



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**  
**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony  
Hō‘ike Mana‘o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

By

Della Teraoka, Interim Associate Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawaii System

**HB 353 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION**

Chairs Kim and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Kidani and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai‘i supports the intent of HB 353 HD1, which would provide funds for the expansion of the Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) to Practical Nurse Bridge Program at UH Maui College. This innovative program was developed in partnership with industry employers to streamline entry of currently working CNAs into the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) training program.

HB 353 HD1 will enable UH Maui College to further expand the program statewide and meet the statewide LPN workforce shortage by supporting instructional costs and student aid. The proposed funding for instructional costs (which includes the cost of casual employees and overload pay) will encourage Registered Nurses in the field to become clinical and lab lecturers for expanded cohorts across the state. The proposed funding for student aid will increase access to the LPN program by supporting tuition, fees, supplies, and related costs. According to the Healthcare Association of Hawai‘i, the current LPN statewide vacancy rate is at 30%, with 211 LPN job openings statewide.

The University of Hawai‘i supports the intent of HB 353 HD1, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 353 HD1.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: March 21, 2023

Re: Testimony in support for HB353, HD1: Relating to Health Care Education

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The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit 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, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff 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 HB353, HD1, which appropriates funding for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawai'i Maui college.

The 2022 Healthcare Workforce report produced by HAH noted a statewide demand for 211 additional LPNs. Unfortunately, there are not enough opportunities to educate and train for this particular type of clinician, which is why HAH, in partnership with stakeholders and UH Maui College, are creating the first of its kind CNA to LPN Glidepath program. This program coupled with increasing entry-level certification programs and expanding nurse residency programs reflects a concerted effort by the healthcare community to invest in our local workforce.

Investing in our overall healthcare workforce is essential to meeting the need for professionals at all levels in our state - especially on our neighbor islands. Thank you for allowing Queen's to provide testimony in support of this measure.

*The mission of The Queen's Health System 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.*



**March 21, 2023 at 3:30 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

**Senate Committee on Higher Education**

To: Chair Donna Mercado Kim  
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani

From: Robert Choy, MPH  
Director, Post-Acute Care  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Support**  
**HB 353 HD 1, Relating to Health Care Education**

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 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support** for this measure, and for the funding included in it to support the workforce glidepath supporting certified nurse aides (CNAs) in their journey to come licensed practical nurses (LPNs). There is a great need for more LPNs in the state—we found in our 2022 Healthcare Workforce report that there is a statewide demand for 211 additional LPNs. Unfortunately, there are not enough opportunities to educate and train for this particular type of clinicians, which is why HAH, in partnership with Ohana Pacific Health/Hale Makua and UH Maui College to create an innovative, first of its kind CNA to LPN Glidepath program. This program enables an “earn and learn” glidepath model that delivers online didactic curriculum and hands-on clinical education at a student's place of work. The program is one year long, and CNAs can double their salary if they successfully complete the program.

This pilot program was launched in January 2023, and serves students through UH Maui College on Maui, Oahu, and Kauai who are employed by Ohana Pacific Health and Kaiser Permanente. There was a huge demand for participation in the program, which ultimately included 40 students. This funding will enable the program to continue and, hopefully, expand to all islands and include more students to meet the demonstrated interest in this glidepath.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important program.

**HB-353-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 6:10:09 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/21/2023 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Estigoy-Kahoonei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the growing demographics of kupuna in our state, the demand for nurse aides, caregivers and nurse practioners will only continue to grow. Providing a program to train and elevate these much needed professions and to grow them here locally who understand the culture will only making our commuinites better