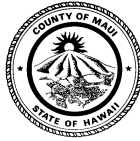


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COUNTY COUNCIL
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February 5, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2634, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE EDUCATION**

I support this measure to make appropriations for the expansion of the CNA+ to PN Bridge Program at University of Hawai'i Maui College, which is designed for certified nurse aides and other healthcare professionals who want to become licensed practical nurses

I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Increasing access to educational and training opportunities for healthcare workers is important to the residents of Maui County.
2. There is a higher likelihood that healthcare workers will choose to remain in Maui County if they are trained here.
3. Students who complete the program are able to work in a variety of healthcare settings, which will provide them many job opportunities and allow them to grow their careers.
4. The program's website shows that it is successful and worthy of expansion: <https://maui.hawaii.edu/cna-to-pn-bridge-program/>.

Thank you for your consideration.