



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology  
April 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

by  
Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu  
and  
Bonnie D. Irwin, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SCR 35 SD1 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII – WEST OAHU TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO PROVIDE A PRE-NURSING PATHWAY FOR STUDENTS.

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Clark, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on SCR 35 SD1, which requests the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu (UHWO) to re-establish its partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) to provide a nursing program similar to the 'Ike Maui Ola program, and a pathway for students attending the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu.

Both UHWO and UHH faculty are working to realign their new nursing programs in anticipation of the UHH's ability to increase their nursing faculty. At this time, UHH's School of Nursing does not have the capacity to support a pathway partnership.

However, UHWO Health Sciences Pre-Nursing program faculty and the UH Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing faculty will launch a new UHWO-UHM Nursing Partnership to begin Fall 2022. Faculty will begin recruiting for the first cohort from current UHWO Health Science students, regional high school health academies, UHWO early college health pathway programs, and summer Health Careers Opportunities Program students.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.