



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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by

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SB 490 SD1 – RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Galuteria, 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 490 SD1.

The current language requires nurse licensees to complete the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing ("Center for Nursing") survey for biennial nurse license renewal. Ideally, this would have resulted in 100% participation¹. The Center for Nursing and Hawai'i State Board of Nursing (HBON)/Professional & Vocational Licensing Division (PVLD) met recently to discuss potential concerns about the interpretation of this requirement and the impact it could have on re-licensure and compliance. The UH Mānoa Nursing supports the collaboration between the Center for Nursing and the HBON/PVLD to remove any concern with nonparticipation, including the Center's agreement that the survey should be requested rather than required for now as part of the license renewal process.

The UH Mānoa Nursing supports the HBON/PVLD agreement to write a joint statement with the Center for Nursing in support of the request to complete the workforce survey with the biennial nurse license renewal on the PVLD web site, noting the importance and benefits of participation by nursing professionals. The UH Mānoa Nursing further

¹ This would encourage the approximately 24,000 nurse licensee to participate in the survey. This is based on a series of problems with participation rates in the past. In 2011, only 23.2% or 4,925 nurses completed the online survey. A return rate under 30% does not represent the nursing population and therefore data can be generalized. This problem made it necessary for the Center to spend about \$25,000 sending out a paper survey which added another 2,443 nurse participants or an additional 11.5% to secure the minimal data requirement (34.7%) for analysis of workforce reporting. A higher rate of return on workforce surveys is critical to accurate data analysis and projections. Accurate workforce data has never been more critical as health care reform is underway at both the state and national levels.

supports the HBON/PVLD agreement to place the survey link before and after licensure renewal.

UH Mānoa Nursing recommends that the following sections of the new language be amended:

- Section 2(b) replacing “required” with “requested” to read: “A survey developed by the center for nursing shall be requested as part of the license renewal requirements under section 457-9(a).”
- Section 2, deleting the last sentence, “For the purposes of compliance with this section, the Center for Nursing shall abide by the requirements of Chapter 92F.” The Center for Nursing is already governed by chapter 92F, the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA) and seems to imply otherwise.
- Section 3(a), replacing “required” with “requested” to read: “As part of the license renewal process, each applicant shall be requested to complete a survey developed by the center for nursing as deemed necessary by the center for nursing pursuant to section 304A-1407(b).”

We note that SB 490 SD1 will address Hawai'i's lack of a central source of communication through which all nurses licensed in the State can contribute to and receive information on practice/regulatory changes, state/federal initiatives and nursing research to assure quality nursing care. Hawai'i has not consistently participated in national workforce data surveys or responded to requests in a timely manner. As the Nation moves forward with health care reform, the lack of participation by the state of Hawai'i will have consequences for policy formation and resource allocation.

Nurses need to contribute to and be apprised of changes before they can embrace them; whether they are amendments to their nurse practice laws; effects of national/state initiatives on nursing such as the Affordable Care Act; establishment of a continuing education program for continuing competency and lifelong learning; or other issues. Before change can occur, nurses must be informed of changes to their laws, current research data and government directives in a timely, cost-effective manner. This can be accomplished via email, webinars, and social media.

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