

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

AND

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

Tuesday, February 5, 2008
2:00 p.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE JERRY L. CHANG, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN, M.D., CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

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.

- 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 Committees' approval and passage of this measure.

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



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The Twenty Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Higher Education
Committee on Health

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO
February 5, 2008

House Bill 2165- Relating to Nursing

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports H.B. 2165 which proposes to allow a master's degree candidate in a nursing program who has completed the pre-licensure portion of the program to apply for a license by examination to practice as a registered nurse.

With the current shortage of nurses in Hawaii, this bill will allow advanced nursing students an avenue to apply for licensure by examination. Allowing such an option would assist in reducing the shortage of nurses in Hawaii and would have a positive impact on the community.

We respectfully urge your committees to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nora A. Nomura', written over a horizontal line.

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director