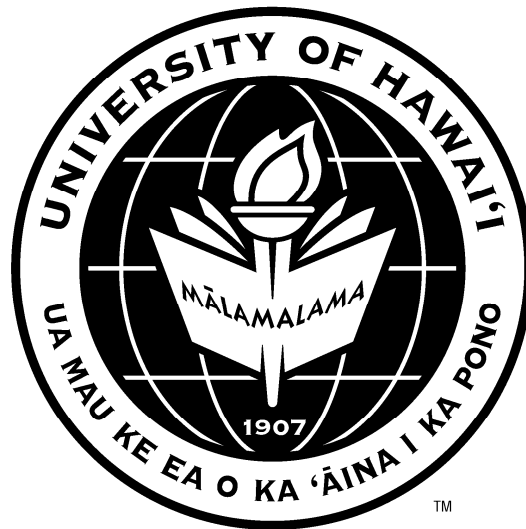


UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



HB 2134 HD1 Relating to the Center for Nursing

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health

February 8, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

Presented by

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

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HB 2134 HD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134 HD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. We support this bill which amends Act 198 by providing for a five-year extension date of the deposit and disbursement of the center for nursing special fund.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is privileged to provide a home for this successful and vital Center established by the 2003 Legislature. The Center is charged to:

- Collect and analyze data regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce
- Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes
- Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses
- Research analyze and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce

Since becoming operational in May 2005, the Center for Nursing efforts have benefited state policy makers, nurses and healthcare. The Center has contributed significantly by:

- Providing a venue to focus on the nursing workforce; supporting the executive and legislative branches of state government to inform policy development
- Convening nurses from all sectors to come together to improve quality of care and health outcomes for Hawai'i residents
- Conducting rigorous surveys whose results inform policy development and resource allocation regarding the state nursing education and workforce capacity
- Establishing innovative partnerships to improve recruitment and retention of nurses in the long term care setting
- Developing and conducting the first prospective 5-year study to document new nurse employment and career patterns.

Specifically, the Center's annual survey of state educational capacity is critical to the UH Mānoa and statewide nursing consortium efforts. Data driven state level evidence on enrollments, graduations, programs and faculty demographics ensure that efforts to increase the pipeline of Hawai'i's nursing workforce and nursing faculty reflect state need. In light of the nursing demand in the state and the nation, it is imperative that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts on these complex issues. Amending Act 198 by providing for a five-year extension to 2014 will enable the Center for Nursing to continue its important and good work.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am pleased to answer any questions.