



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health

by

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and

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HB 354 – RELATING TO NURSES

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB 354.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and for the betterment of the patients, they serve. The individual nurse must embrace lifelong learning as an essential key to delivering safe high quality patient care.

The UH Mānoa Nursing supports the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's Continuing Education Joint Advisory Committee determination that a continuing competency program (self-assessment, implementation of a personal learning plan, CE and subsequent reassessment) is preferable to simple CE program. Furthermore, CEJAC determined that continuing competency requirements may be implemented in the state without fiscal burden to nurses, their employers, or academic institutions. However, the UH Mānoa Nursing also supports the legislature's finding that the Hawai'i nurse continued competency program must be established in phases, beginning with learning activity requirements that support continuing competency in nursing.

Therefore, the UH Mānoa Nursing respectfully requests your support of this measure. We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.