

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

Wednesday, February 20, 2008
2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2165, RELATING TO NURSING.

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kathy Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill No. 2165.

This bill allows a graduate with a completed portion of a Board of Nursing approved master's entry nursing program to apply for a license as a registered nurse by examination.

The Board is in support of House Bill No. 2165 because:

- The master's entry nursing program will not replace the generic baccalaureate nursing program, but instead provide an additional pathway to prepare registered nurses for licensure. By providing this second pathway to nursing, this program may help to alleviate the nursing shortage because it may increase access to the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's generic baccalaureate program since beginning level college students would not be competing with experienced, college-prepared students for the spaces in this program.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2165
February 20, 2008
Page 2

- The Board is aware that there are more than 50 similar accelerated or fast track programs with entry at the Master's level, across the country. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has indicated that this type of program has been successful in preparing competent nurses.

For these reasons, the Board respectfully requests your Committee's approval and passage of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2165.



**Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection &
Commerce
February 20, 2008
2:00 p.m.**

**By
Barbara P. Mathews
Executive Director
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing**

HB 2165, Relating to Nursing

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2165, Relating to Nursing. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing strongly supports this bill which will provide an additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a candidate who has completed the required portion of the Master's Entry Program Into Nursing to be eligible for the licensing examination.

This is an innovative program established by the University of Hawai'i School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene to provide an undergraduate to master's degree pathway in three years. This program is modeled after more than 60 programs throughout the country which have proven to be highly successful in preparing well educated and qualified nurses.

This program was developed in response to community and student interest, and provides an excellent option for adult learners with prior degrees in other fields. Designed as an accelerated or fast track program, it will expedite a career pathway into advanced practice or nursing faculty roles.

An increased supply of nurses prepared at the graduate level is a critical factor in addressing the nursing shortage both in Hawai'i and nationwide. This program will be a welcome addition to educational options available at the local level.

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that schools of nursing consider innovations to meet the needs of the workforce both now and in the future. This is positive example of such a program that is responsive to the needs of both students and the employers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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00073



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**
Wednesday, February 20, 2008
2:00 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 2165, Relating to Nursing

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2165, Relating to Nursing. The University strongly supports this bill which amends section 457-7(f), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to provide an additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a graduate with a completed portion of a master's entry program in nursing (MEPN) to apply for a license as a registered nurse by examination.

The proposed amendment clarifies that students of a qualified MEPN program are eligible to enter the nursing workforce after successfully completing the designated portion of the curriculum.

There are more than 60 accelerated or fast track programs with entry at the Master's level across the country. The MEPN is designed for adult learners with no prior nursing experience/education, have a baccalaureate degree or higher in another field other than nursing and are leadership bound and seeking a career in advanced practice nursing. The program equips students with entry-level professional nurse competencies as a foundation for advanced practice roles.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene developed the new MEPN program in response to the nursing shortage and student interest. The program is built upon the curriculum expertise of faculty, institutional experience with accelerated education, and in partnership with the health care community, students, and national experts. State funding was allocated to offer the innovative program in an effort to address workforce need.

The UHM MEPN program received provisional approval by the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing. It consists of an intensive pre-licensure year structured as three continuous semesters transitioning into a specialty nursing pathway. The program does not replace the generic baccalaureate nursing program but provides an additional program pathway to prepare nurse professionals. At the completion of the pre-licensure component, students meet the American Association of Colleges of Nursing designated baccalaureate competencies.

Passage of this measure will assist in addressing the nursing workforce shortage by enabling nurse professionals to enter the workforce in a shorter amount of time and contribute to increasing the pool of advanced practice nurses and potential future faculty.

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

Written Testimony of
Jesslyn Lau
Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

February 20, 2008

HB 2165 Relating to Nursing

Thank you Representative Herkes, and other distinguished members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce for considering HB 2165.

My name is Jesslyn Lau, and I am a student in the Master's Entry Program in Nursing at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 2165 that amends the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to provide an additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a graduate with a completed portion of the master's entry program in nursing to apply for a license as a registered nurse by exam.

I received a bachelor of science degree in health/exercise science and a master's degree in public health from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. It has been rewarding to work in health education, work-site wellness promotion, and public health research for the past five years. Recently, I became interested in balancing my work experiences in health promotion and program planning with more of an applied approach. I decided to pursue my graduate nursing studies at UH Mānoa because it will allow me to learn and establish relationships within the community where I plan to practice.

I believe this bill is important because it will allow individuals like me to contribute to the health and wellness of Hawai'i residents, by building on my past experiences in health promotion and disease prevention. Additionally, this bill will assist in addressing the nursing workforce shortage by enabling nurses to enter the field upon completion of their pre-licensure year of study. Lastly, this bill will impact the quality of healthcare in Hawai'i that everyone in this room will receive.

I hope to work and gain experience as a registered nurse while continuing with my graduate studies for a specialty in community and public health. After graduation, I plan to practice as a health care provider and educator in a community health setting.

I look forward to becoming a nurse professional and contributing my knowledge and service to improve the health of our community. Thank you for considering this important bill and accepting my testimony.

Jesslyn Lau

Written Testimony of
Sondra Steele
Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

February 20, 2008

HB 2165 RELATING TO NURSING

Thank you Representative Herkes, and other distinguished members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce for considering HB 2165.

My name is Sondra Steele, and I am a student in the Master's Entry Program in Nursing at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 2165 that amends the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to provide an additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a graduate with a completed portion of the a master's entry program in nursing to apply for a license as a registered nurse by exam.

I have a master's degree in international public health. While in Africa, I worked in health promotion, infectious disease control, and HIV/AIDS education. While I was in Zambia, I worked in a small village where we lost an infant from malaria. I quickly realized that my general public health degree was not enough to make a difference in the work I wanted to do.

The Master's Entry Program in Nursing at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa allows me to integrate my public health skills with specific clinical nursing skills. In our program, each student story is different. We are epidemiologists, bankers, scientists, and students who are looking not just for nursing skills but roles of leadership in our community. This bill would enable all of us, and others like us in the future, an expedited way of giving back to our community and to address the nursing shortage.

I look forward to working as an RN while I continue my advanced studies for a specialty in nursing administration. In the future, I plan to give back to the community whether I am working in a hospital or by establishing creative public health programs for the people of Hawai'i.

I look forward to becoming a nurse professional and contributing my knowledge and service to improve the health of our community. Thank you for considering this important bill and accepting my testimony.

Written Testimony of
JUVAL E. TOMAS
Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

February 20, 2008

HB 2165 RELATING TO NURSING

Thank you Representative Herkes, and other distinguished members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce for considering HB 2165.

My name is JUVAL E. TOMAS, a resident of the 21st District under Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto. I am a student in the Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 2165 that amends the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to provide an additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a graduate with a completed portion of the master's entry program in nursing to apply for a license as a registered nurse by exam.

I come from a working class, immigrant family. My parents have worked very hard to help put me through school and they have instilled in me that education is their most important legacy. I completed my Bachelor of Arts, in Psychology, from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I, then, pursued my Master of Public Health, in Epidemiology, from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

After graduate school, I decided to come back to Hawai'i. For almost ten years, I have served with the Hawaii State Department of Health in the field of surveillance and health education to address the needs among the disparate and vulnerable populations - the uninsured and underinsured, the minorities, the young and the old - in Hawai'i. I have worked in promoting health through risk reduction education in tuberculosis, minority health issues, infant and adult vaccine-preventable diseases, HIV/ AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and diabetes. I want to become a nurse, specifically, a nurse practitioner, to provide "direct" patient care to the populations that I have once served from a community level.

I believe this Bill is important because the MEPN will allow a non-traditional nursing student, like me, to hasten my role as a caregiver and to contribute to the health of Hawai'i's people by building on my past experiences in population medicine. The MEPN will assist in addressing the nursing workforce shortage by enabling nurses to enter the workforce in a shorter amount of time.

I am enthusiastic in working as a nurse while continuing with my master's leading to a specialty in gerontology, the study of human aging. This will cultivate my deeper understanding and application of the nursing process that I will engage in in my future role as an advanced practice nurse. After completing my studies, I plan to collaborate with other health care workers to provide the necessary care for Hawai'i's burgeoning and "graying" population.

I look forward to becoming a nurse professional to be able to share my knowledge and to continue to serve and to acutely address the health needs of our community. Thank you for considering this important bill and accepting my testimony.

00083

Written Testimony of
MATTHEW R. WILLIAMS
Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawaii at Manoa

February 20, 2008

HB 2165 RELATING TO NURSING

Thank you Representative Herkes, and other distinguished members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce for considering HB 2165.

My name is Matthew Williams and I am a student in the Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 2165. I recommend amending the Hawaii Revised Statutes to provide additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a graduate with a completed portion of the program to apply for a license as a registered nurse by exam. The MEPN program is of great benefit to students and the people of Hawaii.

From my personal experience, the decision to apply to the MEPN program was the next logical career step for me. I have a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Business from The Ohio State University. After graduation I worked as a Personal Banker and as a small business owner. Later, I transitioned to the medical field as a licensed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to fulfill a desire to make a hands-on positive contribution to the lives of others. Working as an EMT, I was employed within a variety of environments including working as a member of a volunteer rescue squad, as an Emergency Department Technician, an Intensive Care Unit Technician, for a medical transport team, and as a Test Administrator for drug screening in for the National Collegiate Athletic Association. After events which brought me to Hawaii, I worked for the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Medical Services for approximately two years. While on the job I sustained an injury to my back that is now chronic in nature. Because of this injury I was forced to consider other work because I could no longer meet the physical demands working as an EMT.

The MEPN program is an excellent opportunity to continue to work in health care. The master's degree gives the opportunity to advance one's education forward instead of a lateral move to a second bachelor's degree. Because the program is accelerated it will allow for a quick return to the workforce. In addition, the program offers the opportunity to gain a Master's of Science in Nursing and offers a specialty track to also earn a Master's in Business Administration. This merging of healthcare and business is a unique program that will prepare me for a position in administration. I hope this MSN/MBA program will give me the opportunity to work in a hospital environment both in management and as a clinician.

Passage of this bill provides an additional and expeditious route for future nurses to enter the workforce. This bill directly impacts the current nursing shortage crises that will continue to worsen in light of the increasing geriatric population. This program is an amazing opportunity for nursing students and for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering this important bill and accepting my testimony.