



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

March 24, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2898 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO DIVERSION PROGRAM FOR CHEMICALLY DEPENDANT NURSES

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, SB 2898 SD1 HD1, amending requirements of the diversion program for chemically dependent nurses to allow the Board of Nursing to recognize alternative program sponsors.

We support the Board of Nursing's role to recognize additional third-party sponsors to provide expertise and treatment support to chemically-dependent nurses in their rehabilitation process. This bill clarifies the conditions regarding disciplinary action to protect the consumer while supporting the nurse's rehabilitation. By implementing this act, the foundation for a non-punitive approach that balances treatment, monitoring and commitment to patient safety will be established. The Board of Nursing will be able to identify and establish working relationships with peer assistance and diversion programs for the nursing community.

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