

**Testimony Presented Before the House Joint  
Committees on Higher Education and Health**

Tuesday, February 5, 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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**HB 2165, Relating to Nursing**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno, and members of the Joint Committees on Higher Education and Health, 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. HB 3208 Relating to Nursing, proposing the same amendment is not yet scheduled for hearing.

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.

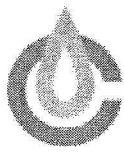
The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene developed the new MEPN program in response to the nursing shortage and student interest. The program is built upon the curriculum expertise of faculty, institutional experience with accelerated education, and in partnership 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.



# Hawai'i State Center for Nursing

## LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education  
February 5, 2008  
2:00 p.m.

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

### HB 2165, Relating to Nursing

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

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.

# LATE TESTIMONY

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

February 5, 2008

## **HB 2165 Relating to Nursing**

Thank you Representative Chang, Representative Green, and other distinguished members of the House Committees on Higher Education and Health for considering House Bill 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 House Bill 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 received a bachelor of science degree in health/exercise science and a master 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  
JUVAL E. TOMAS  
Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE TESTIMONY

February 05, 2008

**HB 2165 RELATING TO NURSING**

Thank you Representative Chang, Representative Green, and other distinguished members of the House Committees on Higher Education and Health for considering House Bill 2165.

My name is JUVAL E. TOMAS, a resident of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 House Bill 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.