



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education & Technology
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 2:15 p.m.

By

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HB 353 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 353, which would provide funds for the expansion of the Certified Nurse Aide (CAN) 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 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 instructional funding will encourage Registered Nurses in the field to become clinical and lab lecturers for expanded cohorts across the state. The student aid funding 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, on the condition that any funds appropriated in support of this program does not supplant any portion of the University's budget request.

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