

# **LATE TESTIMONY**

## **PRESENTATION OF THE BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2011

Wednesday, February 9, 2011  
2:45 p.m.

### **TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 37, RELATING TO NURSES.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN, M.D., CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer for the Board of Nursing ("Board") and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony, on Senate Bill No. 37, Relating to Nurses. This bill proposes to grant advanced public health nurses recognition as a separate specialty category as an advanced practice registered nurses ("APRN"). The Board opposes this bill for the following reasons:

1. Education: Current Board requirements for APRN recognition include the completion of an accredited graduate-level program leading to a master's degree. According to the American Nurses Credentialing Center ("ANCC"), which provides the certification exam for advanced public health nurses, there are three (3) options to qualify to sit for the public health nurse advanced certification examination. Option A allows a nurse who has completed any graduate degree in public or community health nursing from a program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission to sit for the national certification exam. This is not

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 37. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Testimony of  
John M. Kirimitsu  
Legal & Government Relations Consultant

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TESTIMONY**

Before:  
Senate Committee on Health  
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

February 9, 2011  
2:45 pm  
Conference Room 229

**Re: SB 37 Relating to Nurses**

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 37 granting public health nurses recognition as advanced practice registered nurses.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawaii opposes this bill.**

This issue as to whether public health nurses may qualify as an advanced practice registered nurse should be before the Board of Nursing, not the legislature. The Board of Nursing is mandated by law to regulate the nursing industry in this state, including recognizing and endorsing nursing licensure standards, using national certifying criteria. Under § 457-5 (a), the Board of Nursing is designated as the appropriate forum to recognize advanced practice registered nurses.

Chapter 457 also grants the Board of Nursing the power to determine eligibility and licensing requirements for recognition as an advanced practice registered nurse. We believe the Board of Nursing is the appropriate forum to determine nursing industry standards, including recognizing advanced practice registered nurses. We request that the committee hold this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.