



Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate  
Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 3:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference  
by  
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### Support for GM 535

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 535. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing supports the nomination of Jeanette Ayers-Kawakami to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Dr. Ayers-Kawakami serves as the director of the University of Hilo School of Nursing. In this role, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing has had the pleasure of engaging with her in topics including faculty development, clinical education needs, response to COVID, and researching nursing education capacity. Dr. Ayers-Kawakami represents the only baccalaureate and doctoral program on a neighbor island, thus providing key insight to the challenges of delivering nursing education at the registered nurse and advanced practice levels. In addition, her strong community relationships have provided insight to nursing transition to practice needs and opportunities for nursing workforce development in rural areas.

Dr. Ayers-Kawakami provides unique and needed insight at this time, in which our ability to stabilize the nursing workforce relies primarily on nursing education capacity. Without expanding nursing education, we will continue falling short in developing the number of nurses needed in our state. Further, it is most ideal to train nurses in the regions in which they are needed, and therefore rural education programs have a critical role in preparing future rural nurses.

Please accept this testimony in strong support of Jeanette Ayers-Kawakami. Her contributions are invaluable and the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing thanks the Committee for considering her nomination to our advisory board.

*The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.*