



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 3103

RELATING TO LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NURSING PROGRAM

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 7, 2006

By

Peter Quigley
Interim Chancellor for Leeward Community College
University of Hawai'i

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H.B. 3103 LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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Chair Waters and Members of the Committee:

Leeward Community College (LCC) supports the initiative to bring a nursing program to the Leeward service area. This initiative underscores LCC's mission to more effectively respond to areas of workforce and student demand in the Leeward area; respond to the UH's commitment to provide more living wage job creation opportunities for the State; respond to the UH system's commitment to address documented State workforce needs; leverage resources in an efficient and cost saving manner; and provide for rapid delivery of new program opportunities to the residents in the Leeward area.

There is a critical need for a nursing program in the Leeward area. For several years running the senior exit survey, given to high school seniors to determine career interests, has revealed that nursing is by far the most sought after career option for graduating high school seniors. Currently there is no program at LCC to serve these needs. Asking students to drive to KCC through H1 and Honolulu traffic is prohibitive and certainly is not possible for those balancing jobs and family responsibilities. It should be mentioned that there is a small program at LCC-Waianae, but this program is too far for people living in the central Oahu area and it does not offer the breadth of required program certifications addressed in this Bill.

This Bill proposes a unique and efficient manner for delivery of the nursing program at LCC. Instead of waiting for more time to pass by going through accreditation and program approval processes, this Bill leverages the already existing nursing program at KCC. By offering and administering KCC's program on the LCC campus with LCC faculty, the opportunity for Central Oahu residents to enter the nursing and medical fields can be expedited. Within two years, LCC will be able to deliver its own nursing program, modeled after KCC's to insure articulation of programs between institutions.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents' approved executive supplemental budget. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff we thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.