



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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by

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HB 654 – RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, HB 654, to amend Chapter 457-9, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, to require completion of the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing (“Center for Nursing”) survey for biennial nurse license renewal.

This bill will enable 100% of the Hawai‘i nurse licensee population to participate in a biannual workforce survey. The legislation is required to provide complete data for state nursing workforce planning, including enrollment management for nursing programs at the University of Hawaii.

In 2011, only 23.2% or 4,925 nurses completed the online survey. A return rate under 30% does not represent the nursing population and therefore results cannot be generalized. This problem made it necessary for the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing to spend \$25,000 sending out a paper survey which added another 2,443 nurse participants or an additional 11.5% to secure the minimal data requirement (34.7%) for a valid analysis of workforce. A higher rate of return on workforce surveys is critical for accurate data reporting and projections. Accurate workforce data has never been more critical as health care reform is underway at both the state and national levels.

This request to require the survey is not punitive to the licensee and the survey itself can be completed in 10 minutes or less. We are not suggesting licensure be denied if the survey is not completed. However, the legislation is an effort to ensure the nursing workforce data is accurate.

The inconsistent participation of the Professional & Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) in national workforce data

surveys makes it even more critical that we collect state data to inform our local workforce planning. Through strong and timely DCCA collaboration with the Center for Nursing, as a sister state agency, we can obtain synergistic, cost-efficient results including but not limited to participation in and alignment with the national initiatives moving forward to address the health care needs.

Further, Hawai'i lacks a central source of communication through which all nurses licensed in the State can contribute to and receive information on practice/regulatory changes, state/federal initiatives, and evidence based practice to assure quality nursing care.

Nurses need to contribute to and be apprised of changes before they can embrace them; whether they are amendments to their nurse practice laws; effects of national/state initiatives on nursing such as the Affordable Care Act; establishment of a continuing education program for continuing competency and lifelong learning; or other issues. Before change can occur, nurses must be informed of changes to their laws, current research data, and government directives in a timely, cost-effective manner. This can be accomplished via email, webinars, and social media.

UH Mānoa Nursing requests that the new language in section (b) of HB 654 be amended to clarify the responsibility of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs from that of the Center for Nursing by amending Section 2 (b) to read as follows:

“b) The professional and vocational licensing division of the department of commerce and consumer affairs shall collaborate with the center for nursing to enable the center for nursing to obtain nursing-related data, including but not limited to workforce data of nurses licensed in the State. Workforce data may be obtained through online surveying and other cost-effective, efficient methods. A survey developed by the center for nursing and deemed necessary by the center for nursing shall be required as part of the license renewal requirements under subsection 457-9(a). Through a memorandum of understanding with the center for nursing, the professional and vocational licensing division shall :

~~(1) Provide LPN and RN nurse licensee contact information, including but not limited to email addresses, to the center for nursing for purposes of collecting and analyzing data;~~to enable the center for nursing meet its legislative mandate to:

(1) Collect and analyze data;

(2) Prepare and disseminate written reports and recommendations regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce;

(3) Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes;

(4) Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses; and

(5) Research, analyze, and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce, in accordance with section 304A-1406.

For purposes of compliance with this section, the center for nursing shall abide by the requirements of chapter 92F."

UH Mānoa Nursing appreciates your continuing support of nursing and nursing education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.