

LATE

HB 654

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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**by
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HB 654, HD2 RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB 654, HD2.

HB 654, HD2, is the companion bill to SB 490, SD2. The Hawai`i State Center for Nursing (Center for Nursing) strongly supports both measures which are identical except for Section 1, paragraph 3:

| Senate Version | House Version |
|---|--|
| SB 490 SD2 | HB 654, HD2 |
| Section 1 Paragraph 3 states: "The legislature additionally finds that the center for nursing has collected nursing-related data through various surveys, including five annual surveys related to nursing programs, three biennial census surveys of registered nurses, and a census survey of licensed practical nurses. The legislature also finds that center for nursing surveys are a valuable way to collect important nursing-related, workforce data and a response to these surveys should be requested as part of the license renewal requirements under chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes." | Section 1 Paragraph 3 states: "The legislature additionally finds that the center for nursing has collected nursing-related data through various surveys, including five annual surveys related to nursing programs, three biennial census surveys of registered nurses, and a census survey of licensed practical nurses. The legislature also finds that center for nursing surveys are a valuable way to collect important nursing-related data, and a response to these surveys should be requested." |

The Center for Nursing does not have a preference regarding this phrase. We appreciate the fact that both measures request completion of the Center for Nursing's workforce survey as part of the license renewal requirements and addresses Hawai`i's need for centralized communication through which all nurses licensed in the State can contribute to and receive information on practice/regulatory changes, state/federal initiatives and nursing research to assure quality nursing care. These changes will also

better enable Hawai'i to participate in national workforce data surveys and respond to requests in a timely manner. As the Nation moves forward with health care reform, Hawai'i's participation will have positive results for policy formation and resource allocation.

The Center for Nursing appreciates your continuing support of nursing and education in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.