



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
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STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
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**PRESENTATION OF THE
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, March 3, 2009
3:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 814, H.D. 2, RELATING TO NURSE AIDES.

TO THE HONORABLE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kathy Yokouchi, the Executive Officer of the Nurse Aide Program under the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). We appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Department on House Bill No. 814, H.D. 2.

The purpose of House Bill No. 814, H.D. 2 is to specify the renewal period for the recertification of certified nurse aides and to limit the number of continuing education hours for their recertification.

In accordance with Act 226, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007 and federal law, 42 United States Code sections 13951i and 1396r, the Department of Human Services

Testimony on House Bill No. 814, H.D. 2
Tuesday, March 3, 2009
Page 2

("DHS") clearly has jurisdiction over certified nurse aide training. The Department defers to the DHS in determining the number of hours that are appropriate for nurse aides to prove that they are competent to continue to safely practice as certified nurse aides.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 814, H.D. 2.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 2

House Committee on Finance
March 3, 2009, 3 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 308

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 Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Ron Menor, Chair, NaFFAA Region XII

My name is Ron Menor. 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 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,

Ron Menor, Chair, NaFFAA Region XII



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

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,
FACDONA
President*

*Tessie Oculito, RN
Vice President*

*D Jun Obaldo, RN, BSN
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Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Ramon Sumibcay, CPT, AN

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 2

House Committee on Finance

March 3, 2009, 3 p.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 308

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To: Honorable Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
Honorable House Finance 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 hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to provide strong support. Your help in its passage is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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



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
Annak 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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 2

House Committee on Finance

March 3, 2009, 3 p.m. | Hawai'i State Capitol | Room 308

Report Title: Nurse Aide Certification

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To:

Honorable Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair

Honorable House Finance Committee Members

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
Pidig 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 Bacarreneos 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 2

House Committee on Finance
March 3, 2009, 3 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 308

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 Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Ron Menor, Chair, NaFFAA Region XII

My name is Ron Menor. 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 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,

Ron Menor, Chair, NaFFAA Region XII



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 2

House Committee on Finance
March 3, 2009, 3 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 308

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To: Honorable Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Filipino American Citizens League

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 2

House Committee on Finance

March 3, 2009, 3 p.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature

House Conference Rm. 308

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 Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

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



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

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

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 2

House Committee on Finance

March 3, 2009, 3 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 308

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 Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
 Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
 Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

Alliance of Residential Care Administrators

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 814 with friendly amendment

FIN – Mar 3, 2009 3:00 p.m. Rm. 308

Chair Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chair Marilyn Lee, and Members of the FIN Committee:

I am Myriam Tabaniag, president of the Alliance of Residential Care Administrators (ARCA). ARCA strongly supports HB814 HD2 which imposes certain requirements on Certified Nurses' Aides (CNAs) renewing their licenses. In particular it provides for up to 24 of continuing education (CE) hours for CNA recertification.

ARCA 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. However, CNA's do not carry the heavy responsible that medical doctors MD, RN, LPN, etc. In the care homes, CNAs are basically taking care of the elderly and disabled and helping them with assisted living. The bulk of their work in cooking, housekeeping, assisting residents to get in and out of bed or wheel chair, help them get dressed, etc.

To become a doctor or Lawyer one needs to have a doctorate degree: Medical doctor MD or Juris Doctor JD or approximately 20 to 24 years of formal education and internship/training. The CNA course is only three weeks in comparison.

A lawyer's work is very intense and as officers of the court are held to high standards of professionalism. There are thousands of Federal, State, and Local laws, rules, regulations, and judicial cases and rules being promulgated every day. However, there is absolutely no CE requirement for attorneys.

Many regulated professions in the State require CE; for example, 12 hours every two years for real estate agents. However, Real Estate Brokers are a much more complicated and responsible job in comparison to a mere CNA. RE brokers who work in an environment of constant changes in the law and there is a huge host of Federal RE loan, mortgage and banking laws that brokers need to be aware of.

CNA in care homes are more akin to a housekeeper or a caretaker. So to keep everything in perspective and avoid the overburdening of CNAs, may I offer a friendly amendment to require no more than 12 hours instead of 24 hour as stated in the HD2.

No compromise to the health or safety of the public will arise from this measure and amendment. CE providers can still ensure licensees possess the necessary knowledge and skills while at the same time giving licensees an opportunity to update their skills. In fact, 12 CE will result in safe and high quality service to recipients.

In summary, ARCA reiterates its strong support of HB814 specifying the number of continuing education (CE) hours required for recertification. Thank you for your time in considering this important measure and for your consideration of my friendly amendment to reduce the 24 hours to 12 hours.

HAWAII COALITION OF CAREGIVERS

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

March 2, 2009

MEMBERS 2008-09

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 814 – FIN – 3/3/09, 3:00 p.m., Rm. 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Myriam Tabaniag

President
Alliance of Residential Care
Administrators

Lani Akee

President
Adult Foster Homecare
Association of Hawaii

Esther Pascual

President
United Group of Home
Operators

Myriam Guerrero

President
Alliance of Residential Care
Administrators - Big Island
Chapter

Daniel Marcos

President
Adult Foster Home
Association of Hawaii - Big
Island Chapter

Myriam Guerrero

President
Alliance of Residential Care
Administrators - Big Island
Chapter

Mila Medallon

Advisor

Donnie Juan, Esq.

Lobbyist

Bryan P. Andaya

Advisor

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.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 814 HD 2

House Committee on Finance

Date: March 3, 2009

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, House Conference Room 308

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 Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Amy Agbayani, Private Citizen
3432 B-1 Kalihi Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

My name is Amy Agbayani. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to express my strong support. The intent of this bill is to specify the renewal period for the recertification of certified nurse aides and the number of continuing education hours required for recertification by the director of human services.

Certified nurse aides play an integral role in providing quality health care services and helping to keep the cost of long term care affordable for Hawai'i's families. This clarification in training and recertification will ultimately benefit individuals who are in the care of certified nurse aides that work in nursing facilities participating in Medicare and Medicaid programs and in other state-licensed and state-certified health care settings.

Your support of this bill is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani
Private Citizen

FINTestimony

From: Charlene Cuaresma [ccuaresma@hawaiiantel.net]

Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 3:23 PM

To: FINTestimony

Subject: Testimonies in support of HB 814 HD 2, Mar. 3, 3 pm, Rm. 308, House Finance Committee

Please accept these testimonies in strong support of HB 814 HD 2, relating to Nurse Aide Certification.

Mahalo,

Charlene Cuaresma
President
Filipino Coalition For Solidarity