



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
February 10, 2010, 2:00 p.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

HB 2205 HD1 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2205 HD1 to require continuing education credits for registered nurse (RN) licensure renewal.

At this time, continuing education credits are not required for RN licensure renewal in the State of Hawai'i. This bill proposes a 15 hour requirement of continuing education for each 2-year licensure period renewal.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa promotes life long learning, especially in the field of healthcare, where new research, technologies, and evidence based practice can increase the quality of care provided to the community. We support this bill with the shared goal to promote patient safety and support the valuable role nurses contribute in our health care system.

There is a national call for a more highly educated nursing workforce as recognized by the Josiah Macy Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the national voice for America's baccalaureate- and higher-degree nursing education programs. In a recent joint publication on lifelong learning by the AACN and Association of American Medical Colleges, a shared vision is articulated for a "continuum of health professional education from admission into a health professional program to retirement that values, exemplifies, and assesses lifelong skills ..."¹. The report encourages an understanding of and support for change and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve this vision noting four key areas for

¹ AAMC/AACN. 2009. Lifelong Learning in Medicine and Nursing.
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/pdf/MacyReport.pdf>.

analysis and recommendation: continuing education methods; interprofessional education; lifelong learning; and workplace learning.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene support a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of Hawai'i and is willing to work with the legislature, Hawai'i State Board of Nursing, and community to assist with this measure including further discussion on the matter and offering educational opportunities to support Hawai'i's RNs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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

Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Chair
Rep. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

February 10, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

In Strong Support of HB 2205, HD1, Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, the Chief Nurse Executive for The Queen's Medical Center. I am testifying in strong support of HB 2205, HD1, which requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

Lifelong learning is essential for nurses to maintain and increase competence in nursing practice. The increasingly complex healthcare needs of Hawaii's culturally diverse and aging population underscores the need for nurses to regularly update their knowledge of physical, social, biological and behavioral sciences related to nursing practice.

Hawaii is one of only 18 states that do not require continuing education credits in order for nurses to renew their license. Recognizing the importance of continuing education to professional competence and delivery of high quality patient care, many states require healthcare professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists and social workers to obtain continuing education credits as a condition of license renewal. A wide variety of methods for obtaining CE credits are available to nurses through seminars, classes, conferences and online activities.

Patient safety is dependent on well prepared and educated nurses. Passage of this bill will ensure that all nurses regularly participate in continuing education to expand their professional nursing knowledge. Your favorable review of HB 2205, HD1 is appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 4:03 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: mj@tiffe.org
Subject: Testimony for HB2205 on 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for CPC 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM HB2205

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary J. Amundson
Organization: Individual
Address: 1380 St. Louis Dr. Honolulu, HI 96816
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

This is good health care reform and will benefit patients tremendously. This could bring nurses to Hawaii to relieve our shortage. Passage will align our State Nurse Practice Act with the national standard.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2010
2:00 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2205, H.D. 1, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR NURSES.**

**TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Kathy Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong opposition to House Bill No. 2205, H.D. 1, Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses.

This bill requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

The Board is not in support of House Bill No 2205, H.D. 1, for the following reasons:

- Nursing careers take widely divergent paths, varying by professional role, setting, clients, disease conditions and therapeutic modalities as well as level of health care delivery;
- There is the inherent evolution of practice from the new graduate-entry-generalist level to the experienced-focused practice level of competence;
- The need and the costs involved in implementing an effective mandatory continuing education program for twenty-four thousand nurses licensed in the State need to be assessed;
- Increased fees to the nurses and possible increased costs to consumers as a result of the cost of the continuing education requirements need to be assessed

to determine whether the benefits to the nurses, the employers, and the public outweigh the costs;

- An adequate phase-in period proposed to allow educational institutions, employers, and professionals sufficient time to meet the mandatory continuing education requirements needs to be determined; and
- The National Council of State Boards of Nursing explored the characteristics of registered and licensed practical/vocational nursing from entry through five years of practice. It will report its finding and solution to the problem in 2011.

For the reasons stated above, the Board opposes this bill moving forward as is and that minimally a study be done first to:

- Evaluate whether there is a demonstrated need for mandatory continuing education and documented evidence that problems related to unacceptable professional performance exist because of actual performance deficiencies, rather than inadequacies in supervision, facilities, financial resources, or equipment;
- Identify the resources required to ensure proper delivery, monitoring, and compliance of the program (funds for additional program operation including qualified staff, space, materials, and equipment. Include the cost impact on the professional, the employer, and the educational institution must also be identified and weighed);
- Identify the availability of the needed resources to establish a continuing education program for 24,000 nurses licensed in Hawaii;
- Perform a comprehensive examination of the characteristics of post-entry nursing practice and how the characteristics change over time;

- Identify the chronologic evolution of nursing practice;
- Evaluate how factors specific to the individual nurse (e.g., age, gender, type of basic nursing educational program, propensity for self-study, specialty area, work setting, etc.) influence the evolution of practice;
- Identify the determinants of safe post-entry practice. Determine what are the characteristics of safe versus unsafe practice;
- Identify a professional program suitable for analyzing the training and educational needs of nurses and for evaluating competence on the basis of current practice criteria; and
- Identify what the fiscal impact will be on the State, the public, the nurse, the employer, and the educational system of establishing and maintaining a mandatory continuing education system.

Further, if such a study is supported by the Committee then the Board recommends that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing establish a joint advisory committee of stakeholders to study this important issue. The Board believes composition of the advisory committee could include a representative from the Board of Nursing, each of the Hawaii schools of nursing, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and the following associations:

- Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses
- Hawaii Nurses Association
- Philippine Nurses Association
- Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Hawaii Association of Nurse Executives
- Healthcare Association of Hawaii
- Hawaii Long Term Care Association

- Department of Health
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs
- Office of the Legislative Auditor

For these reasons, the Board of Nursing opposes House Bill No. 2205, H.D. 1, and strongly believes that prior to the implementation of mandatory continuing education for nurses, an assessment be done whether such a program is necessary and feasible. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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**The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce**

**Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 10, 2010**

**H.B. 2205, H.D. 1 (HSCR 108-10) -
RELATING TO CONTINUING
EDUCATION FOR NURSES**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO, opposes H.B. 2205, H.D. 1 (HSCR 108-10) - Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses.

Although we understand the intent of this bill, requiring all registered professional nurses to acquire a minimum of fifteen (15) continuing education units each two-year period to enable them to renew their licenses will be a hardship, especially for our nurses employed on the neighbor islands. The majority of our nurses employed in the public sector provide direct patient care. They work various rotating shifts and schedules, which would make it difficult for most of them to attend continuing education classes during the day. Additionally, very few classes are offered on the neighbor islands, which would necessitate travel to Oahu with additional travel costs.

In reality, requiring nurses to acquire continuing education credits does not assure increased nurse competency.

As such, we are unable to support H.B. 2205, H.D. 1 (HSCR 108-10) at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

TO:

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Chair

Rep. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2010

TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol

FROM: Dr. Linda Beechinor,
Registered Nurse (RN)
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP),
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with Prescriptive Authority
(APRN-Rx),
Faculty, Graduate Nursing Programs, several U.S. Universities,
Primary Care Provider (PCP) at a community health center - Oahu

Re: HB 2205, HD1 (HSCR108-10) Status
Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to this bill.

This bill is based on a number of assumptions that need to be examined prior to the enactment of requirements for continuing education for nurses in Hawaii. Among those assumptions are that

- competency and continuing education are linked;
- continuing education and consumer safety are linked;
- monitoring of continuing education requirements is cost-neutral; and,
- similar requirements in other states are effective in protecting consumers.

The usefulness of this legislation based on these assumptions needs to be explored by experts in our community. A better-informed bill could be introduced if these assumptions are found to be correct.

Please call on me for further information at anytime.

Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN-Rx
500 Lunalilo Home Rd. # 27-E
Honolulu Hawaii USA 96825

phone: (808) 779-3001 fax (808) 395-7428
e-mail <L.Beechinor@hawaiiantel.net>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 8:48 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: matt.bishop5@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2205 on 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for CPC 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM HB2205

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Matthew Bishop
Organization: Individual
Address: 94-418 Kapuahi St. # 17 Mililani, HI
Phone: 808-625-9698
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

I am writing to Oppose HB2205. This is just bad legislation. Nursing CE is so broad and covers so many areas of nursing that just coming up with a general continuing education requirement is useless. We need the Nursing Center in Hawaii to do a study to determine the best way for this to be accomplished.

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
Conference room 325
2:00 PM

In OPPOSITION to HOUSE BILL NO. 2205, HD1
RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES

TO: THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES , CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Amy Stone Murai and I testify in opposition to HB 2205, HD 1. I have been a registered nurse for 35 years, an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) for 33 years, and have been licensed in the State of Hawaii since 1989. I am a member of the Board of Nursing (Board), but provide this testimony as an individual.

The stated purpose of this bill is to ensure "the highest level of competency of nurses practicing in the state" by including a continuing education component to nurse licensure requirements. The bill refers to other licensed professionals having similar requirements, but neglects to recognize that the relationship of continuing education as currently presented and its contribution to competence is a topic of much discussion by a variety medical and nursing professional societies, including the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and national nursing specialty certifying agencies. I am concerned that the use of the broad term "continuing education" lacks specificity and proven effectiveness, and would give the public a false assurance of competency. It would also place an additional burden on already short-staffed sections of DCCA to monitor CE hours with the biennial renewal of thousands of nursing licenses.

The citizens of Hawaii should receive care from competent nurses, but I don't feel that the requirements proposed in this bill will ensure the desired outcome and ask the committee not to support its passing. I do support further examination of the issue and suggest that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing would be the appropriate body to undertake such a study.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2205, HD 1, relating to the continuing education for nurses. I thank the committee for their consideration and regret that I am not able to be there in person to respond to any questions.

Amy Stone Murai, RN, MS, APRN, WHNP-BC

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 8:47 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: geesey@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2205 on 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for CPC 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM HB2205

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Yvonne Geesey
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 4314 Honolulu, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 2/9/2010

Comments:

I still have some concerns with this bill, first it does not specify that this 15 hours of continuing education will not be in addition to APRN-rx's required 30 hours of pharmacology continuing education and second, that the type of continuing education is not clear.

Mahalo,
Yvonne Geesey
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Hawai'i State Representative