



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 13, 2018 at 1:25 p.m.

By
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2475 – RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2475. 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 \$1,167,291.00 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.

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, Medical Laboratory Technicians, Phlebotomists, and Sonographers; funding for these additional fields was not included as part of this contract.

We recommend the following revisions to the current draft of the measure:

- Page 2, Lines 1-3 revised language to read as follows:
“...alleviate the shortage of community health workers, pharmacy technicians, and optometry assistants.”
- Page 2, Lines 4-9 replace language to read as follows:
“Research and peer-reviewed studies focusing on the role of community health workers have overwhelmingly documented the positive support of community health workers as part of a professional healthcare team. In addition, community health workers increasingly have become team members in providing services that help to reduce the number of homeless in Hawaii.”

The University of Hawai'i is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and will be evaluating the program to determine whether a request to support the continuation of this program will be included in the University's next Biennium Budget Request.

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