

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2446

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2634

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
S.B. No. 2634 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to make appropriations for the expansion of the certified nurse aide to practical nurse bridge program at the University of Hawaii Maui College, including funding for instructional costs and student aid.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Hawai'i System, University of Hawaii Professional Assembly, one member of the Maui County Council, The Queen's Health System, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Ohana Pacific Health, and twelve individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing.

Your Committee finds that the State is experiencing a critical shortage of health care professionals, including nurses of all skill levels. Statewide, there is a thirty percent vacancy rate with two hundred eleven licensed practical nurse job openings. Presently, the University of Hawaii Maui College offers a certified nurse aide program to streamline entry of currently



working certified nurse aides into the Licensed Practical Nurse Training Program. Additionally, support for nursing programs on the neighbor islands may motivate more prospective students to apply for nursing cohorts without prohibitive financial barriers. As nurses provide a crucial bridge between providers and patients, this measure expands educational opportunities to help alleviate the State's chronic health care shortage.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2634 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE**

Bill / Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB2634	HRE, WAM	2/6/24

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5			

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: *Michelle N. Kidani*

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***Only one measure per Record of Votes**