

HAWAII COALITION OF CAREGIVERS

P.O. Box 2441, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

February 10, 2009

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Testimony in Strong Support of HB 814 – CPC – 2/11/09, 2:00 p.m., Rm. 325

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (HCCG) **strongly supports HB814** amending Act 226 (2007) codified as HRS Chapter 457A, which imposed various requirements on Certified Nurses' Aides (CNAs) renewing their licenses, to specify the number of continuing education (CE) hours required for recertification.

HCCG supports the intent to require CE training for recertification of CNA's and believes it in the best interest of both providers and recipients of CNA services. CE training would ensure the proficiency of each licensee with respect to all necessary skills and enable licensees to remain competent in providing care to the public.

CE training can be provided by state-approved providers to ensure the integrity and quality of the CE program. In addition to ensuring proficiency, licensees would have the opportunity to update or even improve their skills. For these reasons, many regulated professions in the State require CE; for example, 12 hours every two years for real estate agents.

No compromise to the health or safety of the public will arise from this measure. CE providers can still ensure licensees possess the necessary knowledge and skills while at the same time giving licensees an opportunity to update, improve, or refine their skills. In fact, CE will result in safer and higher quality service to recipients.

In summary, HCCG reiterates its **strong support of HB814** specifying the number of continuing education (CE) hours required for recertification.

Very truly yours,

The Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (HCCG)

By: Bryan P. Andaya

About HCCG

HCCG consists primarily of four organizations working in collaboration towards the common mission of uniting the home and community based care giving industry to improve the quality of care provided to elderly and developmentally disabled clients in various home and community based programs, as well as to improve the state of the industry. HCCG members include: The Alliance of Residential Care Administrators (ARCA), the United Group of Home Administrators (UGHO), and the Adult Foster Home Association of Hawaii (AFHA). Together, members of the four organizations have a membership of almost 1,250 and comprise about 70% of the home and community-based caregivers in the State of Hawaii.



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD1

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Feb. 11, 2009, 2:00 pm

Hawai'i State Legislature, Conference Room 325

Report Title: Nurse Aide Certification

Description: Specifies the renewal period for the recertification of certified nurse aides and the number of continuing education hours for their recertification.

To: Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
 Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
 Honorable Members of the Consumer Protection and
 Commerce Committee

From: Eddie Agas, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

My name is Eddie Agas. I am the president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill on behalf of UFCH, which is a statewide umbrella organization with member organizations from six islands. UFCH membership is comprised of nearly 5,000 individual members, many of whom are in the certified nurse aide profession or are closely affiliated through kinship, social, cultural, political, and professional networks.

This bill is important because it benefits not only members of our Filipino community, who make up the majority of the certified nurse aide work force, but also all of Hawai'i's people, who are offered an affordable community-based alternative to expensive, institutional long term care services. Certified nurse aides are advocating for changes in training requirements that reflect respect and acknowledgement for their profession's knowledge and skills gained in long term care services that span over forty years of service in the most demanding and labor intensive occupation. Certified nurse aides aim to uphold quality and accountable training standards in order to continue providing top notch long term care services to the State of Hawai'i.

UFCH thanks this committee for hearing this bill, and asks for your help in its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie Agas, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701
E-mail: bramosrazon@aol.com

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Ramon Sumibcay, CPT, AN

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 1

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

February 11, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
House Conference Room 325

RELATING TO NURSE AIDES

Report Title: Nurse Aide Certification

Description: Specifies the renewal period for the recertification of certified nurse aides and the number of continuing education hours for their recertification.

To: Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Honorable Consumer Protection and Commerce
Committee Members

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc. (NAMI)

My name is Beatrice Ramos Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), we are in strong support of this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people by addressing not only a statewide, but worldwide nursing shortage through the training and mentoring of foreign medical graduate nurses, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds, to pass Hawai'i's nurses board exams.

Many NAMI nurse volunteers and their colleagues work in the long term care industry or are caregivers themselves. This bill reflects their views in support of certified nurses aides.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this bill. Your help in its passage is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.



Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

A HAWAII RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP • FOUNDED IN 1990

c/o 728 Nunu St. · Kailua, HI 96734 · <http://www.philippinesonline.org/thecoalition/>

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 1

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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To: Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Honorable Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I want to express appreciation to you for hearing this important bill. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of this bill. Filipinos comprise the majority of certified nurse aides, many of whom are respected and longtime leaders within the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. This bill reflects their views on training, as they strive with great pride to continue providing high standards of care that are cost effective to Hawai'i's frail and elderly population.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH
President
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
 Carehome Administrators
 Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
 Foundation, Inc.
 Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
 Annac ti Batac
 Annac ti Caoayan 2002
 Annac ti Kailokuan iti
 America
 Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii
 Asingan Organization of
 Hawaii
 Badoc-Pinili Aid
 Association of Hawaii
 Banna Association of
 Hawaii
 Bannatiran Association of
 Hawaii
 Batangas Association of
 Hawaii
 Bulacan Circle of Hawaii
 Caballeros de Dimasalang
 Cabugao Sons & Daughters
 of Hawaii
 Candonians of Hawaii
 Caoayan ISAH
 Cavitenians of Hawaii
 Dingras Association of
 Hawaii
 Divine Word College
 Alumni Association
 FilAm Sports USA
 Fil American Citizens
 League
 Filipino Business Women's
 Club
 Filipino Nurses Organization
 of Hawaii
 Filipino Women's Civic
 Club
 GUMIL Hawaii
 GUMIL Oahu
 Hawaii Filipino Women's
 Club
 Hawaii Council of Bilingual
 Educators
 ILAH
 Ilocos Nortenians of
 America
 INCAT Alumni Association
 of Hawaii
 International Filipino
 Society of Hawaii
 Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.
 La Union Circle of
 Hawaii
 Lingayen Gulf Club of
 Hawaii

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House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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To: Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
 Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
 Honorable Members of the Consumer Protection and
 Commerce Committee

From:
 Cirvalina Longboy, President
 Oahu Filipino Community Council

My name is Cirvalina Longboy, president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill. Hawai'i's Filipinos have served as the backbone in community-based long term care services, and were the first to step up to the plate with a viable solution, when state and federal officials grappled with the spiraling high costs of long term care over forty years ago. The proposed changes to training requirements of certified nurse aides is a result of decades of lessons learned in best business and training practices garnered in the certified nurse aide profession. OFCC is proud to advocate on their behalf, in order for them to continue to serve and protect Hawai'i's most vulnerable people with accountability and high standards of care.

Your support of this bill is much appreciated. Thank you for hearing this bill.

Sincerely,

Cirvalina Longboy
 President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of
 Hawaii
 Narvacan/San Antonio Club of
 Hawaii
 Nueva Vizcaya Association of
 Hawaii
 Pasuquinos Association of
 Hawaii
 Philippine Cultural Foundation
 Philippine Nurses
 Association of Hawaii
 Piddig Association of Hawaii
 Sanchez Mira Association of
 Hawaii
 San Manuel Pangasinan
 Association of Hawaii
 San Nicolaneos USA
 San Nicolas Goodwill
 Foundation
 San Nicolas Teachers of
 Hawaii
 Santa Lucia Association of
 Hawaii
 Sarrat Association of Hawaii
 Sarrat International Inc.
 Sinait Nt. High School Alumni
 of Hawaii
 Solsona of Hawaii
 Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii
 TPCP
 Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.
 Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii
 Samar Leyte Association of
 Hawaii
 Sampaguita/Sunflower Club of
 Hawaii
 San Juan Association of
 Hawaii
 San Nicolas Nat. High
 Santa Marians of Hawaii
 School Alumni
 Santa Nicolas Nat. High
 School Bingao Annex
 Tagalog Association of Oahu
 United Bacarreños of Hawaii
 United Group of Home
 Operators
 United Pangasinan of Hawaii
 United Urdaneta Club of
 Hawaii
 United Vintarinians of Hawaii
 Vigan Association of Hawaii



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 1

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Feb. 11, 2009, 2 p.m. · Hawai'i State Legislature · House Conference Rm. 325

Report Title: Nurse Aide Certification

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To: Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Honorable Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee Members

From: Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region XII

My name is Amy Agbayani. NaFFAA Region XII strongly supports this bill, in which certified nurse aides have proactively proposed training requirement changes. This measure affirms the integrity of the certified nurse aide profession, while at the same time retains and meets quality standards of care.

As Vice Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, we support the significant contributions of certified nurse aides in America's health care systems. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Vice Chair
NaFFAA Region XII

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 1

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Feb. 11, 2009, 2 p.m. · Hawai'i State Legislature · House Conference Rm. 325

To:

Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair

Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair

Honorable Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee Members

From:

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Report Title: Nurse Aide Certification

Description:

Specifies the renewal period for the recertification of certified nurse aides and the number of continuing education hours for their recertification.

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill, which is in keeping with training requirements that both respect the certified nurse profession, and is accountable to protect public safety with its proposed changes. The Filipino American Citizens League is proud to support Hawai'i's certified nurse aides, who have offered the families, long term care institutions, those in need of these services, and tax payers of our Aloha State, quality and compassionate caregiver services at affordable rates.

Thank you for the chance to provide support for this bill. Your help in its passage is greatly appreciated.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg

President

Filipino American Citizens League



Big Island Chapter

AFHA & ARCH
1468 Mele Manu St.
Hilo, HI 96720



Testimony in Strong Support of HB 814 – CPC –
2/11/09, 2:00 p.m., Rm. 325

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Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Adult **Residential** Care Home Operators and Adult **Foster** Home Operators of the Big Island, consisting of about 150 members, we strongly support HB 814 specifying the number of continuing education (CE) hours required for CNA recertification. CE training would help us stay proficient with respect to all necessary skills and enable us to remain competent in providing care to the public.

In addition, we would have the opportunity to update or even improve our skills.

Residents and the public receiving our services would stand to benefit and be further protected. In fact, CE will result in safer and higher quality service to recipients.

In summary, we **strongly support HB814** specifying the number of continuing education (CE) hours required for recertification.

Sincerely yours,
AFHA/ARCH LEADERS
Big Island Chapter

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