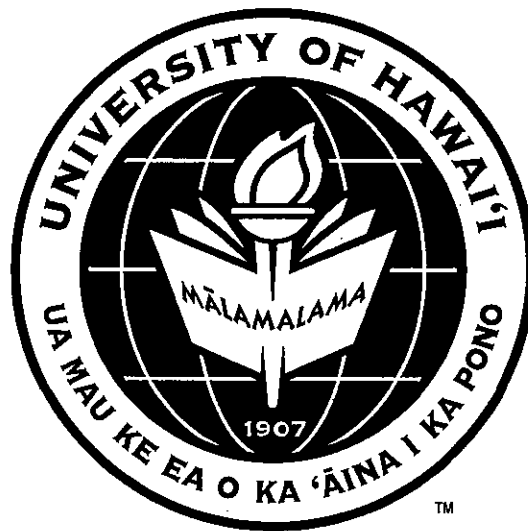


# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



**SB 2674 Relating to Nursing**

Testimony Presented Before the Senate  
Committees on Health and Education

February 6, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

Presented by

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Testimony Presented Before the Senate  
Committees on Health and Education**

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

1:15 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

Presented by

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**SB 2674, Relating to Nursing**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2674, Relating to Nursing. The University strongly supports this bill which amends section 457-7(f), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to provide an additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a graduate with a completed portion of a master's entry program in nursing (MEPN) to apply for a license as a registered nurse by examination.

The proposed amendment clarifies that students of a qualified MEPN program are eligible to enter the nursing workforce after successfully completing the designated portion of the curriculum. SB 3130 Relating to Nursing, proposes a similar amendment that was heard on Monday, February 4, 2008 by the Senate Committee on Health.

There are more than 60 accelerated or fast track programs with entry at the Master's level across the country. The MEPN is designed for adult learners with no prior nursing experience/education, have a baccalaureate degree or higher in another field other than nursing and are leadership bound and seeking a career in advanced practice nursing. The program equips students with entry-level professional nurse competencies as a foundation for advanced practice roles.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene developed the new MEPN program in response to the nursing shortage and student interest. The program is built upon the curriculum expertise of faculty, institutional experience with accelerated education, and in partnership with the health care community, students, and national experts. State funding was allocated to offer the innovative program in an effort to address workforce need.

The UHM MEPN program received provisional approval by the Hawai'i State Board of Nursing. It consists of an intensive pre-licensure year structured as three continuous semesters transitioning into a specialty nursing pathway. The program does not replace the generic baccalaureate nursing program but provides an additional program pathway



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

888 MILILANI STREET, SUITE 601 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2991  
The Twenty Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii



Randy Pereira *Executive Director*  
Tel: 808 543-0011 Fax: 808 528-0922

Hawaii State Senate  
Nora A. Nomura *Deputy Executive Director*  
Committee on Education  
Tel: 808 543-0011

Derek M. Mizuno *Deputy Executive Director*  
Tel: 808 543-0055 Fax: 808 523-6879

**Committee on Health**

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

**Senate Bill 2674- Relating to Nursing**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports S.B. 2674. This bill proposes to allow a student who has graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing and who has successfully completed the pre-licensure portion of a master's entry program in nursing to apply for a license by examination.

With the severe shortage of nurses in Hawaii, allowing students, studying to attain their master's degree in nursing, to apply for licensure by examination would help fill the vacant nursing positions in Hawaii. Having more licensed nurses would positively impact the community and help reach our goal of providing adequate healthcare in Hawaii.

We respectfully urge the passage of S.B. 2674 by your committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony in support of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

AND

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Wednesday, February 6, 2008  
1:15 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2674, RELATING TO NURSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,  
TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN SAKAMOTO, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is Kathy Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer of Board of Nursing ("Board"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2674.

This bill allows a graduate with a completed portion of a Board of Nursing approved master's entry nursing program to apply for a license as a registered nurse by examination.

The Board is in support of Senate Bill No. 2674 because:

- The master's entry nursing program will not replace the generic baccalaureate nursing program, but instead provide an additional pathway to prepare registered nurses for licensure. By providing this second pathway to nursing, this program may help to alleviate the nursing shortage because it may increase access to the

University of Hawai'i at Manoa's generic baccalaureate program since beginning level college students would not be competing with experienced, college-prepared students for the spaces in this program.

- The Board is aware that there are more than 50 similar accelerated or fast track programs with entry at the Master's level, across the country. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has indicated that this type of program has been successful in preparing competent nurses.

For these reasons, the Board of Nursing supports passage of Senate Bill No. 2674. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

L A T E



# Hawai'i State Center for Nursing

**Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health  
February 6, 2008  
1:15 p.m.**

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

## **SB 2674, Relating to Nursing**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2674, Relating to Nursing. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing strongly supports this bill which will provide an additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a candidate who has completed the required portion of the Master's Entry Program Into Nursing to be eligible for the licensing examination.

This is an innovative program established by the University of Hawai'i School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene to provide an undergraduate to master's degree pathway in three years. This program is modeled after more than 60 programs throughout the country which have proven to be highly successful in preparing well educated and qualified nurses.

This program was developed in response to community and student interest, and provides an excellent option for adult learners with prior degrees in other fields. Designed as an accelerated or fast track program, it will expedite a career pathway into advanced practice or nursing faculty roles.

An increased supply of nurses prepared at the graduate level is a critical factor in addressing the nursing shortage both in Hawai'i and nationwide. This program will be a welcome addition to educational options available at the local level.

In light of an ongoing nursing shortage in the state and the nation, it is vital that schools of nursing consider innovations to meet the needs of the workforce both now and in the future. This is positive example of such a program that is responsive to the needs of both students and the employers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

L A T E

Written Testimony of  
MATTHEW R. WILLIAMS  
Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

February 06, 2008

**SB 2674 RELATING TO NURSING**

Thank you Senator Sakamoto, Senator Ige, and other distinguished members of the Senate Committees on Education and Health for considering Senate Bill 2674.

My name is Matthew Williams and I am a student in the Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I would like to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2674. I recommend amending the Hawaii Revised Statutes to provide additional means to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse by allowing a graduate with a completed portion of the program to apply for a license as a registered nurse by exam. The MEPN program is of great benefit to students and the people of Hawaii.

From my personal experience, the decision to apply to the MEPN program was the next logical career step for me. I have a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Business from The Ohio State University. After graduation I worked as a Personal Banker and as a small business owner. Later, I transitioned to the medical field as a licensed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to fulfill a desire to make a hands-on positive contribution to the lives of others. Working as an EMT, I was employed within a variety of environments including working as a member of a volunteer rescue squad, as an Emergency Department Technician, an Intensive Care Unit Technician, for a medical transport team, and as a Test Administrator for drug screening in for the National Collegiate Athletic Association. After events which brought me to Hawaii, I worked for the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Medical Services for approximately two years. While on the job I sustained an injury to my back that is now chronic in nature. Because of this injury I was forced to consider other work because I could no longer meet the physical demands working as an EMT.

The MEPN program is an excellent opportunity to continue to work in health care. The master's degree gives the opportunity to advance one's education forward instead of a lateral move to a second bachelor's degree. Because the program is accelerated it will allow for a quick return to the workforce. In addition, the program offers the opportunity to gain a Master's of Science in Nursing and offers a specialty track to also earn a Master's in Business Administration. This merging of healthcare and business is a unique program that will prepare me for a position in administration. I hope this MSN/MBA program will give me the opportunity to work in a hospital environment both in management and as a clinician.

Passage of this bill provides an additional and expeditious route for future nurses to enter the workforce. This bill directly impacts the current nursing shortage crises that will continue to worsen in light of the increasing geriatric population. This program is an amazing opportunity for nursing students and for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering this important bill and accepting my testimony.