

Testimony of the State Board of Nursing

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 11, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 730, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SHERI SHIELDS-HANSON,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alexander Pang and I am an Executive Officer of the State Board of Nursing (“Board”). The Board supports the reappointment of Sheri Shields-Hanson to the Board.

Ms. Shields-Hanson is a Kauai-based nurse educator with extensive experience as a teacher and registered nurse. She is currently a full-time nursing instructor for the Kauai Community College Associate Degree Nursing program. She served as a full-time professor at Santa Barbara City College in California for nearly twenty-five (25) years, where she was awarded the school’s Faculty Excellence Award. She also served as Department Chair and Director of the Santa Barbara City College Associate Degree in Nursing Program for over five (5) years.

Between 2017 and 2022, Ms. Shields-Hanson served as a nurse educator for Assessment Technologies Institute, providing intensive NCLEX Exam preparation in all exam areas and specialties for NCLEX candidates. She also worked as a medical surgical RN from 1984 to 1987 and a critical care RN from 1987 to 2009. She possesses active registered nurse licensure in Hawaii and California.

Ms. Shields-Hanson brings a unique and vital perspective to the Board, particularly concerning nursing education, programs, faculty, and educational requirements. Her expertise and experience as a nurse educator make her a strong choice for reappointment to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Governor’s Message.



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Kauai Community College
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March 31st, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Sheryl K. Shields-Hanson to the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing. As a colleague of Sheryl's in the Kaua'i Community College Nursing Program, I have had the opportunity to witness her commitment to the nursing profession and its future, upholding and perpetuating the ethics and standards paramount to the nursing profession through education.

As an appointed member of the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing, Sheryl is representing the needs of our Kaua'i community. It is imperative that neighbor island Nurses are represented in the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing, as our healthcare needs and access to resources can be disparate from Oahu and other neighbor islands. As a nursing faculty member and clinical instructor, Sheryl has developed relationships with numerous facilities on Kaua'i enabling her to understand the healthcare needs on Kaua'i and throughout the state from a diverse range of perspectives. Additionally, she works diligently to provide updates and explanations to Kaua'i Nursing leaders, educators, and students to ensure our understanding and always fields input to provide to the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing, as it is such an important entity to the nursing professionals of Hawai'i.

I believe that Sheryl K. Shields-Hanson has been an outstanding Hawai'i State Board of Nursing representative for the Kaua'i community and continue to support her in this role. I am appreciative of the hard work and commitment she demonstrates for the nurses of Kaua'i and the nursing students of Kaua'i Community College.

Mahalo for your consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Plyler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katherine Plyler, RN, MSN

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GM-730

Submitted on: 4/7/2025 12:56:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammie Napoleon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is with great pride and confidence that I write this letter in support of Sheryl Shields-Hanson's nomination to the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing. I have the distinct honor of serving as both her colleague and supervisor, and I can personally attest to her exceptional professionalism, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the nursing profession.

Sheryl exemplifies what it means to be a nurse leader. Her clinical knowledge is matched only by her compassionate approach to patient care and her ability to inspire those around her. She consistently demonstrates sound judgment, thoughtful decision-making, and a dedication to ethical practice in every aspect of her work.

In our time working together, I have witnessed Sheryl's tireless advocacy for both patients and fellow nurses. She approaches challenges with a solutions-oriented mindset and is deeply invested in improving systems and outcomes. Her ability to collaborate, communicate effectively, and lead with both humility and confidence make her an invaluable asset to our team—and I believe she would bring those same strengths to the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing.

Sheryl has a keen understanding of the unique healthcare needs across our islands and brings a culturally sensitive, community-focused perspective to her work. Her voice on the Board would not only reflect the realities of frontline nursing but also elevate the standards of care and professional practice statewide.

I strongly support her nomination and urge you to give her your highest consideration. Should you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 808-245-8308 or tammie.napoleon@hawaii.edu.

Sincerely,
Tammie Napoleon, DNP, APRN-RX, PPCNP-BC
Interim CTE Dean
Kauai Community College