



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
February 6, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

By

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#### SB 2634 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges is in support of SB 2634, "Relating to Health Care Education."

The purpose of SB 2634 is to provide funds for the expansion of the Certified Nurse Aide 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 certified nurse aides (CNAs) into the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) training program.

SB 2634 will enable UH Maui College to further expand the program state-wide and meet the state-wide 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 SB 2634, 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 SB 2634.