



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
February 7, 2019 at 2:50 p.m.

By  
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### **SB 452 – RELATING TO APPRENTICESHIPS**

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

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 452, Relating to Apprenticeships. This measure provides funding to continue and expand health care apprenticeship programs at the University of Hawai'i community colleges in partnership with Hawai'i healthcare employers.

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 2019.

KapCC and healthcare employers made great progress in establishing instructional apprenticeship partnerships. Since September 2017, KapCC fostered seventeen partnerships with Oahu 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, Hawai'i Independent Physicians Association, Diagnostic Laboratory Services, and Clinical Laboratories of Hawai'i. These health apprenticeships registered nearly 100 apprentices. There is interest by these and other employers to expand health apprenticeship programs to several additional occupations including occupational therapy assistant, medical assistant, billing and coding, and others. In addition, healthcare employers on the neighbor islands also have need for the apprenticeship training provided.

There is strong interest by several high schools to bring both registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships from the University of Hawai'i community colleges to their students because of the training available at KapCC. Delivering health apprenticeship programs to high school juniors and seniors provide them with the tools to earn a competitive wage immediately upon high school graduation and addresses shortages in high demand areas of Hawai'i employers. In addition, high school graduates can better manage student debt if they have the ability to work in their apprenticed field while attending school.

Thank you for considering this testimony in your deliberations.