

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

## LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2109 – RELATING TO NURSING

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education

February 6, 2008 at 1:15 pm

by

Karen C. Lee  
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs  
University of Hawaii System

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Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SB 2109 Relating to Nursing, is to create a nursing teacher loan forgiveness program and to create a nursing teacher loan forgiveness special fund. This program is to provide students who intend to become instructors in nursing the funding to pursue a masters or doctorate program.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of the Legislature to provide financial support to students who wish to become nursing educators. However, the University cannot support this bill because of the extensive administrative hardship this will place on our various offices, in particular our financial aid offices and general accounting office, to track students over five years and to administer such a loan. With our current capacity of staffing and resources, we would not be able to develop and maintain such a program at the appropriate level.

The private banking and loan industry sector may be a more appropriate place in which to initiate such a program. With limited resources, the University would not be able to adequately administer the program as would a private corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2109

February 6, 2008

RELATING TO NURSING

Senate Bill No. 2109 establishes a nursing teacher loan forgiveness program that would provide payment of a loan if a person earns an advanced degree in nursing and agrees to teach in a qualified position for at least five academic years. The program would be financed by the Nursing Teacher Loan Forgiveness special fund created by this bill. The fund would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, gifts, grants, and donations. Senate Bill No. 2109 appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund for the program.

As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-53.4 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. It is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.



# HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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The Twenty Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Education  
Committee on Health

Testimony by  
HGGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO  
February 6, 2008

## Senate Bill 2109- Relating to Nursing

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports S.B. 2109. This bill proposes to create a nursing teaching loan forgiveness pilot program at the University of Hawaii.

There is a severe shortage of nurses in Hawaii. The shortage of nursing teachers in Hawaii at the college level has resulted in a decreased number of nursing classes offered. This in turn has limited the number of students graduating in nursing.

Providing this pilot program should increase the number of nursing teachers which should increase the number of nursing classes offered. Ultimately, the number of students graduating in nursing will decrease the shortage of nurses in Hawaii.

We respectfully request the passage of this bill from your committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director