

House Committee on FIN

Mar 3, 2009 3:00 p.m. Rm. 308

Testimony in Support of HB 811 HD2

Rep. Rida Cabanilla, State Representative

42nd District, Waipahu, Ewa

Chair Marcus Oshiro and Vice Chair Marilyn Lee and members of the FIN committee.

I strongly support HB 811 HD2 RELATING to Licensure Requirements of Registered Nurses who graduated from foreign nursing schools.

The bill removes for a foreign nursing school graduate applying for licensure by examination for registered nurses in Hawaii, the requirement to obtain certification from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.

It requires the Board of Nursing to adopt rules requiring submission of the Breakdown of Educational Program for International Nursing Programs form and a certified school transcript.

The intent of this bill is to facilitate, not slow down, the licensing requirements for international nursing school graduates to meet Hawaii's, as well as the nation's, work force shortage of qualified and certified nurses.

California already removed this requirement to meet the growing pressures and demands of health care delivery systems. If this bill is not passes, nurses will continue to go to California instead Hawaii. To get around Hawaii's requirement they will then apply for licensure in California and then request reciprocity in Hawaii since California and Hawaii have reciprocity agreements.

By not passing this bill, Hawaii will lose its market share in application fees, and examinations fees.

The NCLEX examination is the assurance measure that nurses are qualified like the bar exam.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.