SB 2469 SD2 – RELATING TO TELEHEALTH

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, SB 2469 SD2.

The UH Mānoa Nursing supports the purpose of this Act to:

(1) Require reimbursement for services provided through telehealth to be equivalent to reimbursement for the same services provided via face-to-face contact between a health care provider and a patient; and

(2) Clarify that a health care provider of telehealth includes primary care providers, mental health providers, and oral health providers such as physicians and osteopathic physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists, and dentists.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) fulfill a leadership role within Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) by demonstrating enhanced care coordination skills and fostering positive patient-provider relationships in complex care conditions. Utilization of telehealth informatics tools within a preventative care model, such as ACOs, can reduce readmission rates, contain costs, and improve patient outcomes. Further, SB 2469, SD2 will enable APRNs to help realize the vision of the Affordable Care Act by utilizing their skills in clinical integration, analytics, and case management of chronic disease populations to improve upon the quality and efficiency of the health care system.

Therefore, UH Mānoa Nursing respectfully requests that this Committee pass SB 2469 SD2 unamended. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.