



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
April 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

by
Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu
and
Bonnie D. Irwin, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SCR 35 SD1 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII – WEST OAHU TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO PROVIDE A PRE-NURSING PATHWAY FOR STUDENTS.

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on SCR 35 SD1, which requests the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (UHWO) to re-establish its partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) to provide a nursing program similar to the 'Ike Maui Ola program, and a pathway for students attending the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu.

Both UHWO and UHH faculty are working to realign their new nursing programs in anticipation of the UHH's ability to increase their nursing faculty. At this time, UHH's School of Nursing does not have the capacity to support a pathway partnership.

However, UHWO Health Sciences Pre-Nursing program faculty and the UH Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing faculty will launch a new UHWO-UHM Nursing Partnership to begin Fall 2022. Faculty will begin recruiting for the first cohort from current UHWO Health Science students, regional high school health academies, UHWO early college health pathway programs, and summer Health Careers Opportunities Program students.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SCR-35-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 3:06:27 PM

Testimony for HET on 4/13/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Irwin, Clementina Ceria-Ulep	University of Hawaii	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chancellor Bonnie Irwin and Interim Dean Clementina Ceria-Ulep will be available for questions.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.**

**by
Laura Reichhardt, MS, AGNP-C, APRN
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**Comments on SCR 35, SD1 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I -
WEST O'AHU TO REOPEN THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAI'I AT HILO TO PROVIDE A PRE-NURSING PATHWAY FOR
STUDENTS.**

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology, thank you for the opportunity to testify with comments on this resolution.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) recognizes the need to educate nurses in state in order to respond to the urgent demand for nurses today and in the near future. HSCN notes that expansion of existing programs or development of new programs will require more faculty and instructors than are employed in these roles today.

HSCN identified in the Academic Year 2016-2017 Education Capacity Survey findings that inadequate funding for nursing faculty salaries and access to clinical training sites for students are the greatest challenges for schools of nursing. These challenges have increased in recent years. Today, there is a nursing and instructor shortage as well as increased challenges in securing clinical placements at healthcare facilities for nursing education.

More nurses are needed in our state. In order to produce highly qualified new graduate nurses, education expansion plans must address the pre-existing challenges of nursing faculty and clinical placement capacity. HSCN will continue to work with all nursing education programs in this state to help identify solutions and maintain functioning programs that support nursing education, and pilot new programs to address challenges identified in this testimony.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development; promotes a diverse workforce; and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.