

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

Friday, March 28, 2008
9:00 a.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, 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. 2165.

The purpose of this bill is to amend Act 198, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, in order to extend the sunset date of the fee assessment on licensed nurses, which provides a means of funding to the University of Hawaii, Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("HSCN").

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

- It believes the data produced by the HSCN is crucial to the State policymakers, the Board, and other stakeholders involved with nursing in developing workforce programs and policies for the future;
- 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 will allow the HSCN to continue 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;

- It will allow continual collaboration as the HSCN has done with its annual Summit on Education and Practice (held in March, 2006 and December, 2007). The Summit 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; and
- It will support the 5-year longitudinal study of new graduate RNs where this study will identify issues in new graduate turnover and best practices in retention.

Therefore, the Board respectfully requests the Committee's approval and passage of this measure and we thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2165.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing**
Friday, March 28, 2008
9:00 a.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 Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing, 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.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Senator Russell Kokubun, Chair

Conference Room 229

March 28, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Testimony in support of HB 2165.

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. I regret that I shall not be able to testify in person due to a previous commitment. However, I appreciate this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2165, which allows those who are enrolled in a master's entry program in nursing who have completed the pre-license portion of the program to take the licensing examination to become a registered nurse.

Currently, these students must complete the master's entry program in nursing in order to qualify to take the licensing examination. This bill will enable them to take the examination when they have completed the pre-licensure portion of the program prior to graduation and allow them to be employed as registered nurses while they are completing the master's program.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports HB 2165.

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

March 28, 2008

HB 2165 RELATING TO NURSING

Thank you Senator Kokubun, Senator Ige, and other distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing for considering HB 2165.

My name is JUVAL E. TOMAS. 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.

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

March 28, 2008

HB 2165 RELATING TO NURSING

Thank you Senator Kokubun, Senator Ige, and other distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing 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.

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

March 28, 2008

HB 2165 RELATING TO NURSING

Thank you Senator Kokubun, Senator Ige, and other distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing 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
Jesslyn Lau
Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

March 28, 2008

HB 2165 Relating to Nursing

Thank you Senator Kokubun, Senator Ige, and other distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing 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