

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB 2133, HD1 – RELATING TO NURSING

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health

February 4, 2008 at 9:30 am

by

Karen C. Lee
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
University of Hawaii System

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The purpose of HB 2133, HD1 Relating to Nursing, is to create a nursing teacher loan forgiveness program and to create a nursing teacher loan forgiveness special fund. This program is to provide students who intend to become instructors in nursing the funding to pursue a masters or doctorate program.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of the Legislature to provide financial support to students who wish to become nursing educators. However, the University is opposed this bill because of the extensive administrative hardship this will place on our various offices, in particular our School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, financial aid offices and general accounting office, to track students after graduation over five years and to administer such a loan. With our current capacity of staffing and resources, we would not be able to develop and maintain such a program at the appropriate level.

The private banking and loan industry sector may be a more appropriate place in which to initiate such a program. With limited resources, the University would not be able to adequately administer the program as would a private corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.