



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Senate Committee on Higher Education  
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by

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### SB 490 RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

The UH Mānoa Nursing is in strong support of this bill, SB 490, to amend Chapter 457-9, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to require the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing ("Center for Nursing") survey for biennial nurse license renewal.

Since its establishment in 2003, the Center for Nursing has collected, analyzed, and disseminated nursing workforce data that has been useful to nursing education programs to plan and offer educational programs to address state needs. The proposed requirement will increase the participation rate of Hawai'i's licensed nurses to 100% thereby enabling the Center for Nursing to build a more accurate and robust data hub for statewide nursing workforce data, which will benefit all constituents.

As UH Mānoa Nursing strives to implement the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine Report, "The Future of Nursing", it is critical to have access to current, accurate statewide nursing workforce data to conduct comprehensive enrollment planning and projections to better respond to community needs for the "future nurse" of Hawai'i. Further, the enhanced collaboration with the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on data collection will stimulate opportunities to address Hawai'i's and the Nation's most pressing health care challenges; i.e., access and quality.

The UH Mānoa Nursing appreciates your continuing support of nursing and education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.