

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI

PRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 8:30 a.m.

# **TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 654, RELATING TO NURSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. The Division appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 654, Relating to Nursing, that would require the Hawaii State Board of Nursing ("Board") and the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division ("PVL"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"), to provide nurse license contact information to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("Center") so that the Center may use this information to contact the nurse licensee to obtain workforce data to be used to determine the current and future trends of the nursing workforce. This bill would also

KEALI`I S. LOPEZ

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI DEPUTY DIRECTOR Testimony on House Bill No. 654 Wednesday, February 13, 2013 Page 2

require that nurse licensees complete the Center's workforce survey in order to renew their licenses, making this a renewal requirement.

The Board will be submitting its own testimony so I will be addressing the impacts that the bill may have on PVL.

SECTION 2, on pages 3-4, lines 11-22 and lines 1-15 respectively:

- This measure requires PVL to provide the Center with "nursing-related data."
  We strongly believe that this term is too broad and should be more narrowly defined, as it is will create confusion on what kind of information must be provided.
- There appears to be no necessity for a memorandum of understanding between PVL and the Center, as the various tasks that must be performed are clearly listed in the bill.
- The measure requires PVL to provide email addresses. Currently, we do not require nurses, or any other professional or vocational licensee, to provide an email address as part of the licensing requirements; therefore, email addresses are not maintained in the PVL database.
- When a licensee renews a license via our online renewal process, the email address is used to "confirm" payment of the renewal fees, and for no other purpose. This purpose is disclosed to the licensee; therefore, licensees currently have an expectation of privacy regarding their email address.
- If the Center wants access to contact information from PVL, the statute should clearly specify the type of information, as HRS section 92F-12(b)(2)

requires agencies to disclose government records which, pursuant to federal or state law, are <u>expressly authorized to be disclosed to the person</u> <u>requesting access.</u> This would allow PVL clear authority to disclose the information.

- It should be clarified that any information will be provided "upon request", so that the bill is not misinterpreted to mandate the reporting of unsolicited information.
- The measure requires PVL to perform research, analysis, and report functions which it is not equipped to provide. Our primary duty is to protect the public by determining if applicants are qualified for licensure. PVL does not have the manpower or resources to comply with this mandate, nor do we believe that it is within our realm of responsibility.

SECTION 3, on page 5, lines 11 - 14:

 We oppose the requirement that completion of the survey is necessary for renewal of the license, as it does not enhance the licensee's competency or quality of care. Furthermore, the possibility of nurses failing or refusing to complete the workforce survey would result in the non-renewal of the license. This would gravely impact the nursing workforce and possibly create a nursing shortage in this State.

PVL, DCCA, and the Board are aware of the Center's "mission" to collect the workforce data for nurses and have been working on solutions to provide the Center with as much information as possible in compliance with the Hawaii Revised Statutes Testimony on House Bill No. 654 Wednesday, February 13, 2013 Page 4

Chapter 92F, the Uniform Information Practices Act. We are attempting to modify our renewal and initial license nurse applications to include questions for the applicant/licensee asking permission to release their information to the Center. We have also agreed to include the Center's workforce survey at the beginning and the end of the online renewal and to also include a link to the Center's survey on the Board's web page.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on House Bill No. 654, as it is currently written.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 11, 2013 10:12 PM
То:	HLTtestimony
Cc:	wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB654 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM

## HB654

Submitted on: 2/11/2013 Testimony for HLT on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman APRN- Rx BC FAANP	Hawai`i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)	Support	No

Comments: Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health, on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN) thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG support of this bill, HB 654, to amend Chapter 457-9, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to require the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("Center for Nursing") survey for biennial nurse license renewal. This would enable the Center for Nursing to have 100% of the Hawai'i nurse licensee population participate. The reason for this request is based on a series of problems with participation rates. In 2011, only 23.2% or 4,925 nurses completed the online survey. A return rate under 30%, as you know, does not represent the nursing population and therefore data can be generalized. This problem made it necessary for the Center to spend about \$25,000 sending out a paper survey which added another 2,443 nurse participants or an additional 11.5% to secure the minimal data requirement (34.7%) for analysis of workforce reporting. A higher rate of return on workforce surveys is critical to accurate data analysis and projections. Accurate workforce data has never been more critical as health care reform is underway at both the state and national levels. This request is not meant to be punitive in anyway. This is not a long survey and takes less than ten minutes to complete. We are not suggesting licensure be denied if the survey is not completed. However we are trying to ensure the nursing workforce is accurately reported. Further, Hawai'i lacks a central source of communication through which all nurses licensed in the State can contribute to and receive information on practice/regulatory changes, state/federal initiatives and nursing research to assure quality nursing care. Second, the DCCA has not consistently participated in national workforce data surveys or responded to requests in a timely manner. As the Nation moves forward with health care reform, the lack of participation by the state of Hawai'i will have consequences for policy formation and resource allocation. Nurses need to contribute to and be apprised of changes before they can embrace them; whether they are amendments to their nurse practice laws; effects of national/state initiatives on nursing such as the Affordable Care Act; establishment of a continuing education program for continuing competency and lifelong learning; or other issues. Before change can occur, nurses must be informed of changes to their laws, current research data and government directives in a timely, cost-effective manner. This can be accomplished via email, webinars, other social media. Should the DCCA collaborate with the Center for Nursing as sister state agencies, we can obtain synergistic, cost-efficient results including but not limited to participation in and alignment with the national initiatives moving forward to address health care reform. Relief is needed from the current position of the Professional & Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs not to collaborate with the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to resolve this

problem. HAPN requests that the new language in section (b) of HB 654 be amended to clarify the responsibility of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs from that of the Center for Nursing by amending Section 2 (b) to read as follows: "b) The professional and vocational licensing division of the department of commerce and consumer affairs shall collaborate with the center for nursing to enable the center for nursing to obtain nursing-related data, including but not limited to workforce data of nurses licensed in the State. Workforce data may be obtained through online surveying or other cost- effective, efficient methods. A survey developed by the center for nursing and deemed necessary by the center for nursing shall be required as part of the license renewal requirements under subsection 457-9(a). Through a memorandum of understanding with the center for nursing, the professional and vocational licensing division shall : (1) Pprovide nurse licensee contact information, including but not limited to email addresses, to the center for nursing for purpos es of collecting and analyzing data; to enable the center for nursing to: (1) Collect and analyze data; (2) Prepare and disseminate written reports and recommendations regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce; (3) Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes; (4) Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses; and (5) Research, analyze, and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce, in accordance with section 304A-1406. For purposes of compliance with this section, the center for nursing shall abide by the requirements of chapter 92F." HAPN appreciates your continuing support of nursing and education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Wailua Brandman APRN-Rx BC FAANP HAPN Legislative Committee Chair

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Hawai'i State Center for Nursing

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health February 13, 2013, 8:30 AM by

Deborah B Gardner PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN Executive Director Hawaii State Center for Nursing

HB 654 RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, HB 654, with amendments.

The current language <u>requires</u> nurse licensees to complete the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("Center for Nursing") survey for biennial nurse license renewal. Ideally, this would have resulted in 100% participation<sup>1</sup>. However, the Center for Nursing met with the Hawaii State Board of Nursing (HBON)/Professional & Vocational Licensing Division (PVLD) at its meeting on February 7, 2013 to address the HBON/PVLD' concerns of possible pushbacks from nurse licensees who may prefer not to participate; the effect on their relicensure; and necessity to discipline nurses for noncompliance. In an effort to collaborate with the HBON/PVLD and remove any concern with nonparticipation, the Center has agreed that the survey should be <u>requested</u> rather than required for now as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This would encourage the approximately 24,000 nurse licensee to participate in the survey. This is based on a series of problems with participation rates in the past. In 2011, only 23.2% or 4,925 nurses completed the online survey. A return rate under 30% does not represent the nursing population and therefore data can be generalized. This problem made it necessary for the Center to spend about \$25,000 sending out a paper survey which added another 2,443 nurse participants or an additional 11.5% to secure the minimal data requirement (34.7%) for analysis of workforce reporting. A higher rate of return on workforce surveys is critical to accurate data analysis and projections. Accurate workforce data has never been more critical as health care reform is underway at both the state and national levels.

part of the license renewal process. The HBON/PVLD has agreed to write a joint statement with the Center for Nursing in support of the request to complete the workforce survey, noting the importance and benefits of participation by nursing professionals. The HBON/PVLD has also agreed to place the survey link before and after licensure renewal.

Further HB 654 addresses Hawai'i lack of a central source of communication through which all nurses licensed in the State can contribute to and receive information on practice/regulatory changes, state/federal initiatives and nursing research to assure quality nursing care. Hawaii has not consistently participated in national workforce data surveys or responded to requests in a timely manner. As the Nation moves forward with health care reform, the lack of participation by the state of Hawai'i will have consequences for policy formation and resource allocation.

Nurses need to contribute to and be apprised of changes before they can embrace them; whether they are amendments to their nurse practice laws; effects of national/state initiatives on nursing such as the Affordable Care Act; establishment of a continuing education program for continuing competency and lifelong learning; or other issues.

Before change can occur, nurses must be informed of changes to their laws, current research data and government directives in a timely, cost-effective manner. This can be accomplished via email, webinars, other social media.

Should the DCCA collaborate with the Center for Nursing as sister state agencies, we can obtain synergistic, cost-efficient results including but not limited to participation in and alignment with the national initiatives moving forward to address health care reform.

Relief is needed from the current position of the Professional & Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs not to collaborate with the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to resolve this problem.

The Center for Nursing requests that the new language in section (b) of HB 654 be amended to clarify the responsibility of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs from that of the Center for Nursing by amending Section 2 (b) to read as follows:

"b) The professional and vocational licensing division of the department of commerce and consumer affairs shall collaborate with the center for nursing to enable the center for nursing to obtain nursing-related data, including but not limited to workforce data of nurses licensed in the State. Workforce data may be obtained through online surveying or other cost-effective, efficient methods. A survey developed by the center for nursing and deemed necessary by the center for nursing shall be requested as part of the license renewal requirements under subsection 457-9(a). Through a memorandum of understanding with the center for nursing, the professional and vocational licensing division shall :

(1) provide nurse licensee contact information, including but not limited to email addresses, to enable the center for nursing to:

(1) Collect and analyze data;

(2) Prepare and disseminate written reports and recommendations regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce;

(3) Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes;

(4) Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses; and

(5) Research, analyze, and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce, in accordance with section 304A-1406.

For purposes of compliance with this section, the center for nursing shall abide by the requirements of chapter 92F."

The Center for Nursing appreciates your continuing support of nursing and education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health February 13, 2013, 8:30 AM by

Dale M. Allison, PhD, APRN-Rx, WHNP-BC, FNP, FAAN Chair of the Board of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing

#### HB 654 RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, HB 654, to amend Chapter 457-9, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to require the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("Center for Nursing") survey for biennial nurse license renewal. This would enable the Center for Nursing to have 100% of the Hawai'i nurse licensee population participate. The reason for this request is based on a series of problems with participation rates. In 2011, only 23.2% or 4,925 nurses completed the online survey. A return rate under 30%, as you know, does not represent the nursing population and therefore data can be generalized. This problem made it necessary for the Center to spend about \$25,000 sending out a paper survey which added another 2,443 nurse participants or an additional 11.5% to secure the minimal data requirement (34.7%) for analysis of workforce reporting. A higher rate of return on workforce surveys is critical to accurate data analysis and projections. Accurate workforce data has never been more critical as health care reform is underway at both the state and national levels. This request is not meant to be punitive in anyway. This is not a long survey and takes less than ten minutes to complete. We are not suggesting licensure be denied if the survey is not completed. However we are trying to ensure the nursing workforce is accurately reported.

Further, Hawai'i lacks a central source of communication through which all nurses licensed in the State can contribute to and receive information on practice/regulatory changes, state/federal initiatives and nursing research to assure quality nursing care. Second, the DCCA has not consistently participated in national workforce data surveys or responded to requests in a timely manner. As the Nation moves forward with health care reform, the lack of participation by the state of Hawai'i will have consequences for policy formation and resource allocation.

Nurses need to contribute to and be apprised of changes before they can embrace them; whether they are amendments to their nurse practice laws; effects of national/state initiatives on nursing such as the Affordable Care Act; establishment of a continuing education program for continuing competency and lifelong learning; or other issues.

Before change can occur, nurses must be informed of changes to their laws, current research data and government directives in a timely, cost-effective manner. This can be accomplished via email, webinars, other social media.

Should the DCCA collaborate with the Center for Nursing as sister state agencies, we can obtain synergistic, cost-efficient results including but not limited to participation in and alignment with the national initiatives moving forward to address health care reform.

Relief is needed from the current position of the Professional & Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs not to collaborate with the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to resolve this problem.

I stand in support of the new language in section (b) of HB 654 be amended to clarify the responsibility of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs from that of the Center for Nursing by amending Section 2 (b) to read as follows:

"b) The professional and vocational licensing division of the department of commerce and consumer affairs shall collaborate with the center for nursing to enable the center for nursing to obtain nursing-related data, including but not limited to workforce data of nurses licensed in the State. Workforce data may be obtained through online surveying or other cost-effective, efficient methods. A survey developed by the center for nursing and deemed necessary by the center for nursing shall be required as part of the license renewal requirements under subsection 457-9(a). Through a memorandum of understanding with the center for nursing, the professional and vocational licensing division shall ÷

Provide nurse licensee contact information, including but not limited to email addresses, to the center for nursing.

(1) Collect and analyze data;

(2) Prepare and disseminate written reports and recommendations regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce;

(3) Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes;

(4) Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses; and

(5) Research, analyze, and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce, in accordance with section 304A-1406.

For purposes of compliance with this section, the center for nursing shall abide by the requirements of chapter 92F."

Mahalo nui loa for continuing support of nursing and education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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То:	HLTtestimony
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### <u>HB654</u>

Submitted on: 2/11/2013 Testimony for HLT on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Kathy Yokouchi	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: In very, very strong support!!!

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#### <u>HB654</u>

Submitted on: 2/11/2013 Testimony for HLT on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Brendalee Ana	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: In strong support of this bill to ensure timely data collection from 24,000 nurses State wide. This measure is also important as a tool to communicate important information related to nursing research, healthcare reform and health policy. Thank you for this great opportunity to testify.

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Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 830 AM by

Dr. Lenora Lorenzo, APRN

#### HB 654 RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill, HB 654, to amend Chapter 457-9, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to require the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("Center for Nursing") survey for biennial nurse license renewal.

This would enable the Center for Nursing to have 100% of the Hawai'i nurse licensee population participate. The reason for this request is based on a series of problems with participation rates, resulting in return rate in 2011 of only 23.2% or 4,925 nurses completed the online survey. This low a return rate of under 30%, is not representative of the nursing population and thus the data is not generalized. Therefore the Center spent about \$25,000 sending out a paper survey to add an additional 11.5% to secure the minimal data requirement (34.7%) for analysis of workforce reporting. A higher rate of return on workforce surveys is critical to accurate data analysis and projections. Accurate workforce data has never been more critical as health care reform is underway at both the state and national levels. This request is not meant to be punitive in anyway. This is not a long survey and takes less than ten minutes to complete. We are not suggesting licensure be denied if the survey is not completed. However we are trying to ensure the nursing workforce is accurately reported.

Further, Hawai'i lacks a central source of communication through which all nurses licensed in the State can contribute to and receive information on practice/regulatory changes, state/federal initiatives and nursing research to assure quality nursing care. Second, the DCCA has not consistently participated in national workforce data surveys or responded to requests in a timely manner. As the Nation moves forward with health care reform, the lack of participation by the state of Hawai'i will have consequences for policy formation and resource allocation.

Nurses need to contribute to and be apprised of changes before they can embrace them; whether they are amendments to their nurse practice laws; effects of national/state initiatives on nursing such as the Affordable Care Act; establishment of a continuing education program for continuing competency and lifelong learning; or other issues. Before change can occur, nurses must be informed of changes to their laws, current research data and government directives in a timely, cost-effective manner. This can be accomplished via email, webinars, other social media. Should the DCCA collaborate with the Center for Nursing as sister state agencies, we can obtain synergistic, cost-efficient results including but not limited to participation in and alignment with the national initiatives moving forward to address health care reform.

Relief is needed from the current position of the Professional & Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs not to collaborate with the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to resolve this problem.

We request that the new language in section (b) of HB 654 be amended to clarify the responsibility of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs from that of the Center for Nursing by amending Section 2 (b) to read as follows:

"b) The professional and vocational licensing division of the department of commerce and consumer affairs shall collaborate with the center for nursing to enable the center for nursing to obtain nursing-related data, including but not limited to workforce data of nurses licensed in the State. Workforce data may be obtained through online surveying or other cost-effective, efficient methods. A survey developed by the center for nursing and deemed necessary by the center for nursing shall be required as part of the license renewal requirements under subsection 457-9(a). Through a memorandum of understanding with the center for nursing, the professional and vocational licensing division shall:

(1)Pprovide nurse licensee contact information, including but not limited to email addresses, to the center for nursing for purposes of collecting and analyzingdata; to enable the center for nursing to:

(1) Collect and analyze data;

(2)Prepare and disseminate written reports and recommendations regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce;

(3)Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes;

(4)Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses; and

(5)Research, analyze, and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce, in accordance with section 304A-1406.

For purposes of compliance with this section, the center for nursing shall abide by the requirements of chapter 92F."

I appreciate your continuing support of nursing and education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 11, 2013 8:54 PM
То:	HLTtestimony
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#### <u>HB654</u>

Submitted on: 2/11/2013 Testimony for HLT on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Matt Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure as it has been amended between the Hawaii state Center for Nursing and the Board of Nursing. I support the center's efforts to work with the BON and develop ways to collaborate in order for both organizations to better communicate all nurses in the state of Hawaii. Legislation efforts need to be vetted between both organizations in order to be the best effort legislation prior to it being presented to the committees. This legislation will move Hawaii in the right direction and give state organizations a better picture of nursing needs throughout the islands.

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Cc:	tjoslyn53@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB654 on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM

### HB654

Submitted on: 2/12/2013 Testimony for HLT on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Thomas H Joslyn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear House Chairman and members. I am strongly opposed to HB 654, as I also opposed the corresponding SB 490. The wording in this bill, that I am opposed to is: "As part of the license renewal process, each applicant shall be required to complete a survey developed by the center for nursing as deemed necessary by the center for nursing pursuant to subsection 304A-I407 (b)." No other state in the US makes filling out a survey a requirement for licensing! I've checked, as have others! This wording should be removed! I understand that the information that the Center for Nursing would like is valuable and useful and that sharing information with & from the Hawaii Board of Nursing and other is advantageous for the reasons stated in this bill. However, to make this a requirement for licensing is plain wrong! Many states present a survey at the time of licensing, but they do not make this a requirement, as this wording appears to do. My American Association of Nurse Anesthetist (AANA), asks its member to fill out a survey every year our fees, come due and our re-certification is required. They have 96% participation by our members. I believe that the Nurses of Hawaii would be just as diligent if asked to fill out a survey. This information would be available to the Center for Nursing and the BON. But it is a voluntary survey, NOT TIED TO LICENSING! In addition, the Center for Nursing has sole discretion as to what questions they wish to ask. There is no over sight as to the questions being asked. Some of this information may be very private and privileged information to the Nurse. I ask that you NOT move this bill forward for the reasons stated. It's amazing to me that we have teachers, whom are education our children, and they are not required to have random drug screening for employment and licensing; but this bill (as written or proposed) REQUIRES a nurse to complete a survey or his or her license will not be renewed. This is Crazy! Please remove this language. Please, do not move this bill forward as written. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony. Respectfully submitted. Thomas Joslyn RN, APRN, CRNA, MS

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#### <u>HB654</u>

Submitted on: 2/12/2013 Testimony for HLT on Feb 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! This bill will improve collaboration between State agencies and mandate survey of nurses to improve our profession. Please support the bill. Mahalo!

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### PRESENTATION OF THE BOARD OF NURSING

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 8:30 a.m.

#### **TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 654, RELATING TO NURSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Cecilia Mukai, Vice Chair of the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 654, Relating to Nursing, that would require the Hawaii State Board of Nursing and the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to provide nurse license contact information to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("Center") so that the Center may use this information to contact the nurse licensee to obtain workforce data to be used to determine the current and future trends of the nursing workforce. This bill would also require that a nurse licensee complete the Center's workforce survey in order to renew their license, making this a renewal requirement.

The Board supports this bill with the following amendments:

 Section 1, page 2, line 19, replace the word "require" with "request". The Board opposes requiring the completion of a survey in order to renew a nursing license due to the possible implications should a nurse fail or refuse to complete the survey. According to the National Council of State Boards of Testimony on House Bill No. 654 Wednesday February 13, 2013 Page 2

Nursing, no other state requires the completion of a survey in order to renew a nurse license.

 Section 3, page 5, lines 11 through 14, the Board recommends this language be deleted as we oppose requiring the completion of a survey to renew a license. The Board has agreed to include the link for the Center's workforce survey before and after the online renewal process. The Board is also collaborating with the Center to provide the link to the survey on the Board's webpage with a joint statement from the Board and the Center encouraging nurse licensees to complete the survey.

Furthermore, the Board also concurs with the testimony of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 654.