



American Organization of Nurse Executives, Hawai'i Chapter

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2013
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 53 / HR 35 REQUESTING COLLABORATION AMONG VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE NURSES' EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE STATE.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Chapter, American Organization of Nurse Executives ("AONE-Hawaii"), thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of HCR 53 / HR 35.

HCR 53 / HR 35 requests collaboration among various state agencies to identify barriers relating to the practice of advanced practice registered nursing to the full extent of the nurses' education and training in the state.

AONE-Hawai'i is a non-profit professional organization serving more than 100 member Nurse Executives throughout Hawai'i and is an affiliate of AONE National, which has over 7,000 members nationwide. Our mission is to be the principle membership organization that represents and promotes the profession of Nurse Executives in the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. If we can assist with more information please contact us at (808) 447-1840 or aonehawaii@gmail.com.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
March 27, 2013, 10:00 A.M.
by

Susan Lee

HCR 53 REQUESTING COLLABORATION AMONG VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE NURSES' EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE STATE.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in very strong support of HCR 53.

As noted in this resolution, the Legislature in its wisdom aligned Hawaii laws with national goals which require the utilization of primary care providers, particularly Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), to the full extent of their education and training. APRNs provide cost-effective, accessible, patient-centered care including care coordination, chronic care management, and wellness and preventive care which is at the heart of the health reform movement.

In 2011, the Hawaii State Center for Nursing (Center for Nursing) identified 33+ barriers in State Statutes and Administrative Rules which contain obsolete language which are silent, preclude or impede APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and training. These include limitation of prescriptive authority, require supervision by or collaboration with another health care provider, lacks provider neutral language (recognizes physician as the only provider), and prohibits or limits institutional privileges.

However, many laws are rooted in federal laws and require Congressional action. Susan Lee supports The Center for Nursing's belief that the solution to the complete removal of APRN practice barriers must be addressed at both the federal and state levels as well as throughout health care systems, including federal systems, private insurers, fee-for-service structures, and managed care. HCR 53 begins the process of removing the APRN barriers in Hawai'i statutes and administrative rules which are not rooted in federal law. In the future, it would act as a catalyst for the State to continue this effort as federal laws are amended to transform healthcare across all sectors.

The reason provided by the state agencies for the existence of these obsolete laws has been that access to APRN care is not a high priority combined with lack of manpower and expertise among existing personnel. HCR 53 underscores the fact that APRNs have a central role to play in health reform. It clarifies the national goal for a transformed health system that provides wide access to essential health services, while improving quality and controlling costs, cannot be achieved without

maximizing the contributions of APRNs.

Further, Susan Lee supports the Center for Nursing's request that the Attorney General's draft report of the agencies' findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation should also be transmitted to the Governor as the Governor's initiatives include the ACA and Healthcare Transformation; is the chief executive of the State of Hawai'i who ensures that all laws of the State are executed; and is responsible for state agencies.

Therefore, Susan Lee supports the Center for Nursing's recommendation that HCR 53 be amended in part to read as follows:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to transmit a draft report of the agencies' findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislative Reference Bureau and the Governor no later than November 1, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a final report of the agencies' findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Attorney General, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Directors of the Departments of Health, [Director of] Human Services, [Director of] Public Safety, [Division Administrator of the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of]Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Labor, as well as, the Executive Director of the Disability and Communication Access Board, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing, and the State Board of Nursing."

Susan Lee appreciates your continuing support of nursing and health in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 53.

382-6609, susielee1119@gmail.com