



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**  
**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony  
Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

By

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University of Hawaii System

**HB 353 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION**

Chairs Kim and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Kidani and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 353 HD1, which would provide funds for the expansion of the Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) 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 HD1 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 proposed funding for instructional costs (which includes the cost of casual employees and overload pay) will encourage Registered Nurses in the field to become clinical and lab lecturers for expanded cohorts across the state. The proposed funding for student aid 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 HD1, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 353 HD1.