



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
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by

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### HB 79 HD1 – RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB 79 HD1.

This measure amends Section 457-8.5(a) by adding clarifying language relating to APRN educational requirements consistent with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's APRN Consensus Model (Consensus Model).

The legislature passed barrier-breaking measures (Act 169, SLH 2009; Act 57, SLH 2010, Act 110, SLH 2011) which included amendments to provisions relating to nurse/APRN licensure, certification, and education components, as well as accreditation standards for professional nursing programs, which are part of the Consensus Model.

The UH Mānoa School of Nursing and UH Hilo School of Nursing supports this amendment and also supports the proposed amendment to Section 457-8.5(a)(4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, by:

- Deleting: "leading to a master's degree as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, a nurse midwife, a clinical nurse specialist, or a nurse practitioner"
- Adding: "preparing the nurse for one of the four recognized APRN roles"

Currently nurses can only be recognized as APRNs if they have a master's degree in nursing. Nursing education is moving to a post baccalaureate doctorate of nursing practice pathway that removes the need for a master's degree. The current language is

restrictive and precludes nurses who earn their doctor of nursing practice (DNP) and other nationally recognized clinical doctorates in nursing from eligibility for licensure in Hawai'i. This directly impacts DNP graduates of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The master's degree requirement impedes licensure of APRNs with clinical doctorates in nursing degrees that relocate to Hawai'i. Amending Section 457-8.5(a)(4) will put Hawai'i in alignment with the rest of the country and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing APRN Consensus Model.

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