



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
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

By

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University of Hawai'i System

SCR 50 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI CAMPUS

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of SCR 50 which urges the University of Hawai'i to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program at the University of Hawai'i - Maui College (UHMC).

The UH recognizes the existing workforce shortages in healthcare and the high demand for nurses in the state. Additionally, the [UH Regents Policy 4.207](#) Community College System acknowledges the need for the neighbor island community colleges to continue to provide a comprehensive set of courses and programs to make the university accessible to every Hawai'i resident who wants and can benefit from the opportunities and experiences provided by the community colleges. The UH is also cognizant of the importance of using our budget resources wisely and being careful not to duplicate existing programs.

The UH concurs with the legislature that there is a pressing need for highly qualified nursing professionals to meet the healthcare needs of the County of Maui due to a growing and aging population. The UHMC has created a pathway for students to earn a Certified Nurse Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse Certificate of Achievement, and an Associate in Science in Nursing degree. Adding the last year for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing would provide the County of Maui with more highly qualified nurses and allow students to complete the degree in Maui.

The UHMC has received approval to submit an Authorization to Plan for the BSN at UHMC to the Council of Chief Academic Officers as a part of the academic program actions process.

In addition to our support for the intent of SCR 50, we also acknowledge and appreciate the parallel effort reflected in SB 119 SD1 HD1, which also aims to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and appropriate funds at UHMC. The legislative measure further underscores the shared commitment to address the critical nursing shortage on Maui.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 50.