

Luanne H. Long, RN  
President, Hawaii Nurses' Association  
91-942 Pahuhu Street  
Ewa Beach, Hawai'i 96706

March 17, 2008

RE: TESTIMONY OPPOSING HB 2134 HD2  
RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR NURSING

To: Chair Russell Kokubun, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection  
and Affordable Housing (CPH)  
Chair David Ige, Committee on Health (HTH)

Good afternoon, Chair Kokubun, Chair Ige, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing, and the Committee on Health.

My name is Luanne Long. I am a Registered nurse in Hawai'i for over 15 years, and the elected President of the Hawai'i Nurses' Association. I strongly oppose SB2146, SD2 which extends the sunset clause till 2014 - a five year extension- in which funding of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is obtained by imposing a \$40.00 surcharge/ tax upon nurses each time we renew our nursing license. I kindly request that language SB2146 SD2 be amended to include language from HB2134 HD2- which extends the sunset clause until 2010 (a one year extension).

In 2003, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing was created with the objective of gathering data from the various healthcare facilities within the State, to shed light on the continuing nursing shortage; to use this data to find possible resolutions, and to make recommendations to legislators and healthcare proponents on best practices towards the recruitment of new nurses and the retention of seasoned bedside nurses, which then alleviates this continuing nursing shortage.

It is my understanding that the data has been collected over these past five years, and presented to this Legislature, including but not confined to the following:

- the number and frequency of patient falls with resulting injury, due to short staffing or due to increased patient care requirements disproportionate to the number of nurses,

- the frequency of mandatory overtime, or even the frequency of voluntary overtime, all of which still points to the need for more nurses at the bedside,
- the number/frequency of musculoskeletal injuries incurred by direct patient care nurses, taking them out of the workforce,
- the exodus of nurses leaving the profession for various reasons, to include working conditions, and all of the above cited situations.

Whether the State Center for Nursing has met its mandate as it was originally set out to do is the question to be asked.

Also, the above situations clearly illustrate that the nursing shortage is, and should be, everyone's concern as it clearly affects everyone within the community. At some point in time, each of us, or someone we know – family, friends – would eventually require some type of health care.

So ask yourselves, why then should the nurses continue to be the primary revenue supporting this Hawai'i State Center for Nursing? Why does the State continue to impose this \$40.00 penalty charge on nurses each time they renew their licenses?

Looking at this from a different perspective, if a bill were to be introduced calling for a study on the effectiveness of legislators in the State of Hawai'i, and mandating that all expenses incurred on behalf of this bill/study be levied on each legislator, I sure would be curious to know how many legislators would jump up and vote in favor of this (theoretical) bill.

Hawai'i is not the only State with a Center for Nursing. There are other State Centers for Nursing throughout the United States. However, I am hard pressed to find another State that penalizes its own nursing populace by singling them out to be the means of revenue to sustaining their Centers for Nursing.

It may be helpful to look into the funding mechanisms of all other State Centers for Nursing to find alternate funding for the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing.

It is for the above reasons that I urge you to defer this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB2134 HD2.

**Testimony Presented Before  
Senate Committee on Health  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing  
March 17, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229**

**Pennylynn Ontai  
Pediatric Registered Nurse**

**HD 2134, HD 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing**

Chair Ige, Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Fukunage, Vice Chair Ige and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2134 HD 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I strongly support the intent of this bill to provide for extension of the sunset clause for the Center for Nursing. I would like to recommend an amendment to change the one year extension to a five year extension to 2014, which would enable the continuation of the Center's beginning work. In order to address the nursing shortage for Hawai'i, it is vital to continue workforce data collection, recruitment and retention projects and to explore additional means of funding.

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 to:

- Collect and analyze data regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce
- Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes
- Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses
- Research analyze and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce

Since becoming operational in April, 2005, the work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare community. The Center has contributed significantly by:

- Engaging and involving nurses from all islands and all sectors of healthcare in guiding the work of the Center (Education/Practice Summit of 2006, Nursing Workforce Summit of 2007, Collaborative Workgroups).
- Providing Hawai'i specific data on the nursing workforce and the nursing shortage to inform policy decisions and resource allocation.

- Focusing on increasing educational capacity including conducting an annual survey of 100% of Hawai'i's nursing programs. Providing data to policy makers and stakeholders to address the shortage of nursing faculty.
- Establishing innovative programs to improve and support retention of nurses in both acute and long term care (leadership training programs for acute care and preceptor development in long term care).
- Obtaining grant funding to support additional initiatives (Robert Wood Johnson Partners in Nursing grant with HMSA Foundation).
- Initiating research projects such as the RN turnover survey on generational differences and the 5 year longitudinal study on new graduate RNs.
- Partnering with nurses from throughout the state along with business, philanthropy and government to generate collaborative solutions.

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  
Senate Committee on Health  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable  
Housing**

**March 17, 2008  
9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 229**

**Rose Ann Poyzer  
Hawaii State Center for Nursing Advisory Board**

**HD 2134. HD 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing  
Chair Ige, Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Fukunage, Vice Chair Ige and  
Members of the Committee:**

**Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2134  
HD 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing.**

**I strongly support the intent of this bill to provide for extension of the  
sunset clause for the Center for Nursing. I would like to recommend an  
amendment to change the one year extension to a five year extension to  
2014, which would enable the continuation of the Center's work. In  
order to address the nursing shortage for Hawaii, it is vital to continue  
the collection of workforce data, recruitment and retention projects and  
to explore additional means of funding.**

**The 2003 Legislature established the Hawaii State Center for Nursing  
and placed it at the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the  
University of Hawaii at Manoa.**

**Since becoming operational in April, 2005, the work of the Center for  
Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare  
community.**

**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 Hawaii specific solutions. Nurses working in  
partnership with others can build a strong nursing workforce for the  
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valuable and beneficial work to continue.  
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.**

**Testimony Presented Before  
Senate Committee on Health  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing  
March 17, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229**

**SAI CHANTAVY  
Executive Director/CEO  
Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center**

**HD 2134, HD 2, Relating to the Center for Nursing**

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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.

**Joan Craft, RN**  
**535 A Kuaaina Way**  
**KAILUA, HAWAII 96734**  
**PHONE: 808-864-0079**

TESTIMONY ON HB 2134 HD#2 RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR NURSING

To: Chair Ige, Committee on Health and  
Chair Kokubun, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
And Affordable Housing  
From: Joan Craft, RN  
Vice-President Hawaii Nurses Association  
Vice-President United American Nurses AFL-CIO  
Date: March 17, 2008  
Re: House Bill No 2134 HD#2 Relating to the Center For Nursing (CFN)

Good morning Chair Ige, Chair Kokubun, and members of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing.

My name is Joan Craft. I have been a Registered Nurse for fifteen years. My testimony will echo nurses who are writing in strong opposition to extending the sunset clause which funds the Hawaii State Center for Nursing. I have been informed that the bill, which was enacted into law as Act 198, was enacted without the express knowledge or consent of the bedside care nurses. Hence, I am testifying in opposition of HB 2134 HD#2 and any other bill extending the sunset clause.

We the working union staff nurse of the State of Hawaii do not want to continue to subsidize the center for nursing. We know why there is a nursing shortage in Hawaii. We know that improving working conditions is the only way to keep experience nurses at the bedside. The center for nursing consist mostly of health care facility administrators and former administrators, who have failed to keep us at the bedside. We don't want to pay for them to continue to get it wrong.

The Center for Nursing must find alternate funding. We the bedside nurses of Hawaii do not want to fund the Center for nursing.

I truly thank you for reading my testimony in opposition to HB 2134 HD2