate education in nursing. In fact, though 32% of all registered nurses (RNs) in this state report that their initial nursing education was a licensed practical nurse (LPN) certificate (7%) or associate degree in nursing (25%), 75% of RNs report that their education is at the baccalaureate

level or higher. In addition to our success in helping nurses advance their education, through our work leading the Consortium, NAWSON has fostered strong relationships with the directors of fellow UH nursing programs.

In Fall 2021, I sounded the alarm regarding nursing faculty and instructors. Though we have had an increasingly difficult time recruiting new applicants, and expanding our instructor lines due to changes in clinical education standards in our state, we suddenly found ourselves at an intersection of increased demand for instructors, increased vacancies due to early retirements or departures as a result of COVID, and a need to support new faculty and instructors who may be expert clinicians, but new to teaching. This measure is the response to our call for help. NAWSON and our fellow UH schools of nursing thank you for hearing our needs and identifying solutions that will help us recruit the additional teaching roles needed, as well as dedicate resources to researching and projecting the future workforce needs. With the added instructor lines and workforce projections, we will be better able to right-size our teaching plans, which include adjusting admissions, to the needs of the future.

Upon recruitment of these positions, our state schools of nursing will be better able to accommodate the current teaching demands. Currently, all schools reported instructors and faculty are working on overload. It will help our schools right-size the instructor positions to the new clinical teaching environment. Since COVID, we have seen a reduction in allowed cohort sizes from one instructor to eight students down to one instructor to four to six students. It will also help us plan for the future. By increasing our knowledge about future nursing projections and right-sizing our current faculty and instructor staff, we will be better positioned to recalibrate our programs to meet the employer demands and profession needs in our state.

This measure is critical to the future of nursing in Hawai'i. Without this funding, we will be years behind in our ability to produce enough nurses. We appreciate your continuing support of nursing education and the nursing profession. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the intent and funding proposed in this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2220, H.D. 1

**February 25, 2022**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO NURSING

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2220, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the University of Hawai'i to increase the State's capacity to train new nurses and project future nursing workforce needs.

B&F notes that the FY 23 Executive Supplemental Budget includes budget requests to add \$381,767 in general funds for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, \$532,150 in general funds for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and \$842,572 in general funds for the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges to increase the State's capacity to train new nurses and project future nursing workforce needs.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**February 25, 2022 at 12:30 pm**  
**Via Videoconference**

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 2220 HD 1, 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 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, which would provide \$1.8 million in funding to increase the state's capacity to train new nurses and project future nursing workforce needs. The pandemic has exacerbated many long-standing workforce issues in the state, especially as it relates to nurses working in all settings of care, from hospitals to post-acute care. Creating a robust pipeline requires an investment into our educational facilities and a focus on making sure that the requisite educational and training opportunities are made available to ensure a highly-qualified workforce to care for Hawaii residents.

Through the Healthcare Workforce Initiative, HAH and its members have worked closely with educational institutions, healthcare employees, and other key stakeholders such as the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to address workforce needs now and into the future. We appreciate any investment the state legislature can make into this critical industry and would suggest that more focus and funding should be made available to support positions along the entire continuum of care, from entry level up through nurse and physician roles.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



KAPI'OLANI  
PALI MOMI  
STRAUB  
WILCOX

Friday, February 25, 2022 at 12:30 PM  
Via Video Conference

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **HB 2220, HD1 – Testimony In Support  
Relating to Nursing**

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My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 2220, SD1 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to increase the State's capacity to train new nurses and project future nursing workforce needs.

Hawaii is faced with a shortage of healthcare professionals, including nurses. Half of the schools of nursing in Hawaii have a vacancy rate for faculty of over fifty per cent and are experiencing increased difficulty in finding lecturers to support clinical education for nurses in hospital and healthcare settings. In order to meet the growing demand for nurses, nursing schools in the State need to be able to increase nursing faculty and lecturer hiring capacity. In addition, increased funding is needed to support existing nursing faculty, provide transition to faculty practice training, and better align nursing workforce projections between the schools of nursing and industry partners.

HPH has participated with the Healthcare Workforce Initiative, and has worked closely with educational institutions, healthcare employees, and other key stakeholders such as the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to address workforce needs now and into the future. We appreciate any investment the state legislature can make into this critical industry and would suggest that more focus and funding should be made available to support positions along the entire continuum of care, from entry level up through nurse and physician roles.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-2220-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:38:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Elena Cabatu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health System Corporation, which consists of Hilo Medical Center, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua in Honoka`a, Ka`u Hospital, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home, and the East Hawaii Health Clinics, is in **strong support of HB2220 HD1** that appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to increase the State's capacity to train new nurses and project future nursing workforce needs.

**HB-2220-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 1:02:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sandee Moniz Pa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support,mahalo.