



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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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 1378 HD1 RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1378 HD1 to recognize advance practice registered nurses as primary care providers, granting of global signature authority and prescriptive rights, and amending the definition of advanced practice registered nurses (APRN). We are pleased to present suggestions regarding this bill.

Designating advanced practice registered nurses as primary care providers in Hawai'i will increase access to healthcare by Hawai'i citizens, particularly in high need and rural communities. Likewise, the statute updates to support the processes of such care delivery including global signature authority and prescriptive rights. Because the bill uses nationally accepted definitions for APRNs education and certification, you can be confident that we will be assuring quality care delivery. This collaborative approach to addressing the demand for primary healthcare is a direction that 24 states have taken to address access issues.

As described in the reasons above, we are in support of sections 1 through 5 which will allow the approximately 892 APRNs in the State of Hawai'i to practice to the full extent of their education while creating the structure to assure quality care delivery to consumers. We recognize that insurers may need to retain the right to determine the contracting criteria for participating providers, but with updated language APRNs (in accordance with their scope of practice) can help address the significant need for primary care health services.

We are in support of updating the current definition of APRNs to reflect the National Council on State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) *2008 APRN Model Act/Rules and Regulations* which recommends that APRNs complete both a graduate-level education program **and** have passed a national certification exam, among other requirements.

This model is supported by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the national voice for America's baccalaureate- and higher-degree nursing education programs, of which SONDH is a member. In the long term, a uniform model of regulation will also remove barriers from APRNs who relocate from other states. The proposed changes will ensure consumer safety and access by removing statutory barriers to the full scope of national practice for APRNs and by setting education and quality requirements.

Section 6 amends the definition of APRN in Chapter 457-2 specifying educational and other qualifications for advanced practice registered nurses. **We respectfully suggest that future APRNs meet the requirement for both the appropriate graduate-level education (Section 6, item 1) and certification (Section 6, item 2) rather than meeting just one of these requirements as currently stated. Also, we support the suggestion by the Board of Nursing to amend the requirements for future APRNs in HRS 457-8.5 rather than in the definition as proposed in the bill, but with the requirement for both graduate education and certification.** We fully support that the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing is the authorized entity to ensure the statutes and rules for nurse licensure/recognition are enacted in accordance with this bill.

Section 7 amends section 457-8.6, relating to prescriptive authority which include adopting the APRN qualification requirements, and prescribing and ordering authority language from the *NCSBN APRN Model Act/Rules and Regulations*, thus nullifying the verification of 1,000 clinical hours experience and the collegial working relationship agreement which has been a significant barrier to the practice of nursing in Hawai'i. We fully support those aspects of the amendment. However, Section 7 reinstates the role of the Hawai'i Medical Board and the use of a formulary. Since 1994, APRNs in Hawai'i have had limited prescriptive authority and are held to standards of practice, ethical codes, and peer review. **The attached draft bill (HD 2) is submitted for your consideration regarding the changes noted above as well as those that may facilitate insurer and the Board of Nursing's transition to support the intent of the bill.**

Thank you for allowing me to provide the education perspective on this important issue. Our shared goal is to promote patient safety and consumer protection while increasing access to health care. By applying the NCBSN model for APRNs in Hawai'i, we will be aligned with the nation's direction in nursing and healthcare. Furthermore, by revising the definition of primary care providers to APRNs, increased access to primary care services will be available to the citizens of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supports a collaborative approach to addressing the healthcare provider needs of Hawai'i and looks forward to our continued partnership with the legislature and community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.