



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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by

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HB 1378 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Ige, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1378 HD2 SD1 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. Updating the restrictive statutes and rules are imperative to access to healthcare particularly 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. Additionally, we support the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing's authority to ensure the statutes and rules for nurse licensure/recognition including determining the exclusionary formulary for qualified advanced practice registered nurses.

We understand that the Department of Public Safety suggests language to facilitate the transition and implementation of this bill in regard to APRNs prescribing and

administering controlled substances including amended definitions for “APRNs with prescriptive authority” and “practitioner” and support their recommendations.

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 at 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.