

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Tuesday, January 22, 2008  
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2134, RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR NURSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE JERRY L. CHANG, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kathleen Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Board in support of House Bill No. 2134.

The purpose of this bill is to delete the requirement in Section 9 of Act 198, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, which would repeal the fee assessment for the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("HSCN") on July 1, 2009.

The Board is in support of House Bill No. 2134 because:

- Like the thirty-four other state centers for nursing, data provided by the HSCN is crucial to State policy makers in establishing workforce development programs and policies.
- The fee for the HSCN has provided valuable information to the State which mainly benefits nurses and those in need of nursing data.
- Besides producing a uniform source of nursing related information, the HSCN provides a positive opportunity for various sectors of the community to come together with a common interest in staffing which supports quality of care, patient safety and a positive working environment.

- It allows the HSCN to focus on the complex issues which underlie the nurse shortage including nursing workforce data, recruitment and retention of nurses and faculty, and research on best practices and quality outcomes.

In 2003, the Legislature mandated State agencies and other appropriate organizations to provide the HSCN with timely nursing-related data. This collaboration and the fees have allowed the HSCN to provide:

1. Annual projections on the supply and demand of the nursing workforce in Hawai'i that reflect the State's nursing shortage. As the Center generates specific data on nursing supply and demand in Hawai'i, the yearly projections better reflect Hawaii's healthcare environment.
2. The "Fact Sheet on Hawai'i's Nursing Shortage" which is updated annually to provide current and future projections on the nursing shortage. A full report is provided to all stakeholders.
3. A report on the educational capacity of 100% of the schools of nursing which is distributed to stakeholders. This report is based on a survey of all Hawai'i schools of nursing which is conducted annually.
4. An annual Summit on Education and Practice (held in March, 2006 and December, 2007). The Summits brought together nurses from all islands to focus on integration, collaboration, innovation and community partnerships. A total of ninety and 100+ individuals, respectively, represented all sectors of the healthcare community and all islands. Many recommendations have resulted in new initiatives. A residency/internship model is being developed to assist in the transition of new graduate nurses into practice and to increase retention, satisfaction and success. A formalized plan to integrate nursing education with the practice sector is being finalized.
5. A 5-year longitudinal study of new graduate RNs. This study will identify issues in new graduate turnover and best practices in retention.
6. A partnership with the HMSA Foundation. The HSCN was one of ten in the nation to be awarded a Robert Wood Johnson/Northwest Health Foundation, Partners in Nursing Grant. Matching funds were provided by the HMSA Foundation with support from the Queen Emma Nursing Institute at the Queen's Medical Center and Hale Makua. The project involves a number of partnerships across the State and is focused on recruitment and retention of nurses in the long term care setting.
7. A Staffing Task Force which addressed the recommendations in Senate Concurrent Resolution 76, S.D.1 (2006).

8. A report on Education and Practice in Nursing was completed and distributed to stakeholders.
9. A report on Nurse Staffing was completed and distributed to stakeholders.
10. A co-sponsorship of the AONE Conference entitled "Saving Lives through Investments in Nursing" with Dr. Linda Aiken.

The Board feels that the data produced by the HSCN is crucial to the State policymakers and stakeholders involved with nursing in developing workforce programs and policies for the future. Therefore, the Board respectfully requests the Committee's approval and passage of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2134.

**Testimony Presented Before the House Higher Education Committee  
Committee on January 22, 2008**

**by  
Joan P. White  
Advisory Board Chair  
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing**

**HB 2134, Relating to the Center for Nursing**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and members of the House Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2134, Relating to the Center for Nursing. I support this bill which amends Act 198 to make permanent the deposit and disbursement of the center for nursing special fund.

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 May 2005, the Center for Nursing efforts have benefited nurses, healthcare, and state policy makers. The Center has contributed significantly by:

- Conducting rigorous surveys and disseminating data and projections to inform policy development and resource allocation regarding the nursing workforce
- Establishing innovative programs to improve and support retention of nurses
- Convening nurses from all sectors and all islands to come together to generate solutions which will strengthen the nursing workforce and improve quality of care and health outcomes for Hawaii residents
- Generating data driven state level evidence on enrollments, graduations, programs and faculty demographics through the Center's annual survey of 100% of state nursing programs. The data on educational capacity

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

In light of the significant nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is imperative that the Center for Nursing continue its efforts on these complex issues. Amending Act 198 will enable the Center for Nursing to continue its important and good work in an efficient manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair

Conference Room 309  
Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

**Testimony in support of HB 2134.**

I am Coral Andrews, Vice President 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, which repeals 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 specific to Hawaii's nursing workforce shortage. Heretofore, we were reliant upon national data and trends that did not correlate well to Hawaii-specific data and trends.

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.

TRANSMITTAL

TO: Rep. Joe Bertram  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Claudine M. Tomasa, RN

RE: Committee Hearing  
January 22, 2008 2:00p.m.  
Room 309  
Testimony Opposing  
HB 2134 Relating to the Center For Nursing

No.Pgs: 2

**CLAUDINE M. TOMASA, RN  
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TESTIMONY OPPOSING HB 2134 RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR NURSING

To: Chair Jerry Chang and Vice Chair Joe Bertram  
House Committee on Higher Education  
From: Claudine M. Tomasa, RN  
Date: January 21, 2008  
Re: House Bill No 2134 Relating to the Center For Nursing

Good afternoon Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram and members of the Committee on Higher Education.

My name is Claudine Tomasa. I am a Registered Nurse and I am testifying against HB 2134 which allows the Center for Nursing to be funded-continuously- by imposing a \$40.00 surcharge/tax upon nurses whenever we renew our nursing license.

I do not believe that the Center for Nursing has complied with Act 198 (which created the Center) in terms of ensuring that better data about nurses is available to improve health care in Hawaii as well as improving working conditions for nurses. Nor do I believe that the Center has conducted research on best practices and quality outcomes for nurses practicing in acute care facilities.

There is a great need to retain qualified, seasoned nurses at the bedside to care for Hawaii's seriously ill patients in the Acute Care Setting. Unfortunately seasoned nurses continue to leave bedside nursing or cut their hours of work, because of the working conditions and its impact upon their ability to practice safe, quality, nursing care - adding to the nursing shortage.

I am unclear as to what the Center For Nursing is doing to help stop these nurses from leaving the bedside in the acute care facilities. Perhaps an audit should be conducted to determine whether the mandatory surcharge is being utilized appropriately to meet the intent of Act 198- address the nursing shortage and retention of qualified seasoned nurses.

It is for the above reasons that I urge you to hold HB2134 in Committee. Do not compel hard working professional nurses to continuously fund a Center that I believe has not been accountable.

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