

SB 2276

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

Monday, February 4, 2008
1:15 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2276, RELATING TO NURSES.

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kathy Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 2276. The Board appreciates the intent of this measure, but cannot support it.

This bill mandates all nurses licensed under Chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to complete a nurse workforce survey developed by the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("HSCN"), as part of their biennial license renewal requirements.

The Board is aware that this measure would allow the HSCN to gather data from all nurses licensed in Hawaii which will greatly aid in their data gathering for policy makers and other stakeholders to establish workforce development programs and policies. However, while the Board appreciates this intent, the Board has the following concerns:

- If a nurse refuses to participate in the survey, that refusal would constitute grounds not to renew the nurse's license. The nurse then would no longer have a valid license and could not practice. The impact on workforce shortage would exacerbate.

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- Taking away a license for failure to complete a survey is a harsh consequence. It further has no relationship to the competency of a nurse.
- If the HSCN is not able to produce surveys on a biennial basis, there are no specific conditions under which the survey can be waived as a renewal requirement.

The Board recommends that this measure be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawai'i State Center for Nursing

**Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health
February 4, 2008
1:15 p.m.**

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

SB 2276, Relating to Nursing

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 2276, Relating to Nurses. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing supports the intent of this bill which amends the licensing renewal requirements for nurses to require completion of a nurse workforce survey developed by the Center.

At the biennial relicensure in 2007, such a survey was implemented as a collaborative effort between the Board of Nursing and the Center for Nursing. Offered both on-line and in hard copy, the survey was completed by 40% of the nursing workforce in Hawai'i and provided excellent data. Requiring such a survey at time of relicensure provides for a 100% response rate and complete supply data on the nursing workforce. Such requirements have been implemented successfully in other states.

While a required survey would provide a comprehensive understanding of the nursing workforce in Hawai'i, The Center for Nursing respectfully requests that this bill be held to allow further time for the Board of Nursing and the Center to work toward ensuring long term success of such a change in licensing requirements.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.