



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 3:05 p.m.

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

SCR 35/SR 29 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - WEST OAHU TO REOPEN THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO PROVIDE A PRE-NURSING PATHWAY FOR STUDENTS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 35/SR 29 - REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - WEST OAHU TO REOPEN THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO PROVIDE A PRE-NURSING PATHWAY FOR STUDENTS.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is committed to partnering with the University of Hawai'i – West Oahu's (UHWO) Pre-Nursing Pathway. An initial meeting is being scheduled for April.

In addition, the UHWO Health Science faculty are currently working with faculty at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's (UHM) Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing to develop a sustainable nursing pathway from UHWO (Pre-Nursing Pathway, 2 years) to UHM (BSN).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this resolution.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 3:05 pm
by
Laura Reichhardt, MS, AGNP-C, APRN
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**Comments on SCR 35 / SR 29 REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII -
WEST OAHU TO REOPEN THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII AT HILO TO PROVIDE A PRE-NURSING PATHWAY FOR
STUDENTS.**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:
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 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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.