



**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 3:20 P.M.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference
By
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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of GM 661

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 2003 "to address nursing workforce issues" (Act 198). The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is established in laws under Chapter 304A, The University of Hawai'i System, and under Chapter 457, The Nurse Practice Act. The Center's mission is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession. Our vision is a thriving Hawai'i nursing workforce.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing commends the Legislature in considering this nomination of Jovana Apo for the position of Advisory Board member of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. The HSCN Advisory Board must have four (4) members who have background or experience in health care delivery, finance, workforce, representation of hospitals and acute care hospitals of the State, and community agencies or consumer groups. Nurse license is NOT required for Group 2. Related to this nomination, Jovana Apo is a current staff nurse engaged as a Patient Care Coordinator.

Jovana Apo brings a unique viewpoint as an early-mid career nurse. Her insights will improve our ability to respond to the needs of our state's nursing workforce with the goal of achieving a thriving workforce in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession.