UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

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by
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SB 2146 SD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2146 SD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. We support this bill which amends Act 198 by providing for a five-year extension date of the deposit and disbursement of the center for nursing special fund.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is privileged to provide a home for this successful and vital Center established by the 2003 Legislature. Since becoming operational in May 2005, the Center for Nursing efforts have benefited state policy makers, nurses and healthcare. The Center has contributed significantly by:

- Providing a venue to focus on the nursing workforce; supporting the executive and legislative branches of state government to inform policy development
- Convening nurses from all sectors to come together to improve quality of care and health outcomes for Hawai'i residents
- Conducting rigorous surveys whose results inform policy development and resource allocation regarding the state nursing education and workforce capacity
- Establishing innovative partnerships to improve recruitment and retention of nurses in the long term care setting
- Developing and conducting the first prospective 5-year study to document new nurse employment and career patterns.

Specifically, the Center's annual survey of state educational capacity is critical to the UH Mānoa and statewide nursing consortium efforts. Data driven state level evidence on enrollments, graduations, programs and faculty demographics ensure that efforts to

increase the pipeline of Hawai‘i’s nursing workforce and nursing faculty reflect state need.

It is imperative that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts on these complex issues. Due to their efforts, Hawai‘i has a data and evidence driven description of the nursing workforce. As we identify trends and impacts, we are generating policy and funding efforts targeted to our state need. Extension of the sunset clause to 2014 is required to assure the Center can complete its work in establishing a portrait of the Hawai‘i nursing workforce, our ability to prepare for state need, and successful efforts to sustain the nursing workforce here.

As authorized in the 2003 legislation, funds to operate the Center are generated by fees collected upon nurses’ biannual licensure renewal. The State Treasury provided funds to the University by creating the Center for Nursing Special Fund. A survey of 10 other state centers indicates that several approaches are used to fund such Centers. Three states have a surcharge; one allows nurses to elect the fee at license renewal; and one transfers monies from license fees. Three are funded via recurring state appropriations; one by private foundation; and one by hospitals. The report on funding alternatives, as proposed in this bill, will inform the Legislature about best practices for funding of Centers for Nursing.

In summary, the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa supports SB 2146 SD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. We believe this approach allows the Center to continue its work in progress as noted above.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am pleased to answer any questions.