Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB 654 HD1.

The new language in Section 2 of this bill requests nurse licensees to complete the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing (“Center for Nursing”) survey for biennial nurse license renewal. Ideally, requiring this survey would have resulted in 100% participation\(^1\). However, the UH Mānoa Nursing supports the collaboration between the Center for Nursing and the HBON/PVLD to remove any concern with nonparticipation, including the Center’s agreement that the survey should be requested rather than required for now as part of the license renewal process.

UH Mānoa Nursing recommends that the following sections of the new language be amended:

- Section 2, deleting the last sentence, “For the purposes of compliance with this section, the Center for Nursing shall abide by the requirements of Chapter 92F.” The Center for Nursing is already governed by chapter 92F, the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA) and seems to imply otherwise.
- Section 3(a), for the purpose of consistency, replacing “required” with “requested” to read: “As part of the license renewal process, each applicant shall be

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\(^1\) This would encourage the approximately 24,000 nurse licensee to participate in the survey. This is based on a series of problems with participation rates in the past. In 2011, only 23.2% or 4,925 nurses completed the online survey. A return rate under 30% does not represent the nursing population and therefore data can be generalized. This problem made it necessary for the Center to spend about $25,000 sending out a paper survey which added another 2,443 nurse participants or an additional 11.5% to secure the minimal data requirement (34.7%) for analysis of workforce reporting. A higher rate of return on workforce surveys is critical to accurate data analysis and projections. Accurate workforce data has never been more critical as health care reform is underway at both the state and national levels.
We note that HB 654, HD1 will address Hawai‘i’s lack of a central source of communication through which all nurses licensed in the State can contribute to and receive information on practice/regulatory changes, state/federal initiatives and nursing research to assure quality nursing care. Hawai‘i has not consistently participated in national workforce data surveys or responded to requests in a timely manner. As the Nation moves forward with health care reform, the lack of participation by the state of Hawai‘i will have consequences for policy formation and resource allocation.

Nurses need to contribute to and be apprised of changes before they can embrace them; whether they are amendments to their nurse practice laws; effects of national/state initiatives on nursing such as the Affordable Care Act; establishment of a continuing education program for continuing competency and lifelong learning; or other issues. Before change can occur, nurses must be informed of changes to their laws, current research data and government directives in a timely, cost-effective manner. This can be accomplished via email, webinars, and social media.

UH Mānoa Nursing appreciates your continuing support of nursing and nursing education in Hawai‘i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.