HB 1638 HD2 – RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS

Chairs Kahele and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Kim and English, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai‘i is in concurrence with the intent of HB 1638 HD2. This measure would provide funding to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at the University of Hawai‘i community colleges.

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, Retina Institute of Hawai‘i, Partners in Care Hawai‘i, ALEA, and Hawai‘i Independent Physicians Association.

The College is also looking to expand apprenticeship programs to Nursing Assistants and Medical Laboratory Technicians, Phlebotomists, and Sonographers; funding for these additional fields was not included as part of the original contract.

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