

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SCR 4 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO FULLY FUND ALL OF ITS NURSING PROGRAMS

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Committee on Health

March 17, 2005

by

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Interim Dean and Associate Professor
&

Jane K. Kadohiro, DrPH, APRN, CDE Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

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SCR 4 Urging the University of Hawaii to Fully Fund All of Its Nursing Programs

Chair Clayton Hee, Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of their Committees:

The purpose of this senate concurrent resolution is to highlight the importance of addressing the nursing shortage in the State of Hawaii by recommending that the University of Hawaii fully fund all of its nursing programs. This resolution is developed in the light of the knowledge that, across the State, the University of Hawaii nursing programs are turning away many qualified applicants. These applicants, if given the opportunity to matriculate in State nursing programs would become graduate nurses, qualified to fill vacant positions in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, clinics and other health care settings.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supports this resolution. As noted in the resolution, Hawaii's registered nurse workforce is aging. By the year 2010 it is anticipated that the current nursing shortage will have extended beyond the capabilities of state nursing programs to address with current numbers of faculty. However, it should be acknowledged that, in recognition of the statewide nursing shortage, the Board of Regents included in its Biennium Budget requests funds for undergraduate and graduate nursing education programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.