



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 3, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

by

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SB 26 RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE FEES

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, SB 26, to amend Chapter 457, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to prevent multiple fee assessment of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and to require the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing ("HSCFN") survey for biennial nurse license renewal.

UH Mānoa Nursing supports this bill to stop the unfair multiple APRN assessment of fees, specifically the compliance resolution fund fee, which is imposed only on advanced practice registered nurses. These excessive assessments create unnecessary barriers to advanced practice registered nurses' licensure and practice.

We respectfully request that subsection (11) of Section 2 of this measure be amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. Section 457-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

- (a) Effective October 1, 2009, the board shall grant recognition as an advanced practice registered nurse to a nurse who has:
 - (1) A current, unencumbered license as a registered nurse in this State;
 - (2) An unencumbered license as a registered nurse in all other states in which the nurse has a current and active license;
 - (3) An unencumbered recognition as an advanced practice registered nurse or similar designation in all other states in which the nurse has a current and active recognition as an advanced practice registered nurse;

- (4) Completed an accredited graduate-level education program leading to a master's degree as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, a nurse midwife, a clinical nurse specialist, or a nurse practitioner;
- (5) A current, unencumbered certification of having passed a national certification examination that measures role and population-focused competencies and is recognized by the board;
- (6) Maintained continued competencies through recertification in role and population-focused competencies through a national certification program recognized by the board;
- (7) Acquired advanced clinical knowledge and skills preparing the nurse to provide direct care to patients through a significant educational and practical concentration on the direct care of patients;
- (8) Demonstrated a greater breadth of knowledge, a greater synthesis of data, greater complexity of skills and interventions, and greater role autonomy than demonstrated by a registered nurse;
- (9) Been educationally prepared to assume responsibility and accountability for health promotion and maintenance and to assess, diagnose, and manage patient problems through the use and prescription of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions;
- (10) Acquired clinical experience of sufficient depth and breadth to reflect the intended license; and
- (11) Paid the appropriate fees[.]; provided that the appropriate fees shall consist only of fees that are authorized under sections 457-5 and 457-7 for registered nurses and the center for nursing fee established by section 3 of Act 198, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2003. This shall preclude, but not be limited to, the multiple assessment of a compliance resolution fund fee to license, to renew and restore a nurse license advanced practice registered nurse recognition or APRN prescriptive authority.

Further, we support the completion of the HSCFN survey as a requirement for nurse licensure renewal in Hawai'i. This would enable the HSCFN to have 100% nurse licensee participation to provide data to support state workforce planning as the Legislature in its wisdom required in Section 4, Act 198, Session Laws of Hawai'i of 2003,

“The University of Hawaii school of nursing and dental hygiene, the state board of nursing, other schools of nursing within the State, professional nursing organizations, employers in the healthcare industry, and labor unions representing nurses and healthcare workers shall collaborate with the center for nursing and provide workforce data to the center for nursing when requested.”

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