



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committee on Health
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by

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HCR 160/HR 98 – REQUESTING THE CENTER FOR NURSING TO EVALUATE THE NEED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR NURSES

Chair Chang, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committees on Higher Education and Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 160/HR 98 requesting the Center for Nursing to evaluate the need and resources to establish a continuing education program for nurses.

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

We support the intent of this measure for the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to study and report on this issue including the formation of a joint advisory committee to assist in the process. Noting that the scope and time frame could exceed the resources of the

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

Center and compromise other legislative mandates of the Center, we respectfully recommend that:

1. the Center review the studies done by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing that address items 4 – 7 on page 3;
2. the Center submit an interim progress report in 2012;
3. the joint advisory committee remain in existence until the study is completed;
4. the final deadline be specified after the Center's interim progress report; and
5. the removal of a representative from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing from the joint advisory committee.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is privileged to provide a home for the Center for Nursing established by the 2003 Legislature. Since becoming operational in May 2005, the Center for Nursing has collaborated with many stakeholders in efforts that have benefited state policy makers, nurses and healthcare. As such, the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene is committed to ensuring the Center's support in efforts with stakeholders and the intent of this resolution. Collaboration is a core value of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's mission promoting consensus building and teamwork within the nursing profession, community and state.

We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.