

GM 346

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Education

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Senator Sakamoto and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with information about me as you consider my re-appointment to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board for a second term.

As a member of the Center for Nursing's first Advisory Board, it has been an honor to have had a part in developing strategies to enhance the nursing profession and increase the nursing workforce by addressing issues and concerns facing the profession. The work of the Center has just begun – initial workforce data has been collected, analyzed, and results published. Additional data related to the workforce, workplace needs, and educational capacity remains to be collected and analyzed. The Center's work related to research of best practices and quality outcomes is just starting to be actualized.

It is widely known that as the baby boomers come of age the health care needs of that population will increase. The first baby boomer reached retirement age on January 1st of this year. Research and technology has contributed by extending the life span of the population. More and more newborns are being "saved." The entire health care continuum is expanding, increasing the need for more health care professionals, including nurses.

A strategic plan to ensure an adequate supply of healthcare workers, particularly registered nurses, is imperative to the continued health of Hawai'i's residents now and into the future. One of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board's responsibilities is to develop such a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses. The data being collected, the work of the collaboratives and research will assist Board members in developing a plan.

I look forward to the challenges ahead. I am committed to advancing the nursing profession so that those in need of nursing services are assured that the services will be provided. I am deeply honored to have been able to work on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board the past four years and hope to be able to continue that work for the next four years. I humbly ask for your support of my nomination and re-appointment to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. Mahalo.