



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education

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by
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HCR 277 / HR 235, Requesting the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to Encourage Parties to Work Together for the Common Goal of Increasing the Supply of Well-Educated and Dedicated Nurses

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 277 / HR 235 requesting the Center for Nursing to encourage parties to work together for the common goal of increasing the supply of well-educated and dedicated nurses.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is privileged to provide a home for this successful and vital Center established by the 2003 Legislature. Since becoming operational in May 2005, the Center for Nursing has collaborated with many stakeholders in efforts that 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.

The University of Hawai'i Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supports a collaborative approach to addressing the nursing workforce needs of Hawai'i and looks forward to our continued partnership with the community. In addition, collaboration is a core value of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's mission promoting consensus building and teamwork within the nursing profession, community and state. As such, the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene is committed to ensuring the Center's support in efforts with stakeholders and the intent of this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.