



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
February 18, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 811 HD1 RELATING TO REGISTERED NURSES

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 811 HD1 which proposes to remove the professional evaluator requirement for foreign nursing school graduates applying for registered nurse licensure in Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH) is an educational program preparing registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses in Hawai'i. The UHM nursing program is fully accredited and recognized as an approved educational program by the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing.

It is critical to preserve uniform licensing requirements to ensure consumer safety and nurse mobility within and between Hawai'i. The current system protects the public by ensuring that a foreign nurse applicant's educational requirements are evaluated by a professional educational third-party, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CFGNS) International. CFGNS validates international professional education and credentials in support of regulation and educational standards for health care professionals. They are an immigration-neutral non-profit organization, internationally recognized as an authority on credentials evaluation pertaining to the education, registration and licensure of nurses and other health care professionals worldwide. We support the position of the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing on this measure.

SONDH is committed to supporting a collaborative environment for nursing colleagues at the state, national and international levels. We believe the mechanism utilizing a professional educational evaluator for foreign nursing school graduates facilitates a collegial environment for health care professionals while addressing the first and foremost priority for consumer safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.