



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
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by

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HB 1363 HD1 – RELATING TO NURSES

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments related to HB 1363 HD1 that establishes a study to identify issues that may arise if the State joins the Nurse Licensure Compact.

The UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (UHM SONDH) prefers the HD1 draft of this measure, with new language establishing a multi-state nurse licensure compact task force. The task force members consist of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Regulated Industries Complaints Office, a representative from the State Board of Nursing; a representative from the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing; the Chair of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce or the Chair's designee; and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, or the Chair's designee.

UHM SONDH agrees with the comments provided by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Regulated Industries Complaints Office and the Hawai'i Board of Nursing in its testimony related to HB 1363 to the House Committees on Health and Intrastate Commerce and wishes to provide additional comments:

- The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's 2017 Nursing Workforce Supply Report, documents that our state nursing workforce is one of the most highly educated in the nation with 72% of nurses holding a bachelor's degree or higher whereas the national average is 54%. This high rate of baccalaureate nursing degree academic preparation is in response to the Institute of Medicine's call for at least 80% of all RNs to hold a bachelor's degree in nursing or higher as a benchmark to achieve a nursing workforce that is highly educated, embraces a culture of

professional development and lifelong learning, and is well equipped to take care of the increasingly challenging healthcare needs of patients, and deliver care in an highly complex health care system.

- In 2003, the Legislature passed HB 422 HD2 SD2 CD1 which was passed into law with Act 198, SLH 2003 and established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. The Center is mandated to proactively address nursing workforce planning including assessments of the current nursing workforce supply (practicing nurses in Hawai'i) that is critical for healthcare planning and policy.
- Recent Center findings indicate that the number of active and employed nurses across our island state is representative of each county's overall population. From this, we gather that nurses are well distributed and contributing to the care needs of the communities where they live and serve. Should the Nurse License Compact be enacted, the ability to assess and analyze the presence of the current, available nursing workforce, including demographics, location of care, or setting, specialty and role of the nurse, will be diminished. This will compromise critical state healthcare workforce planning efforts.
- There is no nationally identified approach to addressing state nursing workforce supply and demand in a state with the Nurse License Compact.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.