



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
Presented by

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2134 HD2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134 HD2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. We support the intent of this bill which amends Act 198 by extending the sunset date by one year for the deposit and disbursement of the center for nursing special fund. However, a five year extension to 2014 is critical to allow the continuation of projects currently underway and time to explore best practices for funding of Centers for Nursing.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is privileged to provide a home for this successful and vital Center established by the 2003 Legislature. Since becoming operational in May 2005, the Center for Nursing efforts have benefited state policy makers, nurses and healthcare. The Center has contributed significantly by:

- Providing a venue to focus on the nursing workforce; supporting the executive and legislative branches of state government to inform policy development
- Convening nurses from all sectors to come together to improve quality of care and health outcomes for Hawai'i residents
- Conducting rigorous surveys whose results inform policy development and resource allocation regarding the state nursing education and workforce capacity
- Establishing innovative partnerships to improve recruitment and retention of nurses in the long term care setting
- Developing and conducting the first prospective 5-year study to document new nurse employment and career patterns.

Specifically, the Center's annual survey of state educational capacity is critical to the UH Mānoa and statewide nursing consortium efforts. Data driven state level evidence on

enrollments, graduations, programs and faculty demographics ensure that efforts to increase the pipeline of Hawai'i's nursing workforce and nursing faculty reflect state need.

It is imperative that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts on these complex issues. Due to their efforts, Hawai'i has a data and evidence driven description of the nursing workforce. As we identify trends and impacts, we are generating policy and funding efforts targeted to our state need. Extension of the sunset clause is required to assure the Center can complete its work in establishing a portrait of the Hawai'i nursing workforce, our ability to prepare for state need, and successful efforts to sustain the nursing workforce here.

As authorized in the 2003 legislation, funds to operate the Center are generated by fees collected upon nurses' biannual licensure renewal. The State Treasury provided funds to the University by creating the Center for Nursing Special Fund. We note that there is discussion in the 2008 Legislature regarding the support for the existing fee assessment. A survey of 10 other state centers indicates that several approaches are used to fund such Centers. Three states have a surcharge; one allows nurses to elect the fee at license renewal; and one transfers monies from license fees. Three are funded via recurring state appropriations; one by private foundation; and one by hospitals.

In summary, the University of Hawai'i Mānoa recommends amending HB 2134 HD 2 by providing for a sunset extension to 2014 and conducting a review of best practices for funding of Centers for Nursing. We believe this approach allows the Center to continue its work in progress as noted above.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am pleased to answer any questions.

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 27, 2008
1:30 pm Conference Room 308

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2134 H.D. #2, RELATING TO THE
CENTER FOR NURSING**

TO THE CHAIR OSHIRO AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Patricia Lange-Otsuka and I am the Interim Dean of the School of Nursing at Hawaii Pacific University. I appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill No. 2134 H.D. #2.

The purpose of this bill is to extend the sunset clause for the present funding for the Hawaii State Center for Nursing (HSCN) from 2009 to 2010. However I would support a longer extension of the clause until 2014 to allow the adequate time to explore and seek other means of funding their work.

I support House Bill No. 2134 because:

- The data and evidence collected by the HSCN is invaluable in making workforce, policy and resource decisions. This information is well worth the costs bore by the nurses in this state to support the HSCN. The fee is funds well spent related to the outputs achieved by the HSCN. These items include an annual projection of the supply and demand for nurses, fact sheets on the nursing shortage, an annual survey and report on the nursing education capacity within Hawaii, and a five year longitudinal study of new graduate retention in the Hawaii workforce.

- The HSCN is currently affiliated with 33 other state centers for nursing that are doing vital work on workforce development, nurse retention, supporting nursing education and access to education in nursing. The ability to share and collaborate for good data and outcomes is essential not only to our community but the greater good.
- It provides a non-partisan entity that brings together different and varying stakeholders in a comprehensive way to address and develop plans of action to the issues of patient safety, quality of care and access to nursing education. HSCN has organized and hosted two summits on Education and Practice, the most recent in December 2007.
- HSCN took the lead in the development and successful grant writing for a collaborative partnership between HSCN, HMSA, four local schools of nursing and four long term care agencies to enhance the student nurses experiences in long term care; work to develop a career trajectory for the nursing staff; facilitate continuing education for the long term care staff; and to foster leadership/career development to sustain this expanding workforce.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2134 H.D.#2 .

Electronic signature of Patricia A. Lange-Otsuka.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Conference Room 308
February 27, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. (Agenda #4)

Testimony in support of HB 2134 HD 2.

I am Rich Meiers, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2134 HD 2, which extends the sunset provision of the funding mechanism for the Center for Nursing.

When the shortage of nurses was first identified as a serious problem, the information needed to address the problem was incomplete, scattered, and sometimes conflicting. As a result, decisions to increase the supply of nurses could not be made with much confidence. So the Legislature passed Act 198, SLH 2003, to create the Center for Nursing, which has been tasked with the following functions:

- (1) Collect and analyze data, and make recommendations regarding the current status and trends of the nursing workforce;
- (2) Conduct research in best practices and quality outcomes;
- (3) Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses; and
- (4) Research, analyze, and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce.

Since its inception, the Center for Nursing has engaged in a variety of research that provides a greater understanding of the nursing workforce, including: (1) Nurse turnover and retention; (2) Nurse employer demand; (3) A longitudinal study of new graduates; (4) A forecast of Hawaii's nursing workforce until 2020; and (5) Recruitment and retention of nurses in the long term care sector. In addition, the Center for Nursing has issued reports on nurse education programs in Hawaii, nurse education and practice, and the state of the nursing workforce.

The Center for Nursing has demonstrated its value in gathering and analyzing data that is essential to creating sustainable solutions that are specific to Hawaii's nursing workforce shortage. Previously, we were reliant upon national data and trends that did not correlate well with Hawaii's conditions.

The sunset provision for the funding mechanism for the Center for Nursing was included in Act 198, SLH 2003, to ensure that a proactive effort would have to be made to continue the activities of the Center for Nursing. The Center for Nursing has clearly proven its value.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association strongly supports HB 2134 HD 2.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Deliver to: Room 306, 2 copies

In Support of HB 2134 HD2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer at The Queen's Medical Center. The Queen's Medical Center supports House Bill 2134 HD2, which amends Act 198 to extend the sunset date of the deposit and disbursement of certain nursing fees into the Compliance Resolution Fund to the credit of the Center for Nursing Special Fund.

The Queen's Medical Center is the largest private tertiary care hospital in the State of Hawaii. We offer specialized care in the areas of cardiology, neuroscience, orthopedics, behavioral health, oncology, women's health, emergency services and trauma. A significant and essential asset of our patient care team is our registered nurses who enable us to provide high quality patient care to the citizens of Hawaii.

New graduate nurses are a significant resource for Queen's to fill our positions. Last year we hired 92 new graduate nurses. With the anticipation that the nursing shortage will continue, it is essential that our local schools produce more nursing graduates. Our needs of the Medical Center extend to both the baccalaureate and masters graduates in filling vacancies and developing our nursing workforce.

The 2003 Legislature established the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to conduct research and implement a plan to recruit and retain nurses. Over the past several years, the Center has been successful in laying the foundation for this work thru a collaborative effort with community and industry leaders in nursing. Funding must be continued to support these efforts in order to address the current challenges with the nursing workforce. Extension of the sunset clause in Act 198 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

We respectfully request your support for the passage of House Bill 2134 HD2.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cindy Kamikawa, RN, MS, CNAA
Vice President, Nursing, and Chief Nursing Officer
The Queen's Medical Center

**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

**Lois Magnussen, EdD, APRN
Chair, Hawaii Statewide Nursing Consortium**

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I strongly support the intent of this bill which would extend the sunset clause from 2009 to 2010. However, a five year extension to 2014 is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center as well as the time to explore additional methods of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

The 2003 Legislature established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and placed it at School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Since becoming operational in April, 2005, the work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare community. The four legislative mandates are listed below along with initiatives that Center has undertaken to meet each mandate:

Collect and analyze data regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce

- Conduct annual surveys of 100% of Hawai'i nursing programs to determine data and trends in educational capacity
- Conducted a survey in collaboration with the Board of Nursing on supply and characteristics of Hawai'i registered nurses
- Survey being conducted of licensed professional nurses (LPNs) to determine supply and characteristics
- A fact sheet provided annually on the nursing workforce to inform policy makers and stakeholders
- Nursing Workforce Summit held to inform strategic planning

Conduct research on best practice and quality outcomes

- Hawaii Partners in Nursing: Recruitment and Retention in Long Term Care funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (\$275,000) and matching

funds of \$125,000. (HMSA Foundation, \$105,000; Hale Makua, \$5,000; Queen Emma Nursing Institute, \$5,000; and the Center for Nursing, \$10,000)

- Small grants provided to support research and program development

Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses

- Leadership Development Program implemented; 102 registered nurses have participated from acute care facilities throughout the state
- Strategic plan developed to integrate education and practice
- New graduate internship/preceptor model being developed with community partners to increase new graduate RN employment opportunities and retention

Research, analyze and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce

- Conducted a survey of 100% of Hawai'i nurses to focus on reasons for turnover
- Implemented a five year longitudinal survey of new graduate RNs
- Report submitted to the Legislature in response to SCR 76, on nurse staffing including a comprehensive review of the literature: *Nurse Staffing and Patient Outcomes: Examining the Evidence in Acute Care and Nursing Homes*

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

Dana Westphalen, RN,
Director of Clinical Competency, Kaiser Permanente

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**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

Patty Briseno, RN, CRNI, OCN,
Staff Nurse, Infusion Therapy Department,
Kona Community Hospital

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

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**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

Liana Steindamm, RN,
Staff Nurse, Kona Community Hospital

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

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February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
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By**

Gary Kienbaum, R.N., M.S.N.

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I am a Registered Nurse employed at Kaiser Permanente full time and also represent the American Organization of Nurse Executives – Hawai'i on the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

As a registered nurse I am more than happy to continue to pay an additional licensing fee of \$40.00 every two years (\$1.66 per month) to support the work of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. As a profession it is important that we support the center so that it may continue to provide important data related to our local workforce. In addition to the data, the center also supports local research designed to better understand interventions that may improve and enhance the practice of professional nursing in Hawai'i.

I strongly support the intent of this bill which would extend the sunset clause from 2009 to 2010. However, a five year extension to 2014 is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center as well as the time to explore additional methods of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

**Aggie Pigao Cadiz, BSN, RN
Director of Clinical Operations, Hospice Hawai'i, Inc.**

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Aggie Pigao Cadiz. I am a Registered Nurse, a member of Hawai'i Nurses' Association, and an appointee to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I strongly support the intent of this bill which would extend the sunset clause from 2009 to 2010. However, a five year extension to 2014 is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center as well as the time to explore additional methods of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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No other entity in Hawai'i is doing work similar to that of the Center for Nursing, or has as its focus to address the nursing shortage. In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hawaii Pacific Health

55 Merchant Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • hawaiiapacifichealth.org

[2 Copies]

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 – 1:30pm
Conference Room 308
Agenda #4

The House Committee on Finance

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone
Chief Nurse Executive, Hawaii Pacific Health
Chief Operating Officer, Straub Clinic & Hospital

Re: Testimony in Support 2134 HD2 - Relating to the Center for Nursing

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Members:

My name is Art Gladstone, Chief Nurse Executive for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH) and Chief Operating Officer for Straub Clinic & Hospital. For more than a century, families in Hawaii and the Pacific Region have relied on the hospitals, clinics, physicians and staff of Hawaii Pacific Health as trusted healthcare providers. Our non-profit integrated healthcare system is the state's largest healthcare provider and is committed to improving the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals -- Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi`olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital -- 18 outpatient centers and a team of 1,100 physicians on the islands of Oahu, Kauai and Lanai.

I am writing in **strong support of HB 2134, H.D. 2**, relating to the Center for Nursing. I strongly support the intent of this bill which would extend the sunset clause from 2009 to 2010. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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We ask that you pass HB 2134 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308**

**By
FAITH ROSSMAN, RN, MN
Clinical Specialist / Kona Community Hospital**

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

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- Small grants provided to support research and program development

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five-year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

**Dale M. Allison
Professor of Nursing & Graduate Program Chair
Hawai'i Pacific University School of Nursing**

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I strongly support the intent of this bill which would extend the sunset clause from 2009 to 2010. However, a five year extension to 2014 is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center as well as the time to explore additional methods of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

Yvonne Geesey, JD APRN

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

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Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I strongly support the intent of this bill which would extend the sunset clause from 2009 to 2010. However, a five-year extension to 2014 is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center as well as the time to explore additional methods of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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Yvonne Geesey

Testimony Presented Before

House Committee on Finance

By

Dr Jane K Kadohiro, DrPH, APRN, CDE
kadohiro@hawaii.edu; 808 956 6841

H.B. No. 2134, H.D.2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committees:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134, H.D. 2. I am Dr. Jane Kadohiro, a nursing faculty member, an active volunteer in health issues in the community, and a member of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing Board. I am also a member of the Hawaii... and the American Nurses Association.

While I support the intent of this bill which extends the sunset clause for the Center for Nursing for one year, I urge you to pass the earlier proposal which extends the sunset for five years, until 2014. The Center has made significant contributions to address what is not just a temporary shortage. A long range plan has been developed to address both the long and immediate shortages. Many community stakeholders representing a broad range of Hawaii's people and professionals who are and will be impacted by the shortages have worked tirelessly to develop programs and activities which are in various stages of development. Many of these plans will not likely progress to implementation, should the Center funding be stopped in the time frame proposed by HB 2134, H.D.2. This would seriously halt the significant progress that has been made to date- and in a short period of time.

The Legislature first established Hawai'i State Center for Nursing in 2003 to address issues related to the nursing shortage we face and particularly those issues surrounding recruitment and retention of registered nurses and nursing faculty.

Specifically, the charges were to:

1. Collect and analyze data regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce
2. Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes
3. Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses, and

4. Research analyze and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce

Our Board became actively engaged in establishing an infrastructure and in developing a strategic plan from the beginning of our existence. The Center became incredibly productive once we were able to hire an executive director and a small, yet outstanding staff, shortly thereafter. The work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses at all levels of nursing and all settings, policy makers, and the wider healthcare community with its facilitation of many stakeholders throughout the state ((nurses, many other disciplines, business, etc) who have become active participants in the work groups and committees staffed by the Center.

It is very clear that every aspect of the mandate has been addressed. The Center has established several systems to obtain ongoing data and has worked very diligently in engaging others in community-based and issue-based planning to address those areas of need that are identified from analysis of the data obtained. A listing of but some of the many other significant accomplishments of the Center is found attached.

While each of the mandates included in the establishment of the Center have been addressed, these are ongoing processes. We will continue to need ongoing reliable and valid data as an essential means of trending and projecting as we plan for both the near and distant future. The nursing shortage is not going to go away, we must rigorously engage in continued evidence-based projecting and planning.

We have a serious and ongoing nursing shortage in the Hawaii and throughout the country. It is critical that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing continue its valuable work... work that is not being performed by any other agency or entity in Hawaii. In my many years in this profession, I have witnessed at least three very serious nursing shortages, all addressed by well intended individuals on well intended committees. But these planning groups of the past have not used data and projected trending as they attempted to plan solutions for the present, often over-projecting, and creating temporary fixes that continued to surface.

While I would prefer to simply see the sunset clause deleted, I urge you to pass legislation for a five year extension of the sunset clause to the year 2014. This will allow continued long range strategic planning backed with ongoing evidence and the ongoing active participation of the many stakeholders throughout the state. Led by the Center's outstanding staff, these individuals, from staff nurses to nurse leaders, to nurse executives, to

hospital administrators, to business-persons and many others, have been tremendously supportive and engaged in the work of the Center and its significant contributions to the health and well being of the people of our state by addressing the critical need for registered nurses in Hawaii.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2134, HD 2.

**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

**Rose Ann Poyzer
Representing the Healthcare Association of Hawaii
on the Center for Nursing's Advisory Board**

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I strongly support the intent of this bill which would extend the sunset clause from 2009 to 2010. However, a five year extension to 2014 is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center as well as the time to explore additional methods of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

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In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Nurses working in partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the future. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Testimony Presented Before
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308
By**

**Sally T. Ishikawa
Oahu Chief Nurse Executive, HHSC, Leahi Hospital
Chair, Advisory Board, Hawaii State Center for Nursing**

HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**CLAUDINE M. TOMASA, RN
1268 MOKAPU BOULEVARD
KAILUA, HAWAII 96734
PHONE: 808-783-5396**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2134 HD#2 RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR NURSING

To: Chair Oshiro and Vice Chair Lee
Finance Committee
From: Claudine M. Tomasa, RN
Date: February 27, 2008
Re: House Bill No 2134 HD#2 Relating to the Center For Nursing (CFN)

Good afternoon Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Finance Committee.

My name is Claudine Tomasa. I am a Registered Nurse and I am testifying in support of HB 2134 HD#2 which extends the sunset clause of Act 198 to expire in 2010 instead of the original date of 2009.

The one year extension of the sunset clause will provide time for the CFN to find alternative funding and to conduct research that will actually help retain qualified, seasoned nurses in Hawaii's hospitals. Many qualified, seasoned nurses have left bedside nursing or have cut their hours of work because of the poor Working Conditions which directly impacts Nursing Practice and a Nurse's ability or inability to provide safe, quality, patient care. This mass exodus is a major contributor to the Nursing Shortage for which the CFN has failed to address during its three to four years of existence- funded by nurses, in which a majority of whom practice direct patient care at the bedside.

With the above being stated, I request that HB 2134 HD2 be passed by your Committee and that the CFN be tasked to provide a comprehensive report- with actionable solutions- to the Legislators on data gathered from all Medical Facilities in the State of Hawaii during the last three years to include but not be limited to:

- 1) Unfilled vacant RN positions in Hawaii's hospitals.
- 2) Use of mandatory overtime to staff nursing units.
- 3) Number of work related muscular skeletal injuries suffered by nurses at the bedside,
- 4) Number of patient related outcomes, i.e. patient falls, postoperative infections, stage IV skin ulcers, medication errors.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2134 HD2.



Dr. Linda Beechiner, APRN-Rx

500 Lanika Home Road # 27-E
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
96825

**Testimony Presented to
House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2008 @ 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308**

**By
Dr. Linda Beechiner, APRN**

**HB 2134, H.D. 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing
Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2134, H.D.2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I support this bill which would extend the sunset clause from 2009 through 2010, however I would urge you to consider a five year extension to 2014. The five year extension is critical to allow continuation of many programs which are currently underway at the Center and the time to explore additional means of funding for future work. Interruption of program activities and data collection would impact the efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and to improve the retention of practicing nurses.

I have personally been involved in many activities with the Center for Nursing, that have directly addressed the mandate given the Center by the legislature.

- Participation in the survey in collaboration with the Board of Nursing on supply and characteristics of Hawai'i registered nurses
- Utilization of the annual fact sheet on the nursing workforce to educate and inform policy makers and stakeholders about the issues
- Participation in the Nursing Workforce Summit with colleagues from our healthcare community who came together to strategically plan for the future of nursing in Hawaii
- As a nursing faculty member, participated in recruitment meetings with other stakeholders, to implement activities where the Center took an active part in recruitment of students into the profession in Hawaii.

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts to support nurses who are generating Hawai'i specific solutions. Providing for a five year extension to 2014 will allow this valuable and beneficial work to effect a strong nursing workforce into the next decade.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phone: 808-779-3061 • Fax: 808-395-7428 • L.Beechiner@hawaiiianet.net