UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary
March 31, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
by
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
and
Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2862 – RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2862 Relating to Nursing.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing "Nursys" is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BONs may utilize Nursys to verify a nurseʻs licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawaiʻi BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining states that do not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONS nationwide in Nursys participation.

In addition to increasing timely information access to the BON for license verification, discipline, and practice privileges, Nursys may be used by the employers and individual nurses for license verification. Employers may use Nursys to verify a nurse's license and status and may use bulk processing to accommodate for an entire nursing staff. This program may offer increased efficiency for personnel management in health care systems for employers in addition to the potential positive impacts to the Hawaiʻi BON. For individuals, nurses may use Nursys to verify existing or previously held licenses from a Nursys participating state when seeking license endorsement into a state.

Utilizing Nursys in Hawaiʻi will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawaiʻi's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. The University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene respectfully requests that the House Committee on Judiciary pass SB 2862 Relating to Nursing without amendments.