HB 1638 HD1 – RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai‘i is in concurrence with the intent of HB 1638. This measure would provide funding to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at the University of Hawai‘i community colleges.

We previously testified on this measure in front of the House Committee on Health Human Services and informed the committee that in February 2017, Kapi‘olani Community College (KapCC) entered into a contract with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for $1,167,291 for the purpose of establishing apprenticeship programs for culinary and healthcare. Of this amount, $510,609 was for the area of healthcare for Community Health Workers, Pharmacy Technicians, and Optometry Assistants. This contract runs through the end of April 2018, and given the projected balances, the College will be requesting a no-cost extension to continue these programs. In terms of our progress on partnering with the industry, since September 2017, KapCC has fostered eleven instructional apprenticeship partnerships with nine employers including Queen’s Medical Center, Hawai‘i Pacific Health, Hawai‘i Primary Care Association, Hawai‘i Optometric Association Project, Retina Institute of Hawai‘i, Partners in Care Hawai‘i, ALEA, and Hawai‘i Independent Physician’s Association. The College is also looking to expand apprenticeship programs to Nursing Assistants and Medical Laboratory Technicians; funding for these two fields was not included as part of the original contract.

We appreciate the HHS Committee’s acceptance of our recommended revisions and after discussing the HD1 with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, we recommend reverting back to the bill’s original language on Page 1, Lines 10-11. The last sentence of Section 1 should be revised to read as follows:

“Upon completion of an approved apprenticeship program, work process and related instruction hours may be applied towards an associate degree.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of this bill.