

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
House Higher Education Committee
on
March 27, 2008 2:15pm ~ Conference Room 309

By

Kathryn Raethel
President, AONE Hawaii Chapter

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

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding 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. I am very pleased to support the resolution, which seeks to have the Center continue to involve as many stakeholders from throughout the state of Hawai'i in its efforts.

The 2003 Legislature established the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and placed it at School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to:

- Collect and analyze data regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce
- Conduct research on best practices and quality outcomes
- Develop a plan for implementing strategies to recruit and retain nurses
- Research analyze and report data related to the retention of the nursing workforce

Since becoming operational in April, 2005, the work of the Center for Nursing has benefited nurses, policy makers and the wider healthcare community. The Center has contributed significantly by:

- Engaging and involving nurses from all islands and all sectors of healthcare in guiding the work of the Center (Education/Practice Summit of 2006, Nursing Workforce Summit of 2007, Collaborative Workgroups).
- Providing Hawai'i specific data on the nursing workforce and the nursing shortage to inform policy decisions and resource allocation.
- Focusing on increasing educational capacity including conducting an annual survey of 100% of Hawai'i's nursing programs. Providing data to policy makers and stakeholders to address the shortage of nursing faculty.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education

Thursday, March 27, 2008
2:15 p.m.

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
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Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 277 / HR 235, Requesting the Hawai'i 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 Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 277 / HR 235 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.