

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

## LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



### **HB 2915 Making an Appropriation for Educational Program Preparing Candidates for Nurses Licensing Examinations in Hawai'i**

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education

February 12, 2008 at 2:15 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

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School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**HB 2915, Making an Appropriation for Educational Program Preparing Candidates for Nurses Licensing Examinations in Hawai'i**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 2915 which appropriates funds for an educational program overseen by the University of Hawai'i to assist candidates for nurse licensing examinations. Unfortunately, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa can only support the intent of the bill at this time because of our pressing priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance and health and safety issues, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawaii. We are grateful to the Legislature's attention to these needs. Addressing these urgent needs is critical to our ability to perform the functions the state needs us to perform – including preparing nurses for Hawai'i.

We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following substantive information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process.

We appreciate your concern and commitment to addressing Hawai'i's nursing shortage. With the Legislature's support, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene has ramped up admissions and developed a new pathway, the Master's Entry Program in Nursing - a fast track program with entry at the Master's level, to help address the nursing shortage in the State. While these efforts are a substantial start, a multifaceted approach to the shortage considering all options is encouraged.

As an additional strategy to alleviating the shortage, this bill provides assistance to candidates in preparing for nurse licensing examinations to facilitate entry into Hawai'i's nursing workforce. To ensure that that the proposed program implementation is successful, I invite key stakeholders and legislators who introduced this bill to continue discussions with the UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene or the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, who can provide further input regarding operationalizing this initiative for the intent it was proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.