



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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by

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HB 2205 HD1 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR 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 support of HB 2205 HD1 to require continuing education credits for registered nurse (RN) licensure renewal.

At this time, continuing education credits are not required for RN licensure renewal in the State of Hawai'i. This bill proposes a 15 hour requirement of continuing education for each 2-year licensure period renewal.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa promotes life long learning, especially in the field of healthcare, where new research, technologies, and evidence based practice can increase the quality of care provided to the community. We support this bill with the shared goal to promote patient safety and support the valuable role nurses contribute in our health care system.

There is a national call for a more highly educated nursing workforce as recognized by the Josiah Macy Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the national voice for America's baccalaureate- and higher-degree nursing education programs. In a recent joint publication on lifelong learning by the AACN and Association of American Medical Colleges, a shared vision is articulated for a "continuum of health professional education from admission into a health professional program to retirement that values, exemplifies, and assesses lifelong skills ..."¹. The report encourages an understanding of and support for change and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve this vision noting four key areas for

¹ AAMC/AACN. 2009. Lifelong Learning in Medicine and Nursing.
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/pdf/MacyReport.pdf>.

analysis and recommendation: continuing education methods; interprofessional education; lifelong learning; and workplace learning.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene support a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of Hawai'i and is willing to work with the legislature, Hawai'i State Board of Nursing, and community to assist with this measure including further discussion on the matter and offering educational opportunities to support Hawai'i's RNs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.