



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 2:15 p.m.

By

Erika Lacro

Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 353 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 353, which would provide funds for the expansion of the Certified Nurse Aide (CAN) 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 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 instructional funding will encourage Registered Nurses in the field to become clinical and lab lecturers for expanded cohorts across the state. The student aid funding 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, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program does not supplant any portion of the University's budget request.

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



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
February 08, 2023 at 2:15 P.M.**

**By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Comments on H.B. 353

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on this measure, H.B. 353, which appropriates funds for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, including funding for instructional costs and student aid.

The Maui College certified nurse aide to practical nurse program is novel in that it retro-fitted the pre-requisites, curriculum, and delivery to target excellent certified nurse aides who both are seeking career advancement and are dedicated to their workplace. By creating cohorts within health settings, this program delivers education where the workforce is.

This program is remarkable because our state's licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs are dwindling, and are in dire condition. In the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing AY 2020-2021 Educational Capacity report¹, we note:

"LPN programs suffered substantial losses in seats for new students... the state lost 35% of its seats for new LPN students in AY 20-21 as compared to the previous academic year. This loss is especially worrisome because of the heavy reliance that many non-acute facilities place on LPNs and the fact that the LPN workforce in the state has been shrinking for several years despite consistent capacity in LPN programs prior to the pandemic" (page 18).

In addition, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing 2021 Nursing Workforce Supply Report² stated that *"it is certain that the number of LPNs in Hawai'i continues to decline which will exacerbate a critical shortage, especially in postacute/long-term care"* (page 13).

¹ Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2022). *Hawai'i State Nurse Education Capacity Report, Academic Year 2020-2021*. https://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2021-Hawaii-Nurse-Education-Capacity-Statewide-Report-v.Final_.pdf

² Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2021). *2021 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply Report*. http://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Statewide-Report-v.Final_.pdf

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.

Without innovative models for LPN education, our state's healthcare system will have to shift rapidly and dramatically. Measures like H.B. 353, and the UH Health Initiative as proposed in the Governor's budget, are paramount to aligning the educational pathways to the current and growing healthcare needs.

Thank you for your attention to this pathway and measure. Innovative solutions like UH Maui College's program are the key to a successful healthcare future in our state.

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.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

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

Date: February 8, 2023

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

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, 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.



The House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
2:15 pm
Room 309, Videoconference

RE: **HB 353 Relating to Health Care Education**

Attention: Chair Amy Perruso, Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) **supports the intent and purpose of HB 353**. The appropriation of funds for instructional costs and student aid for Maui College to expand nursing care education at this time is vital.

This bill not only appropriates funding for instructional costs as outlined in section 2, it also appropriates funding for student tuition, fees, supplies and related costs. This bill provides for the student to fully engage with the faculty at Maui College for a full educational experience.

UHPA supports and encourages the committee to **pass HB 353**.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 2:15 PM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Representative Amy Perusso, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

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

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 353
Relating To Health Care Education**

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.

HPH writes in support of HB 353 which appropriates funds for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawai'i (UH) Maui college. This important funding will allow the CNA to LPN glidepath pilot program currently ongoing at UH Maui College to continue. The glidepath program has been one of the most visible and successful pilots of the Healthcare Workforce Initiative.

The 2022 Healthcare Workforce Initiative report indicates that there is a statewide demand for 211 additional LPNs. Unfortunately, there are inadequate opportunities to educate and train for this particular type of healthcare worker. The efforts by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, in partnership with Ohana Pacific Health/Hale Makua and UH Maui College resulted in the creation of 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 Pemanente. There was a huge demand for participation in the program, which ultimately included 40 students. The funding appropriation in this measure 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.



February 8, 2023
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Diana Lau
Director of People Operations
Ohana Pacific Management Company

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT for HB 353** for this measure and the funding included in it to support this critical “glidepath” to develop more health care professionals; **and if the opportunity exists, we would encourage additional funding to expand this program.**

Ohana Pacific Health (OPH) is the largest provider of post-acute care services in the State of Hawai‘i, providing quality experiences to Hawaii’s kupuna that places health and well-being at the forefront of the care management model. Day in and day out, our mission is to care for kupuna. Our organization employs almost 1,500 healthcare workers and manages approximately 950 nursing home beds.

The current landscape of healthcare in Hawaii is significantly affected by a lack of workers, particularly in the Long-Term Care industry, particularly for CNA’s and Licensed Nurses. According to the U.S. Census bureau, more than 15,000 people have left the state which contributes to the shortage that many of our facilities experience due to the lack of workforce. The shortages has exacerbated our financial situation and placed tremendous strain on our communities and families as we are unable to admit patients from the acute care hospitals. This situation is causing record high census in the hospitals to a “crisis point”. Additionally, the lack of workforce and the resulting drop in census has severely affected our industry, as evidenced by the recent closure of Wahiawa Hospital’s long term care facility, and several mainland operators are choosing to leave the market.

This pilot program has been a tremendous success, by providing the ability to recruit new entry level healthcare workers and offer them a pathway to become a licensed practical nurse in an “earn and learn” environment.



KĀLELE



LUANA LIVING



THE VILLAS



Ann Pearl



Garden Isle



Hale Kupuna



Hale Makua



Hale O Meleana



Legacy Hilo



Pu‘uwai O Makaha



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W ohanapacific.com

This has not only provided a pathway to a living wage for participants, but also is assisting in solving the severe shortage of healthcare workers.

Currently, this program provides for 40 students across Maui, Oahu, and Kauai; however, the need for workers is far greater than this program is currently providing for. Accordingly, we are hopeful that this program can be expanded, to allow for additional cohorts on Kauai, Oahu, and Maui, but also to allow the expansion to Hawaii Island

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

Diana Lau
Director of People Operations
Ohana Pacific Health





February 8, 2023
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Alisa Racelo
Interim Administrator
Legacy Hilo / Ohana Pacific Health

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

Ohana Pacific Health (OPH) is the largest provider of post-acute care services in the State of Hawai'i and also, the largest provider of Medicaid nursing facility services. Our organization employs almost 1,500 healthcare workers and manages approximately 950 nursing home beds that provide short-term rehab and long-term care, adult day health services and home health care, and Care Management/Navigation Services on all four major islands. Legacy Hilo located in Hilo Hawaii currently runs at approximately 75% capacity due to staffing needs and as our population on the Big Island grows and ages, the need continues to grow.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT for HB 353** for this measure and the funding included in it to support this critical "glidepath" to develop more health care professionals; **and if the opportunity exists, we would encourage additional funding to expand this program.**

The current landscape of healthcare in Hawaii is significantly affected by a lack of workers, particularly in the Long-Term Care industry, particularly for CNA's and Licensed Nurses. The affect of this shortage is that many of our facilities are unable to admit patients from the acute care hospitals due to the lack of workforce, which has exacerbated our financial situation. This situation is causing record high census in the hospitals to a "crisis point". Additionally, the lack of workforce and the resulting drop in census has severely affected our industry, as evidenced by the recent closure of Wahiawa Hospital's long term care facility, and several mainland operators are choosing to leave the market.

This pilot program has been a tremendous success, by providing the ability to recruit new entry level healthcare workers and offer them a pathway to become a licensed practical nurse in an "earn and learn" environment.



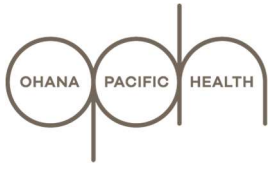
This has not only provide a pathway to a living wage for participants, but also is assisting in solving the severe shortage of healthcare workers.

Currently, this program provides for 40 students across Maui, Oahu and Kauai; however, the need for workers is far greater than this program is currently providing for. Accordingly, we are hopeful that this program can be expanded, to allow for additional co-horts on Kauai, Oahu and Maui, but also to allow the expansion to Hawaii Island. Just the mention of a potential program on Hawaii Island resulted in 6 current C.N.A. employees expressing strong interest in the program which may have otherwise been out of reach.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alisa Racelo" with a flourish at the end.

Alisa Racelo
Director of Operations
Ohana Pacific Health



February 8, 2023
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Wesley Lo
Chief Executive Officer
Ohana Pacific Management Company/Hale Makua Health Services

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

Ohana Pacific Health (OPH) / Hale Makua Health Services (HMHS) is the largest provider of post-acute care services in the State of Hawai'i and also, the largest provider of Medicaid nursing facility services. Our organization employs almost 1,500 healthcare workers and manages approximately 950 nursing home beds that provide short-term rehab and long-term care, adult day health services and home health care, and Care Management/Navigation Services on all four major islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT for HB 353** for this measure and the funding included in it to support this critical "glidepath" to develop more health care professionals; **and if the opportunity exists, we would encourage additional funding to expand this program.**

The current landscape of healthcare in Hawaii is significantly affected by a lack of workers, particularly in the Long-Term Care industry, particularly for CNA's and Licensed Nurses. The affect of this shortage is that many of our facilities are unable to admit patients from the acute care hospitals due to the lack of workforce, which has exacerbated our financial situation. This situation is causing record high census in the hospitals to a "crisis point". Additionally, the lack of workforce and the resulting drop in census has severely affected our industry, as evidenced by the recent closure of Wahiawa Hospital's long term care facility, and several mainland operators are choosing to leave the market.

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Currently, this program provides for 40 students across Maui, Oahu and Kauai; however, the need for workers is far greater than this program is currently providing for. Accordingly, we are hopeful that this program can be expanded, to allow for additional co-horts on Kauai, Oahu and Maui, but also to allow the expansion to Hawaii Island

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

Wesley Lo
Chief Executive Officer
Ohana Pacific Health / Hale Makua Health Services



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Hale Makua



Hale O Meleana



Legacy Hilo



Pu'uwai O Makaha



February 8, 2023, at 2;15 p.m.

Via Videoconference

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Lisa Anne Gruebner
VP, Planning & Development
Ohana Pacific Management Company, Inc. dba Ohana Pacific Health

Date: February 6, 2023

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

Ohana Pacific Health manages and owns several skilled nursing facilities that care for kupuna and is the largest provider for such services in the State of Hawaii.

I am writing in **strong support** of this measure, which would provide financial support for the continuance and expansion of this innovative and important program. This program is needed since there is a significant need for licensed practical nurses ("LPNs") in all of our skilled nursing facilities. Many certified nurse aides ("CNAs") are unable to study and train to become an LPN if it means quitting their jobs and eliminating their only source of income. This program allows them to be educated and trained to become LPNs while continuing to work.

Our facilities have been unable to increase admissions due to severe staffing shortages, including shortages in the LPN position. This has resulted in a strain on the entire Hawaii healthcare system. Funding for this important program is critical to the ability of our facilities to continue serving the community.

We urge your to support this measure and thank you for your consideration.



February 8, 2023
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Mary Beth Santoro
Administrator
Pu'uwai `O Makaha

Re: **Support**
HB 353. Relating to Health Care Education

I am the Administrator of Pu'uwai `O Makaha (POM), a 93-bed post-acute facility located in Waianae, Oahu, Hawaii. We provide short-term rehab, long-term care and hospice services. We also provide a multitude of services in therapy, clinical and psychological areas. We are a 4-star rated facility with a Quality Measure Rating of 5. Even with these ratings, we are still unable to fully staff our facility and we still experience difficulties retaining staff. Our census has decreased nearly 20% since COVID-19. As of February 6, 2023, we have 2 Resident Care Manager and 1 Charge Nurse position open (all 3 Licensed Nurse positions), and 5 CNA positions open. It has been extremely difficult to fill these positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT for HB 353** for this measure and the funding included in it to support this critical "glidepath" to develop more health care professionals; **and if the opportunity exists, we would encourage additional funding to expand this program.**

The current landscape of healthcare in Hawaii is significantly affected by a lack of workers, particularly in the Long-Term Care industry, specifically for CNA's and Licensed Nurses. The effect of this shortage is that many of our facilities are unable to admit patients from the acute care hospitals due to the lack of workforce, which has exacerbated our financial situation. This situation is causing record high census in the hospitals to a "crisis point". Additionally, the lack of workforce and the resulting drop in census has severely affected our industry, as evidenced by the recent closure of Wahiawa Hospital's long term care facility, and several mainland operators are choosing to leave the market.

This pilot program has been a tremendous success, by providing the ability to recruit new entry level healthcare workers and offer them a pathway to become a licensed practical nurse in an "earn and learn" environment.



This not only provides a pathway to a living wage for participants, but also is assisting in solving the severe shortage of healthcare workers.

Currently, this program provides for 40 students across Maui, Oahu and Kauai; however, the need for workers is far greater than this program is currently providing for. Accordingly, we are hopeful that this program can be expanded, to allow for additional co-horts on Kauai, Oahu and Maui, but also to allow the expansion to Hawaii Island

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

* * * * *



February 8, 2023 at 2:15 pm
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

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

Re: **Support**
HB 353, 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.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Chair
The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

February 8, 2023
2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 309 and Via Videoconference

Re: HB 353, Relating to Health Care Education

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 353, which appropriates funds for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawai‘i Maui college, including funding for instructional costs and student aid.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i SUPPORTS HB 353.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 269,000 members in Hawai‘i. In Hawai‘i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

In January 2023, Kaiser Permanente, UNITE Here! Local 5, and the University of Hawaii Maui College launched their Practical Nurse Trainee Program, an 18-month program for current Kaiser Permanente employees who wish to pursue a career in the nursing field. The program’s inaugural cohort consists of 18 students, of which 11 are employees from various Kaiser Permanente departments and disciplines, including medical assistants and hospital aides.

The program’s curriculum will build and enhance technical skills in primary and specialty care areas. The goal of the program is to provide a pathway for employees to become licensed and fill open Kaiser Permanente Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) positions across the state.

The funding from HB 353 will enable the CNA to LPN Glidepath Program, which was established in 2023, to continue and possibly expand to all islands. This would allow more students to participate and help meet the demonstrated interest in this glidepath.

We ask the committee to PASS HB 353. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



February 8, 2023 at 2:15 pm
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Kurt Akamine
Vice President
Ohana Pacific Health

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

Ohana Pacific Health is the largest post-acute care provider in the state of Hawaii, servicing communities on the islands of Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii island through our skilled nursing, assisted living, adult day health, home health, and care coordination services.

There is a need for more LPNs in the state and unfortunately, there are not enough opportunities to educate and train for this particular type of clinicians. OPH, in partnership with HAH, 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

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:05:16 PM

Testimony for HET on 2/8/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Kumabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ohana Pacific Health (OPH) / Hale Makua Health Services (HMHS) is the largest provider of post-acute care services and also the largest provider of Medicaid nursing facility services in the State of Hawai‘i. Our organization provides short-term rehab, long-term care, adult day health services, home health care, and Care Management/Navigation Services on all four major islands. Our organization also employs approximately 1,500 healthcare workers and manages approximately 950 nursing home beds.

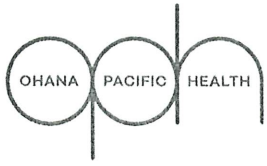
I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT for HB 353** and its associated funding to support a pathway to develop critically needed health care professionals. The need for licensed health care professionals has been at a critical point for some time so I would encourage you to also consider increasing the funding in the bill to expand this much needed program.

The healthcare industry in Hawaii has been significantly impacted by the shortage of qualified workers, especially for Certified Nursing Assistants and Licensed Practical Nurses. This shortage creates a domino effect where the acute care hospitals are unable to release their patients to our facilities, mainly because many of our facilities cannot admit these patients due to the lack of an adequate workforce, which in turn has severely impacted our organization’s financial situation.

This pilot program has created an opportunity for entry-level healthcare workers to advance in their careers while still working, an option not often available for students, especially in the healthcare industry. This program is unique - it provides a career path for healthcare workers with very little financial risk and job opportunities at their current place of employment.

The current program supports 40 students on 3 islands – Oahu, Maui and Kauai. Expanding this program to accommodate more students across all of the major islands would help solve the critical need for healthcare workers in Hawaii.

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



February 8, 2023
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Randall Hata
Vice President
Ohana Pacific Management Company

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

Ohana Pacific Health (OPH) is the largest provider of post-acute care services in the State of Hawai'i and also, the largest provider of Medicaid nursing facility services. Our organization employs almost 1,500 healthcare workers and manages approximately 950 nursing home beds that provide short-term rehab and long-term care, adult day health services and home health care, and Care Management/Navigation Services on all four major islands.

I am part of our company's team to find solutions to the healthcare staffing challenges that Hawai'i is facing. The current landscape of healthcare in Hawaii is significantly affected by a lack of workers, particularly for CNA's and Licensed Nurses. The affect of this shortage is that many of our facilities are unable to admit patients from the acute care hospitals due to the lack of workforce, which has exacerbated our financial situation. This situation is causing record high census in the hospitals to a "crisis point". Additionally, the lack of workforce and the resulting drop in census has severely affected our industry, as evidenced by the recent closure of Wahiawa Hospital's long term care facility, and several mainland operators leaving the market.

This pilot program has been a tremendous success, by providing the ability to recruit new entry level healthcare workers and offer them a pathway to become a licensed practical nurse in an "earn and learn" environment.

This has not only provide a pathway to a living wage for participants, but also is assisting in solving the severe shortage of healthcare workers.



KĀLELE



LUANA LIVING



THE VILLAS



Ann Pearl



Garden Isle



Hale Kupuna



Hale Makua



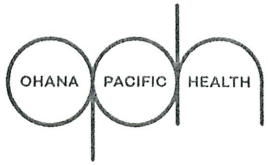
Hale O Meleana



Legacy Hilo



Pu'uwai O Makaha



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Currently, this program provides for 40 students across Maui, Oahu and Kauai; however, the need for workers is far greater than this program is currently providing for. Accordingly, we are hopeful that this program can be expanded, to allow for additional co-horts on Kauai, Oahu and Maui, but also to allow the expansion to Hawaii Island

I STRONGLY SUPPORT for HB 353 and the funding included in it to support this critical “glidepath” to develop more health care professionals; **and if the opportunity exists, we would encourage additional funding to expand this program.**

Randall Hata
Vice President
Ohana Pacific Health



KĀLELE



LUANA LIVING



THE VILLAS



Ann Pearl



Garden Isle



Hale Kupuna



Hale Makua



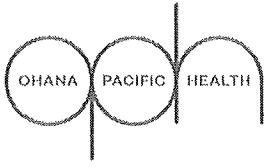
Hale O Meleana



Legacy Hilo



Pu'uwai O Makaha



February 8, 2023
Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Ted Tucker
Director of People Compliance
Ohana Pacific Management Company/Hale Makua Health Services

Re: Support
HB 353, Relating to Health Care Education

Ohana Pacific Health (OPH) / Hale Makua Health Services (HMHS) is the largest provider of post-acute care services in the State of Hawai'i and also, the largest provider of Medicaid nursing facility services. Our organization employs almost 1,500 healthcare workers and manages approximately 950 nursing home beds that provide short-term rehab and long-term care, adult day health services and home health care, and Care Management/Navigation Services on all four major islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB 353 for this measure and the funding included in it to support this critical "glidepath" to develop more health care professionals; and if the opportunity exists, we would encourage additional funding to expand this program.

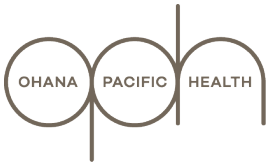
This pilot program has been a tremendous success, providing the ability to recruit new entry level healthcare workers and offer them a pathway to become a licensed practical nurse in an "earn and learn" environment.

This has not only provided a pathway to a living wage for participants, but also addresses the severe shortage of healthcare workers.

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

Ted Tucker
Director of People Compliance
Ohana Pacific Health / Hale Makua Health Services





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February 8, 2023

Conference Room 309

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela
From: Carissa Holley
Hale Makua Health Services/Ohana Pacific Health

Re: **Support**
HB 353 Relating to Healthcare Education

Hale Makua Health Services and Ohana Pacific Health provide care for Hawai'i's kūpuna throughout the state. The shortage of nurses in long term care settings has deepened in the last two years because of the Great Recession and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The development and launch of the CNA to LPN Bridge Program has closely doubled the Licensed Practical Nurse enrollments in 2022. This means that there will be 36 additional home grown licensed nurses by this time in 2024, that will continue to care for our community on their home islands. These are individuals who already work as Certified Nurse Aides for some of our most vulnerable kūpuna.

This Bridge program allows healthcare workers in these entry-level positions, to grow into professional healthcare workers. The Bridge increases their earning potential, and keeps families from moving away to pursue other educational opportunities. Some of these students have tried and failed to enter Hawai'i's nursing programs over the years. Many have worked in healthcare for over a decade. While academic performance is a crucial component of success in any nursing program, nothing beats seeing someone's potential while they are performing care at work. Some of these CNAs needed that push from their supervisor, encouragement from their employer, and additional support from UHMC, in order to take their potential to the next level.

There are hundreds of nursing applicants throughout the State of Hawai'i that do not get admitted into this highly competitive field of study. Many of these individuals are qualified, and ready to answer the call of duty, but the barriers to entry are high. The Bridge Program breaks down some of these barriers, and allows industry and education an opportunity to work closely together, to answer the needs of the community.

I support HB353, to continue and expand the funding of the Bridge Program into 2024 and beyond. This is an invaluable investment in the health of our State.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide strong support for HB353.

Respectfully,

Carissa Holley, MEd





February 7, 2023

House Committee on Higher Education & Technology

To: Chair Amy A. Perruso
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela

From: Harmony Trassare, MSN, RN
Clinical Educator, CNA to LPN Bridge Program
Ohana Pacific Health

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

I am writing this statement in full and firm support of HB 353 as it relates to Health Care Education.

The Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) vocational career path has historically been an active individual response to a “call to duty” for our great Country and the psychosocial and preventative health care needs of our population. Just as during and immediately following World War II, LPN training programs were a response to a marked supply and demand mismatch: namely, that there was a great need for nurses with technical and bedside skills; and for educational programs to meet this demand. This same sentiment rings true today, and particularly in the State of Hawaii, where the health care needs of our kupuna must be sacrosanct in order to maintain our rich heritage of health and harmony.

As a Clinical Educator in the CNA to LPN Bridge Program, I have first-hand knowledge of what this program means to our population, and most particularly, the students who have been admitted into the program. This educational program relies heavily on intrinsic drive and the ability to maintain focus, and my students have demonstrated these traits, despite the fact that the world at large might not consider them to be ‘traditional’ students. The program is a golden opportunity, mutually beneficial to the State of Hawaii and its residents, as well as the students themselves and their families and communities. My cohort of eight students on Oahu is answering the “call to duty” within our neighborhoods, and they are doing so with enthusiasm, grace, and gratitude.

It would seem that the opportunities outlined in HB 353, most particularly to continue and, indeed, expand the funding into 2024 and beyond, would be an invaluable investment to establish and maintain an equilibrium for the nursing supply within the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide strong support for HB 353.

Respectfully,

Harmony Trassare, MSN, RN



