



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

### Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health

Friday, April 4, 2008  
10:00 a.m.

by  
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
and  
Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor  
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **HCR 277, HD1 / HR 235, HD1 - Requesting the Hawaii State Center for Nursing to Encourage Parties to Work Together for the Common Goal of Increasing the Supply of Well-Educated and Dedicated Nurses**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 277, HD1 and HR 235, HD1, requesting the Center for Nursing to encourage parties to work together for the common goal of increasing the supply of well-educated and dedicated nurses.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is privileged to provide a home for this successful and vital Center established by the 2003 Legislature. Since becoming operational in May 2005, the Center for Nursing has collaborated with many stakeholders in efforts that have benefited state policy makers, nurses and healthcare. The Center has contributed significantly by:

- Providing a venue to focus on the nursing workforce; supporting the executive and legislative branches of state government to inform policy development
- Convening nurses from all sectors to come together to improve quality of care and health outcomes for Hawai'i residents
- Conducting rigorous surveys whose results inform policy development and resource allocation regarding the state nursing education and workforce capacity
- Establishing innovative partnerships to improve recruitment and retention of nurses in the long term care setting
- Developing and conducting the first prospective 5-year study to document new nurse employment and career patterns.

The University of Hawai'i Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supports a collaborative approach to addressing the nursing workforce needs of Hawai'i and looks forward to our continued partnership with the community. In addition, collaboration is a core value of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's mission promoting consensus building and teamwork within the nursing profession, community and state. As such, the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene is committed to ensuring the Center's support in efforts with stakeholders and the intent of this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**HAWAI'I NURSES' ASSOCIATION**  
**677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 301**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Testimony **IN SUPPORT of HCR277/HR235**,  
Requesting the Hawaii State Center for Nursing  
to Encourage Parties to Work Together for  
the Common Goal of Increasing the Supply  
of Well-Educated and Dedicated Nurses.

**Before the House of Representatives, Twenty-fourth Legislature, 2008,**  
**State of Hawai'i**  
**April 4, 2008**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Chairman Josh Green and the Honorable Members of the Health Committee:

The Hawai'i Nurses' Association **supports** the spirit and intent of House Concurrent Resolution 277 and House Resolution 235. It is vital that all parties concerned about the delivery of services in the healthcare industry be united in their efforts to both increase the numbers of nurses coming into the profession and to retain the nurses who have dedicated their lives to the well-being of all who have passed through their healthcare facility.

Nurses are on the frontline of patient care. They know best what should be done to recruit, train, and retain professional staff nurses. The staff nurses of the HNA stand ready to provide our input and support to Hawai'i State Center for Nursing.

We have expressed our concerns about the Center's work product and the method by which they are funded. We hope that this has not been misinterpreted as a lack of support for the Center's stated goals. To the extent that the Center's activities lead to greater recruitment and retention of line-level nurses, we strongly support them and their mission.

The Hawai'i Nurses Association declares its readiness to work together with the other stakeholders named in these resolutions toward our common goals.

Respectfully,

Luanne H. Long, RN  
President  
Hawai'i Nurses Association