



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education and  
House Committee on Health  
March 18, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

by

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and

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### HCR 160/HR 98 REQUESTING THE CENTER FOR NURSING TO EVALUATE THE NEED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR NURSES

Chair Chang, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committees on Higher Education and Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 160/HR 98 requesting the Center for Nursing to evaluate the need and resources to establish a continuing education program for nurses.

There is a national call for a more highly educated nursing workforce as recognized by the Josiah Macy Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the national voice for America's baccalaureate- and higher-degree nursing education programs. In a recent joint publication on lifelong learning by the AACN and Association of American Medical Colleges, a shared vision is articulated for a "continuum of health professional education from admission into a health professional program to retirement that values, exemplifies, and assesses lifelong skills ..."<sup>1</sup>. The report encourages an understanding of and support for change and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve this vision noting four key areas for analysis and recommendation: continuing education methods; interprofessional education; lifelong learning; and workplace learning.

We support the intent of this measure for the Center for Nursing to study and report on this issue including the formation of a joint advisory committee to assist in the process. Noting that the scope and time frame could exceed the resources of the Center and compromise other legislative activities of the Center, we respectfully recommend that:

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<sup>1</sup> AAMC/AACN. 2009. Lifelong Learning in Medicine and Nursing.  
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/pdf/MacyReport.pdf>.

1. the Center review the studies done by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing that address items 4 – 7 on page 3;
2. the Center be allowed to submit an interim progress report in 2012;
3. the joint advisory committee not be dissolved June 30, 2012, but remain in existence until the study is completed; and
4. the final deadline not be specified until after the Center's interim progress report is submitted.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is privileged to provide a home for the Center for Nursing established by the 2003 Legislature. Since becoming operational in May 2005, the Center for Nursing has collaborated with many stakeholders in efforts that have benefited state policy makers, nurses and healthcare. As such, the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene is committed to ensuring the Center's support in efforts with stakeholders and the intent of this resolution. Collaboration is a core value of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's mission promoting consensus building and teamwork within the nursing profession, community and state.

We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**AND**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON HEALTH**

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

**Thursday, March 18, 2010  
2:00 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 160 and HOUSE  
RESOLUTION NO. 98, REQUESTING THE CENTER FOR NURSING TO EVALUATE  
THE NEED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A CONTINUING  
EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR NURSES.**

**TO THE HONORABLE JERRY L. CHANG, CHAIR, AND  
TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:**

My name is Kathy Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 160 and House Resolution No. 98, Requesting the Center for Nursing to Evaluate the Need and Resources Required to Establish a Continuing Education Program for Nurses.

These measures require the Hawaii State Center for Nursing ("Center") to form a joint advisory committee ("committee") composed of representatives of the Hawaii schools of nursing, nursing and healthcare associations, the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Office of the State Auditor, and employers. The Center, with the assistance of the committee, is charged with evaluating, identifying and reporting its findings on many complex issues relating to continuing education no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012.

The Board supports the intent of these measures but respectfully recommends that:

- The Board of Nursing be added to the list of governmental agencies to be part of the joint advisory committee;
- The Center's testimony requesting that it be allowed to submit an interim progress report in 2012 be supported;
- That in accordance with the Center's request for time to render an interim and then a final report, that the joint advisory committee not be dissolved on June 30, 2012, but remain in existence until the study is completed; and
- That in accordance with the Center's request, the final deadline not be specified until after the Center's interim progress report is submitted with its recommendations.

Therefore, the Board of Nursing supports House Concurrent Resolution No. 160 and House Resolution No. 98 with the proposed amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HIGER EDUCATION AND HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2010

Thursday, March 18 , 2010

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**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 160, AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 98 REQUESTING THE CENTER FOR NURSING TO EVALUATE THE NEED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR NURSES.**

TO THE HONORABLE JERRY L. CHANG, CHAIR,  
TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is Gail Tiwanak, and I am the Director for the Hawaii State Center for Nursing. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 160 and House Resolution 98, requesting the Center for Nursing to evaluate the need and resources required to establish a continuing education program for nurses.

This measure requires the Hawaii State Center for Nursing convene a joint advisory committee composed of the representatives from Hawaii Nursing schools, nursing and healthcare organizations, Hawaii State government agencies and employers. The advisory group is charged with assisting the Center in studying many complex issues related to continuing education prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012.

The center supports the intent of the resolution but respectfully recommends that:

- the center review the studies done by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing which address items (4) through(7) on page 3 lines 16-31;
- the Center be allowed to submit an interim progress report in 2012;
- the committee not be dissolved June 30, 2012, but remain in existence until the study is completed;
- the final deadline not be specified until after the Center's interim progress report is submitted with its recommendations.
- The removal of a representative from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing from the joint advisory committee

With the proposed amendments the Hawaii State Center for Nursing supports House Concurrent Resolution 160 and House Resolution 98.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: Chairs Jerry Chang and Ryan Yamane and Members of the House  
Committees on Higher Education and Health  
For hearing on: Thursday, March 18, 2010  
From: Bob Ogawa, President, Hawaii Long Term Care Association  
Re: **Supporting HCR 160** -- Requesting the Center for Nursing to  
evaluate the need and resources required to establish a continuing  
education program for nurses.

The Hawaii Long Term Care Association (HLTCA) supports HCR 160. It goes without saying that nurses are key to the provision of quality care within the long term care arena. At the same time, as this measure points out, "nursing careers take widely divergent paths varying by professional role, setting, clients, disease conditions, and therapeutic modalities as well as level of health care delivery." For long term care, as in the various other segments of the health care provider spectrum, continuing education is critical. As we must draw from a limited pool, it is critical that educational support resources be available to assist in ensuring proper training to adapt to sometimes new care settings and patients and the incumbent skills and requirements.

HCR 160 proposes a thoughtful, forward-looking and much-needed initiative, and the HLTCA would be most pleased to be a part of it.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this proposal.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Rep. Jerry Chang, Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Conference Room 309  
March 18, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

**Supporting HR 98 / HCR 160.**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii represents its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HR 98/ HCR 160, which request that the Center for Nursing determine whether there is a need for mandatory continuing education for nurses and to estimate the resources needed to deliver it. The resolutions also ask the Center for Nursing to study other issues related to nursing.

The State Legislature enacted Act 198, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, creating the Center for Nursing to help ensure the quality of health care for the people of Hawaii by proactively addressing issues related to the nursing workforce. Among its many accomplishments, the Center for Nursing has developed statistics that help provide a clear picture of nursing and the factors that affect it, along with a strategic plan for the nursing workforce in Hawaii.

Professionals in many other fields are required to have regular continuing education, but nurses in Hawaii are not required to submit proof of having completed continuing education to renew their licenses. The only exception is for advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority.

However, there are questions of whether mandating continuing education for all nurses would result in benefits to consumers and whether these benefits would be worth the cost. The resolutions under consideration are intended to gather information relevant to these questions.

The Center for Nursing is the most appropriate agency to perform the study because it has the necessary experience and expertise. The resolutions call for the Center for Nursing to convene an advisory committee with representation from all of the relevant stakeholders to assist with that effort. The Healthcare Association of Hawaii is named as a member of the advisory committee, and would be glad to provide perspectives from its various member organizations.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports HR 98 / HCR 160.