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Written Testimony of  
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**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 Sondra Steele, and I am a student in the Master's Entry Program in Nursing at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I would like to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2674 that amends the 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 the a master's entry program in nursing to apply for a license as a registered nurse by exam.

I have a master's degree in international public health. While in Africa, I worked in health promotion, infectious disease control, and HIV/AIDS education. While I was in Zambia, I worked in a small village where we lost an infant from malaria. I quickly realized that my general public health degree was not enough to make a difference in the work I wanted to do.

The Master's Entry Program in Nursing at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa allows me to integrate my public health skills with specific clinical nursing skills. In our program, each student story is different. We are epidemiologists, bankers, scientists, and students who are looking not just for nursing skills but roles of leadership in our community. This bill would enable all of us, and others like us in the future, an expedited way of giving back to our community and to address the nursing shortage.

I look forward to working as an RN while I continue my advanced studies for a specialty in nursing administration. In the future, I plan to give back to the community whether I am working in a hospital or by establishing creative public health programs for the people of Hawai'i.

I look forward to becoming a nurse professional and contributing my knowledge and service to improve the health of our community. Thank you for considering this important bill and accepting my testimony.