

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008 ~ 9:30 a.m. ~ Conference Room 211

By

Joan P. White
Executive Director, Honolulu Community Action Program
Immediate Past Chair, HSCFN Advisory Board

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I support this bill which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014. The five year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

The 2003 Legislature established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and placed it at School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Since becoming operational in April, 2005, the work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare community. The four legislative mandates are listed below along with initiatives that Center has undertaken to meet each mandate:

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- Hawaii Partners in Nursing: Recruitment and Retention in Long Term Care funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (\$275,000) and matching funds of \$125,000. (HMSA Foundation, \$105,000; Hale Makua, \$5,000; Queen Emma Nursing Institute, \$5,000; and the Center for Nursing, \$10,000)
- Small grants provided to support research and program development

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • Fax: (808) 547-4646

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 21, 2008 – 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Deliver to: Committee Clerk, Room 210, 1 copy

In Support of SB 2146 SD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer at The Queen's Medical Center. The Queen's Medical Center supports Senate Bill 2146 SD1, which extends the sunset date on the deposit and disbursement of certain nursing fees into the Compliance Resolution Fund for the credit of the Center for Nursing Special Fund.

The Queen's Medical Center is the largest private tertiary care hospital in the State of Hawaii. We offer specialized care in the areas of cardiology, neuroscience, orthopedics, behavioral health, oncology, women's health, emergency services and trauma. A significant and essential asset of our patient care team is our registered nurses who enable us to provide high quality patient care to the citizens of Hawaii.

New graduate nurses are a significant resource for Queen's to fill our positions. Last year we hired 92 new graduate nurses. With the anticipation that the nursing shortage will continue, it is essential that our local schools produce more nursing graduates. Our needs of the Medical Center extend to both the baccalaureate and masters graduates in filling vacancies and developing our nursing workforce.

The 2003 Legislature established the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to conduct research and implement a plan to recruit and retain nurses. Over the past several years, the Center has been successful in laying the foundation for this work thru a collaborative effort with community and industry leaders in nursing. Funding must be continued to support these efforts in order to address the current challenges with the nursing workforce. Extending the sunset date to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

We respectfully request your support for the passage of Senate Bill 2146 SD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cindy Kamikawa, RN, MS, CNAA
Vice President, Nursing, and Chief Nursing Officer
The Queen's Medical Center

**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By**

Gary Kienbaum, R.N., M.S.N.

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing
Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I am a Registered Nurse employed at Kaiser Permanente full time and also represent the American Organization of Nurse Executives – Hawai'i on the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

I support this bill which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014. As a registered nurse I am more than happy to continue to pay an additional licensing fee of \$40.00 every two years (\$1.66 per month) to support the work of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. As a profession it is important that we support the center so that it may continue to provide important data related to our local workforce. In addition to the data, the center also supports local research designed to better understand interventions that may improve and enhance the practice of professional nursing in Hawai'i.

The five year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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- Small grants provided to support research and program development

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.**

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2146 SD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2146 SD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. We support this bill which amends Act 198 by providing for a five-year extension date of the deposit and disbursement of the center for nursing special fund.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is privileged to provide a home for this successful and vital Center established by the 2003 Legislature. Since becoming operational in May 2005, the Center for Nursing efforts have benefited state policy makers, nurses and healthcare. The Center has contributed significantly by:

- Providing a venue to focus on the nursing workforce; supporting the executive and legislative branches of state government to inform policy development
- Convening nurses from all sectors to come together to improve quality of care and health outcomes for Hawai'i residents
- Conducting rigorous surveys whose results inform policy development and resource allocation regarding the state nursing education and workforce capacity
- Establishing innovative partnerships to improve recruitment and retention of nurses in the long term care setting
- Developing and conducting the first prospective 5-year study to document new nurse employment and career patterns.

Specifically, the Center's annual survey of state educational capacity is critical to the UH Mānoa and statewide nursing consortium efforts. Data driven state level evidence on enrollments, graduations, programs and faculty demographics ensure that efforts to

increase the pipeline of Hawai'i's nursing workforce and nursing faculty reflect state need.

It is imperative that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts on these complex issues. Due to their efforts, Hawai'i has a data and evidence driven description of the nursing workforce. As we identify trends and impacts, we are generating policy and funding efforts targeted to our state need. Extension of the sunset clause to 2014 is required to assure the Center can complete its work in establishing a portrait of the Hawai'i nursing workforce, our ability to prepare for state need, and successful efforts to sustain the nursing workforce here.

As authorized in the 2003 legislation, funds to operate the Center are generated by fees collected upon nurses' biannual licensure renewal. The State Treasury provided funds to the University by creating the Center for Nursing Special Fund. A survey of 10 other state centers indicates that several approaches are used to fund such Centers. Three states have a surcharge; one allows nurses to elect the fee at license renewal; and one transfers monies from license fees. Three are funded via recurring state appropriations; one by private foundation; and one by hospitals. The report on funding alternatives, as proposed in this bill, will inform the Legislature about best practices for funding of Centers for Nursing.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i Mānoa supports SB 2146 SD1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. We believe this approach allows the Center to continue its work in progress as noted above.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am pleased to answer any questions.



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
MAUI
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 19, 2008

**Testimony Presented Before
 Senate Committee on Ways and Means
 February 21, 2008
 9:30 a.m.
 Conference Room 211
 By**

**Nancy Johnson, MSN, APRN
 Allied Health Department Chair**

**SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing
 Chair Baker, Vice Chair Teutsul and Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I am submitting this testimony as the director of the Allied Health Department at Maui Community College. I have worked closely with the Hawaii Center on Nursing and I believe they have provided vital information, collaboration, and support as the nursing education programs in Hawaii responded to the acute nursing shortage now and in the future.

I support this bill, which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014. The five-year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs, which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

The 2003 Legislature established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and placed it at School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Since becoming operational in April, 2005, the work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare community. The four legislative mandates are listed below along with initiatives that Center has undertaken to meet each mandate:

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- **Conduct annual surveys of 100% of Hawai'i nursing programs to determine data and trends in educational capacity**

310 W. Ka'ahumanu Avenue Kahului, HI 96732-1617
 Tel: 808 984-3250 Fax: 808 249-2175
 www.maui.hawaii.edu

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

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The Hawaii Center on Nursing has provided valuable information on need for nurses and in light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five-year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Nancy Johnson, MSN, APRN

**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211**

**By: Ana Silva, RN
Position/title/Organization: Director of Education, Kona Community Hospital
Board of Directors of Hawaii Nurses Association
(PO Box 390573, Kailua-Kona, HI 96739)**

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

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**By
FAITH ROSSMAN, RN, MN
Clinical Specialist / Kona Community Hospital**

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Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, relating to the Center for Nursing. I support this bill, which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014. The five-year extension is crucial because it will allow continuation of many programs that are currently underway at the Center and give nurses the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would negatively impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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**Testimony Presented Before
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February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By: Patty Briseno, RN**

**Position/title/Organization: Staff Nurse, Chemotherapy Department
Kona Community Hospital**

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By: Gloria Woodwell, RN

**Position/title/Organization: Staff Nurse, Education Department
Kona Community Hospital**

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**Rose Ann Poyzer
Representing the Healthcare Association of Hawaii
on The Center for Nursing's Advisory Board**

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9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By: Rosemary Taylor, RN**

**Position/title/Organization: Staff Nurse, Liberty Dialysis, Kona
Board of Directors of Hawaii Nurses Association
(PO Box 390573, Kailua-Kona, HI 96739)**

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- Small grants provided to support research and program development

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By**

**Aggie Pigao Cadiz, BSN, RN
Director of Clinical Operations, Hospice Hawai'i**

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

My name is Aggie Pigao Cadiz. I am a Registered Nurse, a member of Hawai'i Nurses' Association, and an appointee to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I support this bill which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014. The five year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

The 2003 Legislature established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and placed it at School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Since its inception in April 2005, the work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare community. The four legislative mandates are listed below along with initiatives the Center has undertaken to meet each mandate:

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No other entity in Hawai'i is doing work similar to that of the Center for Nursing, or has as its focus to address the nursing shortage. In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will enable this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

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**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By: Dawn Styner, RN**

**Position/title/Organization: Staff Nurse, Kona Community Hospital
Board of Directors of Hawaii Nurses Association**

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. **I support this bill which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014.** The five year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committees on Ways and Means**

February 21, 2008

**By
Dr. Jane K Kadohiro, DrPH, APRN, CDE
Nursing Faculty and Community Health Nurse**

SB 2146, S.D. 1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2146, S. D. 1 Relating to the Center for Nursing. I am Dr. Jane Kadohiro, a nursing faculty member, an active volunteer in health issues in the community, and a member of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing Board. I am also a member of the Hawaii... and the American Nurses Association.

I heartily support this bill which extends the sunset clause for the Center for Nursing for five years until 2014.

The Legislature first established Hawai'i State Center for Nursing in 2003 to address issues related to the nursing shortage we face and particularly those issues surrounding recruitment and retention of registered nurses and nursing faculty.

Specifically, the charges were to:

- Collect and analyze data regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce
- Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes
- Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses, and
- Research analyze and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce

Our Board became actively engaged in establishing an infrastructure and in developing a strategic plan from the beginning of our existence. The Center became incredibly productive once we were able to hire an executive director and a small, yet outstanding staff, shortly thereafter. The work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses at all levels of nursing and all settings, policy makers, and the wider healthcare community with its facilitation of many

stakeholders throughout the state (nurses, many other disciplines, business, etc) who have become active participants in the work groups and committees staffed by the Center.

It is very clear that every aspect of the mandate has been addressed. The Center has established several systems to obtain ongoing data and has worked very diligently in engaging others in community-based and issue-based planning to address those areas of need that are identified from analysis of the data obtained. A listing of but some of the many other significant accomplishments of the Center is found attached.

We will continue to need ongoing reliable and valid data as an essential means of trending and projecting as we plan for both the near and distant future. The nursing shortage is not going to go away; we must rigorously engage in continued evidence-based projecting and planning.

We have a serious and ongoing nursing shortage in the Hawaii and throughout the country. It is critical that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing continue its valuable work... work that is not being performed by any other agency or entity in Hawaii. In my many years in this profession, I have witnessed at least three very serious nursing shortages, all addressed by well intended individuals on well intended committees, but none used data and trending as they attempted to plan solutions for the present. This has resulted in over-projection as well as under-projections, both of which have created temporary fixes, yet serious short as well as long term problems. With the creation of the Center, at last we have been able to plan, based on Hawaii data, to generate Hawai'i specific solutions that will include a serious look at long term issues and likely impacts of plans proposed.

While I would prefer to simply see the sunset clause deleted, a five year extension of the sunset clause to the year 2014. This does allow continued long range strategic planning backed with ongoing evidence and the ongoing active participation of the many stakeholders throughout the state. These individuals, from staff nurses to nurse leaders, to nurse executives, to hospital administrators, to business-persons and many others, have been tremendously supportive and engaged in the work of the Center and its significant contributions to the health and well being of the people of our state by addressing the critical need for registered nurses in Hawaii.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2146, S. D. 1

I am available for further discussion at:

Dr. Jane K Kadohiro
808-271-1282
kadohiro@hawaii.edu

Hawaii State Center for Nursing

MEETING THE LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

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**Testimony Presented to
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By
Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN**

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I support this bill which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014. The five year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

I have personally been involved in the following activities with the Center for Nursing, that have directly addressed the mandate given the Center by the legislature.

- Participation in the survey in collaboration with the Board of Nursing on supply and characteristics of Hawai'i registered nurses
- Utilization of the annual fact sheet on the nursing workforce to educate and inform policy makers and stakeholders about the issues
- Participation in the Nursing Workforce Summit with colleagues from our healthcare community who came together to strategically plan for the future of nursing in Hawaii
- As a nursing faculty member, participated in recruitment meetings with other stakeholders, to implement activities where the Center took an active part in recruitment of students into the profession in Hawaii.

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN-Rx

**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By**

**Sally T. Ishikawa
Chief Nurse Executive, Leahi Hospital
Chair, Hawaii State Center for Nursing Advisory Board**

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

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The 2003 Legislature established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and placed it at School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Since becoming operational in April 2005, the work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare community. The four legislative mandates are listed below along with initiatives that Center has undertaken to meet each mandate:

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As a nurse, I extend gratitude to the Legislature for establishing the Center, as well as its continuing assistance to progress our profession that is closely aligned to the health and welfare of Hawaii citizens. In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. The nursing workforce and shortage issues are confounded, and the work of the Center must continue its innovative efforts. We are committed to our mandate and feel the funding established by the original legislation assures a solid basis for the Center's vital operations. Providing for a five-year extension to 2014, will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By**

**Neil S. MacNaughton RN, PhD
University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene**

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I support this bill which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014. The five year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses. The Center provides the only **non biased** voice in nursing reflecting, labor, education and administration.

While it collects a small amount of money (\$40) from licensees the money is extremely important to aid in collecting data concerning the largest number of health care providers in Hawaii. By having pictures of what is occurring with the nursing workforce it allows Hawaii to have a unique picture of our health care institutions as nursing is a weather vane to issues that may occur in health care facilities.

The 2003 Legislature established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and placed it at School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Since becoming operational in April, 2005, the work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare community. The four legislative mandates are listed below along with initiatives that Center has undertaken to meet each mandate:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Neil MacNaughton

**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By**

**Dale M. Allison, PhD, APRN-RX, FAAN
Professor of Nursing and Graduate Program Chair
Hawai'i Pacific University**

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing
Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

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**Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 21, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
By**

**SAI CHANTAVY
Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center**

SB 2146, S.D.1, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2146, S.D.1, relating to the Center for Nursing. I support this bill which would extend the sunset clause for five years to 2014. The five year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs, which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Conference Room 211

February 21, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

Testimony in support of SB 2146 SD 1.

I am Rich Meiers, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 2146 SD 1, which extends the sunset provision of the funding mechanism for the Center for Nursing.

When the shortage of nurses was first identified as a serious problem, the information needed to address the problem was incomplete, scattered, and sometimes conflicting. As a result, decisions to increase the supply of nurses could not be made with much confidence. So the Legislature passed Act 198, SLH 2003, to create the Center for Nursing, which has been tasked with the following functions:

- (1) Collect and analyze data, and make recommendations regarding the current status and trends of the nursing workforce;
- (2) Conduct research in best practices and quality outcomes;
- (3) Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses; and
- (4) Research, analyze, and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce.

Since its inception, the Center for Nursing has engaged in a variety of research that provides a greater understanding of the nursing workforce, including: (1) Nurse turnover and retention; (2) Nurse employer demand; (3) A longitudinal study of new graduates; (4) A forecast of Hawaii's nursing workforce until 2020; and (5) Recruitment and retention of nurses in the long term care sector. In addition, the Center for Nursing has issued reports on nurse education programs in Hawaii, nurse education and practice, and the state of the nursing workforce.

The Center for Nursing has demonstrated its value in gathering and analyzing data that is essential to creating sustainable solutions that are specific to Hawaii's nursing workforce shortage. Previously, we were reliant upon national data and trends that did not correlate well with Hawaii's conditions.

The sunset provision for the funding mechanism for the Center for Nursing was included in Act 198, SLH 2003, to ensure that a proactive effort would have to be made to continue the activities of the Center for Nursing. The Center for Nursing has clearly proven its value.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association strongly supports SB 2146 SD 1.