

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 25 2009

RE: H.B. No. 811
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 811,
H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REGISTERED NURSES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ease Hawaii's registered nurse licensure requirements for graduates of foreign nursing schools by requiring the Board of Nursing to adopt rules that require applicants who are foreign graduates applying for licensure in Hawaii to arrange for the applicant's school to send to the Board of Nursing:

- (1) The "Breakdown of Educational Program for International Nursing Programs" form; and
- (2) A certified school transcript for the applicant, translated to English, if necessary.

In addition, this measure removes the requirement that a foreign graduate's transcripts be evaluated by professional evaluators designated by the Board of Nursing.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc., The Philippine Nurses Association Hawaii, the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, the Filipino American Citizens League, the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, The National Federation of Filipino American



Associations Region XII, the Oahu Filipino Community Council, and two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Board of Nursing and five individuals.

Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that the State's requirement for uniform evaluation by the recognized authority on credential evaluations, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, is connected to federal immigration laws that require all international health professionals, except physicians, to be certified by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools or another independent, government-certified organization qualified to issue credentials. Though your Committee is open to making the application process for foreign educated nurses less cumbersome, it believes that sufficient safeguards are necessary to ensure that foreign nursing school graduates are educationally qualified to apply for a registered nurse license in Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing the provision requiring the Board of Nursing to adopt rules requiring the applicant to arrange for the applicant's school to send the Board of Nursing a completed "Breakdown of Educational Programs for International Nursing Programs" form along with certified school transcripts;
- (2) Clarifying the requirements for foreign nursing school graduates applying for a license to practice as a registered nurse by examination to apply for licensure through a credentials evaluation service or a certification program;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2009; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 811, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 811,



H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,

David Y. Ige

DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HB 811 HD2</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">HTH, CPN</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">03-18-09</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
TOTAL	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">5</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">0</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">0</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">1</div>
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; margin-left: 50px;">J2</div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Original File with Committee Report</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes