



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the
Joint Senate Committees on Health and Higher Education**

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by

**Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

SCR 16/SR6: Requesting the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing at the University of Hawai'i to Investigate and Recommend Ways to Assist the Public and Private Sectors to Relieve the Nursing Shortage and Ensure a Continuous, Adequate Supply of Nurses to Staff Hospitals and Other Medical Facilities in the State

Chair Hee, Chair Baker, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees, I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 and Senate Resolution 6. We appreciate your commitment to addressing Hawai'i's nursing shortage.

The 2003 Legislature, in your wisdom and concern for the community, established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to address the nursing shortage. The Center was established to:

- Collect and analyze data regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce
- Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes
- Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses
- Research analyze and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce

As you are aware, there are many factors to this critical shortage of nurses and a multi-faceted approach is applauded. The Center collaborates with partners from across the state representing community, business, practice and education in its activities to address the nursing shortage. The School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is an active participant in these efforts. We support this collaborative approach to use the legislatively supported Center for Nursing to investigate the issues noted in this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.