



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 HD2 RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1378 HD2 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).

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.

We are in support of this bill which will allow 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. Additionally, 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.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on this important issue. Our shared goal is to promote patient safety and consumer protection while increasing access to health care. By applying the bill's model for APRNs in Hawai'i, we will be aligned with the nation's direction in nursing and healthcare.

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.