



Tuesday – January 26, 2010 - 9:00am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Ryan H. Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Brigitte McKale, RN
Chief Nurse Executive
Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi

Re: Testimony in Strong Support HB 2205 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses

My name is Brigitte McKale, Chief Nurse Executive for Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi. The Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi is an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH), which is the four-hospital system of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital, and Wilcox Hospital/Kauai Medical Clinic.

I am writing in strong support of HB 2205 which requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

As nursing professionals we have an ethical obligation to protect the safety of patients who are often vulnerable and dependent on the care we provide. This ethical obligation necessitates nurses to update their knowledge with evidenced based care and keeping up with the latest developments in the healthcare field. Not updating and acquiring new skills and knowledge will ultimately leave Hawai'i's nursing professionals ill prepared to provide the best care possible for our patients.

Just like with any other professions (realtors, lawyers, physicians), nurses must continuously learn and acquire new skills to maintain competence in their profession. Many healthcare organizations have continuing education established within their practice, yet many nurses work independently of these organizations and therefore have no obligation to complete requirements for continuing education.

Hawai'i lags behind most other states which require continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal. As of 2009, 32 of the 50 states require nurses to obtain some type of continuing education units to renew their license. Physicians have been required to obtain 40 continuing medical education (CME) every two years for many years, and numerous states also require other healthcare professionals – such as pharmacists and social workers - to obtain continuing education credits to renew their licenses. **However, Hawai'i is among only 18 states that does not require continuing education credits in order for nurses to renew their license.**

Requiring CE can be done with minimal cost to the licensing body and at minimal financial burden to an individual nurse. The oversight of these requirements can be managed efficiently through the use of random audits, as done with physician CE credits. For example, instead of sending in proof of CME to a central department, physicians are randomly audited. This method has proven to be effective and less labor intensive than traditional methods of CE oversight. Random audits can be applied to manage CE compliance and in fact is the preferred method by many national organizations such as the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

For individuals nurses, the cost to maintain education credits are manageable given the alternative CE methods that is widely available. There are now numerous avenues for a nurse to obtain continuing education - some of which are free. Examples include seminars and conferences that offer continuing education - which are the costliest of the options to professional journals and online sources. Therefore, the 15 continuing hours every two years can be done at little cost and given the relatively low number of continuing education credits proposed in this bill to maintain a nursing license.

For nurses seeking national certification, the same educational credits could also be applied toward national certification. For example, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) requires 100 continuing credit every three years, which the 15 hour requirement requested in HB 2205 could also be applied to AACN requirements.

Please consider passing HB 2205 from this committee. Patient safety is dependent on well educated nurses and continuing education is an avenue of assuring all nurses obtain continuing education independent of their practice area. Requiring education is a small effort to comply with when delivering safe and quality patient care is at stake.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of
Phyllis Dendle
Director of Government Relations

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

January 26, 2010
9:00 am
Conference Room 329

HB 2205 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES

Chair Yamane and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2205 which requires nurses to have 15 hours of continuing education in order to renew their license.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports the intent but recommends an amendment.

We share the legislature's interest in assuring the highest level of competency for health care professionals who practice in Hawaii.

Nurses renew their licenses every June 30 in odd numbered years. The next renewal date will be June 30, 2011. The bill would require that the nurses renewing at that time have their continuing education completed by December 31, 2011. If this bill becomes law in July 2010 this would allow less than the intended two years for nurses to get the required continuing education. It may also require time to set up the process of tracking these credits. In addition it will require a complete review of education and licensing out of the usual renewal cycle. **With that in mind we suggest the date to begin this requirement be no sooner than the renewal date of June 30, 2013.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Castle Medical Center

**Adventist
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*Exceptional Medicine
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January 25, 2010

Tuesday – January 26, 2010 - 9:00am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Ryan H. Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Kathy Raethel, R.N., MPH, MHA, FACHE, NEA-BC

Re: **Testimony in Strong Support HB 2205 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses**

My name is Kathy Raethel, Vice President Patient Care Services at Castle Medical Center

I am writing in strong support of HB 2205 which requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

As nursing professionals we have an ethical obligation to protect the safety of patients who are often vulnerable and dependent on the care we provide. This ethical obligation necessitates nurses to update their knowledge with evidenced based care and keeping up with the latest developments in the healthcare field. Not updating and acquiring new skills and knowledge will ultimately leave Hawai'i's nursing professionals ill prepared to provide the best care possible for our patients.

Just like with any other professions (realtors, lawyers, physicians), nurses must continuously learn and acquire new skills to maintain competence in their profession. Many healthcare organizations have continuing education established within their practice, yet many nurses work independently of these organizations and therefore have no obligation to complete requirements for continuing education.

Hawai'i lags behind most other states which require continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal. As of 2009, 32 of the 50 states require nurses to obtain some type of continuing education units to renew their license. Physicians have been required to obtain 40 continuing medical education (CME) every two years for many years, and numerous states also require other healthcare professionals – such as pharmacists and social workers - to obtain continuing education credits to renew their licenses. However, Hawai'i is among only 18 states that does not require continuing education credits in order for nurses to renew their license.

Mālama ana i kō kākou kaiāulu.
Caring for our community.

Ka'ana i ke aloha o ke Akua.
Sharing God's love.

Requiring CE can be done with minimal cost to the licensing body and at minimal financial burden to an individual nurse. The oversight of these requirements can be managed efficiently through the use of random audits, as done with physician CE credits. For example, instead of sending in proof of CME to a central department, physicians are randomly audited. This method has proven to be effective and less labor intensive than traditional methods of CE oversight. Random audits can be applied to manage CE compliance and in fact is the preferred method by many national organizations such as the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

For individuals nurses, the cost to maintain education credits are manageable given the alternative CE methods that is widely available. There are now numerous avenues for a nurse to obtain continuing education - some of which are free. Examples include seminars and conferences that offer continuing education - which are the costliest of the options to professional journals and online sources. Therefore, the 15 continuing hours every two years can be done at little cost and given the relatively low number of continuing education credits proposed in this bill to maintain a nursing license.

For nurses seeking national certification, the same educational credits could also be applied toward national certification. For example, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) requires 100 continuing credit every three years, which the 15 hour requirement requested in HB 2205 could also be applied to AACN requirements.

Please consider passing HB 2205 from this committee. Patient safety is dependent on well educated nurses and continuing education is an avenue of assuring all nurses obtain continuing education independent of their practice area. Requiring education is a small effort to comply with when delivering safe and quality patient care is at stake.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Kathy Raethel
Vice President Patient Care Services



January 25, 2010

To: Representative Ryan H. Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Randy M. Caine, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, ANP-BC, GNP
Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 2205 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses**

I am writing in support of HB 2205 which requires nurses licensed in the State of Hawaii to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

As a nursing professional with a long history of participation in both voluntary and mandatory continuing education, I support the requirement for 15 hours of mandatory continuing education every two years. Registered nurses, like other professions that require ongoing learning and acquisition of new skills such as physicians, must maintain competence. I believe that mandatory continuing education has the potential to reduce medical errors, motivate employers to support continuing education needs of RN employees, and raise the standard for continuing education for all nurses.

For many years I have personally had to participate in mandatory continuing education in order to maintain my basic registered nurse license in California as well as my advanced practice professional certifications. While there will be administrative costs related to monitoring of the continuing education credits, like California, that could be done through random audits.

While the research is inconclusive about the benefits of mandatory continuing education over voluntary continuing education, I believe we can expect no less from our registered nurses than we do of our physician counterparts.

Please consider passing HB 2205 from this committee. As an educator, I know that participation in continuing education does not guarantee learning. However, 15 credits of continuing education every two years is a good start. Our patients deserve no less!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH
Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

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www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 – 9:00am
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The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Ryan H. Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone, RN MBA
Chief Nurse Executive – Hawai'i Pacific Health
Chief Operating Office – Straub Clinic & Hospital

Re: **Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2205 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses**

My name is Art Gladstone, Chief Nurse Executive at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH) and Chief Operating Officer at Straub Clinic & Hospital. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 44 outpatient clinics and more than 2,200 physicians and clinicians. The network is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Collectively, they lead the state in the areas of women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, bone and joint services and cancer care. Hawai'i Pacific Health ranks among the top 3.8 percent of hospitals nationwide in electronic medical record adoption, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state. Learn more at: <http://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org>

I am writing in strong support of HB 2205 which requires nurses licensed in the State of Hawaii to complete 15 hours of continuing education during each two year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

It is the role of healthcare employers, regulatory boards, legislators, accrediting and certifying bodies, professional organizations and nursing professionals to protect the health and safety of the public. Patient safety and quality care are at the forefront of today's healthcare environment. Healthcare remains a rapidly changing environment in which new technology, procedures and research are developed at an unprecedented pace. In this dynamic and evolving environment, it is essential that we ensure that those who are providing clinical care remain up to date with current information. HB 2205 will assist Registered Nurses in maintaining and expanding their knowledge base to remain current and competent in their field not only upon initial licensure but also throughout their nursing career on an ongoing basis through licensure renewal.

Continuing education is one of several methods that can assist Nurses to maintain clinical competency. Research suggests that although the majority of Nurses support and agree that continuing education is necessary to maintain clinical competency, actual voluntary participation in continuing education is not as highly supported. A State requirement for continuing education will assist to overcome this barrier.



STRAUB
CLINIC & HOSPITAL



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

Physicians, Physical Therapists, Dentists, Pharmacists, Social Workers, and other Allied Health professionals are among professional groups who require ongoing continuing education for licensure renewal. Hawaii's physicians have long required continuing education participation. Hawaii is among only 18 states in the nation that does not currently require continuing education for nurses for professional licensure renewal.

In today's diverse educational environment, the obtainment of 15 hours of continuing education can be obtained with relative ease. Many healthcare employers offer continuing education reimbursement programs. Continuing education hours can be obtained at minimal or no cost via an online or self study venue. Most nursing courses, classes, in-services, seminars and conferences offer continuing education at minimal or no charge to the participants. A 15 hour continuing education requirement is a minimal expectation. There are 20 States that require greater than 15 hours of continuing education per licensure renewal cycle.

Nurses who obtain national certifications in their area of specialty have been shown to have improved patient care outcomes. In order to maintain a national certification, the nurse must demonstrate completion of continuing nursing education. The continuing education requirement of HB 2205 could be applied toward national certification maintenance and vice versa, both of which will increase the knowledge base of the nurse.

In summary, I strongly support HB 2205 and the requirement of continuing education hours for nursing licensure renewal. This bill will assist nurses in maintaining long term clinical competence which ultimately will lead to improved safety and quality of care for the people of Hawaii. The public has a right to expect competence from their healthcare providers and continuing education requirements are a key component of this. With the support of employers, legislators, and regulatory bodies a multifaceted approach to maintaining clinical competence can be achieved. Thank you for your consideration of HB 2205 and for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of it.