

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,
AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

Thursday, February 21, 2008
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 3130, S.D.1, RELATING TO NURSING.

TO THE HONORABLE RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kathy Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 3130, S.D. 1.

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. 3130, S.D.1 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. 3130, S.D.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing
Thursday, February 21, 2008
9:00 a.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 3130 SD1, Relating to Nursing

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3130 SD1, 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.

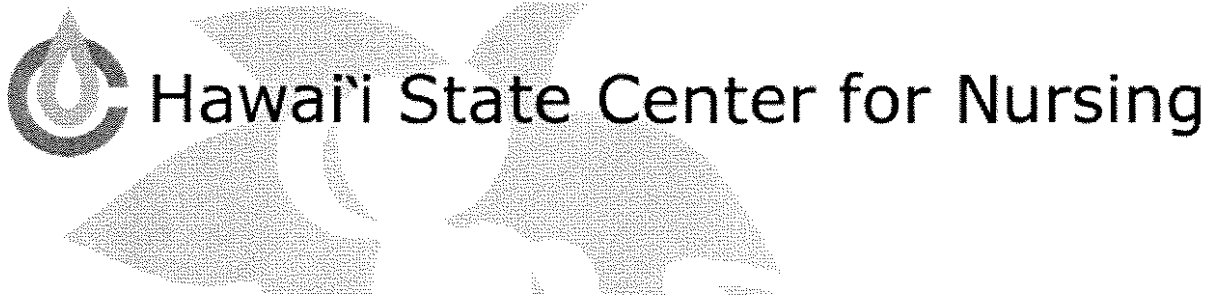
There are more than 60 accelerated or fast track programs with entry at the Master's level across the country. The MEPN is designed for adult learners with no prior nursing experience/education, have a baccalaureate degree or higher in another field other than nursing and are leadership bound and seeking 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 to prepare nurse professionals. At the completion of the pre-licensure component, students meet the American Association of Colleges of Nursing designated baccalaureate competencies.

Passage of this measure will assist in addressing the nursing workforce shortage by enabling nurse professionals to enter the workforce in a shorter amount of time and contribute to increasing the pool of advanced practice nurses and potential future faculty.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am pleased to answer any questions.



**Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Commerce
Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing
February 21, 2008
9:00 a.m.**

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

SB 3130, S.D. 1, Relating to Nursing

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3130, S.D. 1, 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.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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The Twenty Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO
February 21, 2008

S.B. 3130, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO NURSING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, Local 152, AFL-CIO, supports S.B. 3130. This bill proposes to allow a graduate with a bachelor's degree in nursing who has completed a portion of a master's entry program to apply for licensure as a registered nurse.

There is a severe shortage of nurses in Hawaii. Allowing a student with a bachelor's degree in nursing to apply for licensure will have a positive effect in reducing the nursing shortage in Hawaii.

We respectfully urge the passage of this bill from your committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of S.B. 3130.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,
AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Senator Russell Kokubun, Chair

Conference Room 229
February 21, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Testimony in support of SB 3130 SD 1.

I am Rich Meiers, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. I regret that I shall not be able to testify in person due to a previous commitment. However, I appreciate this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 3130 SD 1, which allows those who are enrolled in a master's entry program in nursing who have completed the pre-license portion of the program to take the licensing examination to become a registered nurse.

Currently, these students must complete the master's entry program in nursing in order to qualify to take the licensing examination. This bill will enable them to take the examination when they have completed the pre-licensure portion of the program prior to graduation and allow them to be employed as registered nurses while they are completing the master's program.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports SB 3130 SD 1.

Written Testimony of
Jesslyn Lau
Nursing Student, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

February 21, 2008

SB 3130, SD 1 Relating to Nursing

Thank you Senator Kokubun, and other distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing for considering SB 3130, SD 1.

My name is Jesslyn Lau, 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 SB 3130, SD 1 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 master's entry program in nursing to apply for a license as a registered nurse by exam.

I received a bachelor of science degree in health/exercise science and a master's degree in public health from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. It has been rewarding to work in health education, work-site wellness promotion, and public health research for the past five years. Recently, I became interested in balancing my work experiences in health promotion and program planning with more of an applied approach. I decided to pursue my graduate nursing studies at UH Mānoa because it will allow me to learn and establish relationships within the community where I plan to practice.

I believe this bill is important because it will allow individuals like me to contribute to the health and wellness of Hawai'i residents, by building on my past experiences in health promotion and disease prevention. Additionally, this bill will assist in addressing the nursing workforce shortage by enabling nurses to enter the field upon completion of their pre-licensure year of study. Lastly, this bill will impact the quality of healthcare in Hawai'i that everyone in this room will receive.

I hope to work and gain experience as a registered nurse while continuing with my graduate studies for a specialty in community and public health. After graduation, I plan to practice as a health care provider and educator in a community health setting.

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.

Jesslyn Lau