



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:34 p.m.

By

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And

Michael Bruno, Provost
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SB 1242 - RELATING TO NURSES.

Chair San Buenaventura , Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure, which seeks to establish a five-year nurse recertification pilot program through the Department of Health. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH) supports the intent of this bill and offers comments provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Biennium Budget.

We appreciate the Legislature's ongoing commitment to addressing the state's nursing workforce challenges and recognize the multiple initiatives currently under consideration to strengthen the pipeline of qualified nurses. Your dedication to creating sustainable solutions is invaluable in ensuring the future of nursing in Hawai'i.

We extend our gratitude to Senator Joy San Buenaventura for her thoughtful approach in addressing two critical issues within the nursing profession—workforce shortages and the need for nurse educators. SONDH welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the Department of Health should this measure be enacted.

The Translational Health Science Simulation Center at the UH Mānoa SONDH serves as a resource for practicing nurses. Additionally, SONDH offers programs designed to prepare future nurse faculty. While there is a pressing need for nurse educators in the state, we acknowledge that the cost of living and the salary gap between clinical practice and teaching present challenges in recruiting faculty. Incentives such as those proposed in this bill could serve as a meaningful step toward attracting experienced nurses who are passionate about education into faculty roles.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this important and innovative initiative. Mahalo for your consideration.