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University of Hawai'i Statewide Nursing Consortium Graduates First Bachelor of Science Students

Honolulu, Hawai'i (May 22, 2013) - The first bachelor of science (BS) degree nursing graduates of the University of Hawai'i Statewide Nursing consortium received their degree this past weekend from UH Mānoa. The nursing programs at multiple campuses designed a pathway to the BS degree that is referred to as a "3+1" model.

Students enrolled at UH Maui College and UH Kaua'i Community College, and following completion of their associate degree (AD) immediately began their senior classes using a hybrid delivery approach with clinical learning taking place on their home island. These 12 graduates joined the 66 direct-entry UH Mānoa class to receive their BS degree. Additionally, a group of six Kapi'olani Community College and two UH Maui College AD graduates also received their BS degree from UH Mānoa after completing bridge courses to enter UH Mānoa's program. Kapi'olani Community College has adopted the common curriculum and will enroll its first consortium pathway students this fall.

- UH Maui College graduate names: Megan Antunez, Mary Bonner Naylor, Cathy Cho, Anita Kaina, Elizabeth Marsh, Robin Garrison, and Tanya Takatani-Apo.
- UH Kaua'i Community College graduate names: Brandi Baretto, Fritha Milliken, Bowen Pan, Kayla Santa Ana, Elena Tangonan, Tania Tasic, and Susan Yim.
- The 66 direct-entry UH Mānoa graduate names available upon request.

The nursing programs at UH Mānoa, UH Maui College, and UH Kaua'i Community College developed a common curriculum offered across the campuses. Faculty met twice a year to plan the program, hear from national experts, and build shared goals. Over time, they became friends as well as colleagues. This past week, they shared in celebrating the success of all the graduates.

UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene Dean Mary G. Boland stated, "a statewide UH system of nursing education meets Hawai'i's need for well-educated, culturally sensitive, and caring professionally competent nurses. At the same time, we provide opportunity for students to remain in their community and advance their education. By offering multi-campus nursing education, we avoid unnecessary duplication of UH programs and streamline the delivery of nursing education throughout the State. This educational program model is an efficient use of State of Hawai'i resources."

The increasing complexity of health care delivery requires that nurses be skilled in coordinating care across hospital, community, and home. To respond to the changes in the delivery of services and meet the changing needs of patients, nurses must achieve higher levels of education. Research shows that patients have better outcomes when care is delivered by an RN with a bachelor's degree. Such nurses are known for their ability to communicate well with other disciplines, mastery of complex systems, and advocacy for patients and families. Previously in Hawai'i only about 5% of AD nurses completed their BS degree. This transformative pathway has increased access for the neighbor island nurses who wish to continue their education.

This group of BS graduates was joined on stage by 33 Executive AD-RN to BS graduates at the Hawai'i Convention Center on Friday, May 10, 2013. To meet the needs of experienced RNs who wanted to obtain a BS degree, UH Mānoa created the Executive Pathway program that is offered in cooperation with employers. Nurses from The Queen's Medical Center (QMC) and Kaiser Hawai'i completed a one-year program where classes were offered at QMC once a month on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday with the remainder of coursework completed online. This blended method combined with scholarships from the employers and flexible work schedules, allowed these experienced nurses to maintain their jobs while advancing their education.

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UH Mānoa Nursing, the Nursing Capitol of the Pacific, is the leader in nursing education and research in Hawai'i with outreach to Asia and the Pacific Basin. We support the mission of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa: to provide an innovative, caring and multicultural environment in which faculty, students and staff work together to generate and transmit knowledge, wisdom, and values to promote quality of life and health for present and future generations. The school offers the BS, master's, and doctoral programs. To reflect Hawai'i's unique cultural diversity and heritage, UH Mānoa Nursing is committed to increasing Native Hawaiian and other underserved people in all nursing programs. <http://www.nursing.hawaii.edu/>