

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

329

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2009

RE: S.B. No. 280
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 280
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REGISTERED NURSES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to help alleviate the nursing shortage in the State by removing the requirement that an unlicensed foreign nursing school graduate applying for a registered nurse license in Hawaii must have the nurses' educational credentials evaluated by a professional evaluator.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by Healthcare School of Hawaii, the Filipino American Citizens League, Oahu Filipino Community Council, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Congress of Visayan Organizations, and Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc. Testimony in opposition of this measure was submitted by the Board of Nursing, University of Hawaii System, University of Phoenix, and the Filipino Nurses Organization. Comments on this measure were submitted by the Philippine Nurses Association of Hawaii. Written testimony presented to your Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that the State's requirement for uniform evaluation by the recognized authority on credential evaluations, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools International, is connected to federal immigration laws that require all international health professionals, except physicians,

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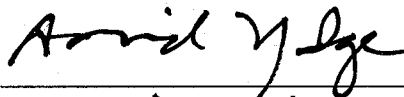


to be certified by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools International or another independent, government-certified organization qualified to issue credentials. Though your Committee is open to making the application process for foreign educated nurses less cumbersome, it believes that sufficient safeguards are necessary to ensure that foreign nursing school graduates are educationally qualified to apply for a registered nurse license in Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion on this matter.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 280, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 280, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 280	Committee Referral: HTH, CPN	Date: 2/13/9
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	/			
GREEN, M.D., Josh (VC)	/			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	/			
ESPERO, Will				/
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	/			
HEMMINGS, Fred	/			
TOTAL	5	0	0	5

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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*Only one measure per Record of Votes