



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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**The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Health**

**Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
January 26, 2010**

**H.B. 2205 – RELATING TO
CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR NURSES**

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO, opposes H.B. 2205 – Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses.

Although we understand the intent of the bill, requiring all registered professional nurses to acquire a minimum of 15 continuing education units each two-year period to enable them to renew their licenses will be a hardship, especially for our nurses employed on the neighbor islands. The majority of our nurses employed in the public sector provide direct patient care. They work various rotating shifts and schedules, making it difficult for many of them to attend continuing education classes during the day. Additionally, there are very few classes offered on the neighbor islands, which would necessitate travel to Oahu with additional travel costs.

If the language in the bill would require the employer to provide the continuing education classes at their respective facilities at no cost to the nurses, that would alleviate the availability and cost issues. Also, requiring continuing education units does not provide any assurances of the competency of the nurse.

For the reasons stated above, we are unable to support H.B. 2205 as currently written. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura

Deputy Executive Director

