

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2010
2:00 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2906, RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGICAL
TESTING.**

**TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT HERKES, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Kathy Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer of Board of Nursing ("Board"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2906, Relating to Psychological Testing.

This bill authorizes advanced practice nurses ("APRN") to engage in psychological testing, provided that they hold at least master's degrees. The bill also defines "psychological testing".

The Board has not had the opportunity to fully discuss this matter. The Board reserves comment on whether to support or oppose this measure. However, it has serious concerns with the amendment proposed in Section 7, page 6 (lines 1-4) for the following reasons:

- "Psychological testing" may not be within the scope of an APRN's practice;
- The Board has statutory authority over the APRN scope of practice in Section 457-8.5, HRS. Further, the Board through Title 16, Chapter 89, Subchapter 14, Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR"), defines the scope of practice of an APRN;

- Section 16-89-81, HAR allows APRNs to utilize skills to assess, plan and implement appropriate health and nursing care to patients. An APRN can evaluate the psychosocial health status of a patient by using or ordering diagnostic instruments or procedures; and
- Amendments proposed to Section 457-2, may not be the appropriate place to make changes as "APRN" is defined in a broad manner. The proposed amendment is incongruent with this section because it adds a single, very specific task.

For these reasons, the Board of Nursing reserves comment on whether to support or oppose House Bill No. 2906, but given our concerns would respectfully recommend that Section 7 be deleted. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.