



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary  
March 31, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

by

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2862 – RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2862 Relating to Nursing.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing “Nursys” is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BONs may utilize Nursys to verify a nurse’s licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining states that do not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONs nationwide in Nursys participation.

In addition to increasing timely information access to the BON for license verification, discipline, and practice privileges, Nursys may be used by the employers and individual nurses for license verification. Employers may use Nursys to verify a nurse’s license and status and may use bulk processing to accommodate for an entire nursing staff. This program may offer increased efficiency for personnel management in health care systems for employers in addition to the potential positive impacts to the Hawai'i BON. For individuals, nurses may use Nursys to verify existing or previously held licenses from a Nursys participating state when seeking license endorsement into a state.

Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawai'i's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene respectfully requests that the House Committee on Judiciary pass SB 2862 Relating to Nursing without amendments.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 8:05 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** nuyolks@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2862 on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM

**SB2862**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for JUD on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen Yokouchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In extremely strong support. Joining the Nation in receiving and sharing information relating to licensed nurses who have prior criminal backgrounds and/or have had their licenses disciplined for substandard, unethical practice through a secure venue that will save Hawaii's resources in terms of manhours and help the State be alerted to malpractitioners is a no brainer! Thank you! Kathy Yokouchi

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 6:21 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** lenora@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2862 on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM\*

**SB2862**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for JUD on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Lenora Lorenzo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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## **Prime Care Services Hawaii, Incorporated**

*Medicare-certified home health agency*

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary  
March 31, 2016 at 2:00PM  
by Beth Hoban, President  
Prime Care Services Hawaii**

### **SB2862 RELATING TO NURSING**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for SB2862 Relating to Nursing. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing Nursys is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BON's may utilize Nursys to verify nurse's licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining BONs to not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONs nationwide in full Nursys participation.

In addition to increasing timely information access to the BON for license verification, discipline, and practice privileges, Nursys may be used by the employers and individual nurses for license verification. Employers may use Nursys to verify nurse's license and status and may use bulk processing to accommodate for entire nursing staff. This program may offer increased efficiency for personnel management in health care system and employers in addition to the potential positive impacts to the Hawai'i BON. For individuals, nurses may use Nursys to verify existing or previously held licenses from a Nursys participating state when seeking license endorsement into a state.

Prime Care Services Hawaii (Prime Care) employs registered nurses to make home visits. Prior to employment, Prime Care verifies nursing licensure and background checks to assure that nurses employed in our agency meet credential requirements and are safe to be home alone with a patient. Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawai'i's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. I, Beth Hoban, respectfully requests that the House Committee on Judiciary pass SB2862 Relating to Nursing without amendments.

**3375 Koapaka St. Suite I-570 \* Honolulu, Hawaii 96819**  
**Tel: (808) 531-0050 Fax: (808) 531-1158**  
[www.primecarehawaii.com](http://www.primecarehawaii.com)

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
March 31, 2016 2:00 PM.  
by  
Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN**

**SB2862 RELATING TO NURSING**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for SB2862 Relating to Nursing.

Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure those nurses applying for licensure and/or practicing in Hawaii have not been cited in other states for serious issues arising from quality of nursing care or safety to the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawai'i's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. I respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Judiciary pass SB2862 Relating to Nursing without amendments.

Written Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Judiciary

March 31, 2016 at 2:00PM

By

Lynn A. Milligan MSN, RN

SB2862 RELATING TO NURSING

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for SB2862 Relating to Nursing.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing Nursys is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BON's may utilize Nursys to verify nurse's licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining BONs to not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONS nationwide in full Nursys participation.

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Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawai'i's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. Lynn A. Milligan respectfully requests that the House Committee on Judiciary pass SB2862 Relating to Nursing without amendments.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 1:26 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** annes@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2862 on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM

**SB2862**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for JUD on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Scharnhorst	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support this measure so the State of Hawaii can benefit from the due diligence done in other states to ensure we all license safe nurses.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 12:56 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** alnnovak@msn.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2862 on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM\*

**SB2862**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for JUD on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allen Novak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 11:38 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** wailua@aya.yale.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2862 on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM\*

**SB2862**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for JUD on Mar 31, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wailua Brandman	Hawaii Assoc. of Professional Nurses	Support	No

Comments:

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**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary**

**March 31, 2016 at 2:00PM**

**by**

**Susan Lee BSN, RN, WCC**

**SB2862 RELATING TO NURSING**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for SB2862 Relating to Nursing.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing Nursys is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BON's may utilize Nursys to verify nurse's licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining BONs to not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONS nationwide in full Nursys participation.

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Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawai'i's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. I respectfully requests that the House Committee on Judiciary pass SB2862 Relating to Nursing without amendments.

**March 31, 2016 at 2:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 325**

**House Committee on Judiciary**

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone  
Chief Nurse Executive, Hawaii Pacific Health  
Chief Executive Officer, Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic & Hospital

**Re: Testimony in Support – SB 2862**

My name is Art Gladstone and I am the Chief Nurse Executive at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH), and the Chief Executive Officer of Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic and Hospital. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

HPH is writing in **support** of SB 2862 which allows the Board of Nursing to more fully participate in Nursys. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (Nursys) is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BONs may utilize Nursys to verify a nurse's licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining states that do not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONS nationwide in Nursys participation.

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Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary  
March 30, 2016 at 2:00PM  
by  
Laura Reichhardt, NP-C, APRN, Director  
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**SB2862 RELATING TO NURSING**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for SB2862 Relating to Nursing.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing Nursys is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BON's may utilize Nursys to verify nurse's licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining BONs to not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONs nationwide in full Nursys participation.

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Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawai'i's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing respectfully requests that the House Committee on Judiciary pass SB2862 Relating to Nursing without amendments.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Thursday, March 31, 2016  
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2862, RELATING TO NURSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer for the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2862, Relating to Nursing, which would allow the Board to participate in a national nurse license database operated by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing ("NCSBN") known as Nursys.

The Board strongly supports this Administration bill. Hawaii is one of four (4) states that does not fully participate in Nursys. Currently, the Board submits disciplinary actions to Nursys. If a nurse is licensed in another state, the other state is immediately notified of Hawaii's disciplinary action. This bill would allow the Board to "fully" participate in Nursys by sharing license information so that Hawaii may also be notified of disciplinary actions taken in another state against one of our licensees in a timely manner.

In addition, individual nurses may have their Hawaii nurse licenses verified through Nursys. Currently, license verifications take approximately fifteen (15) to

twenty (20) working days to process and the cost is \$15. A verification through Nursys costs \$30 and is almost immediately available to the state or states where the individual is applying, thereby, streamlining the process and alleviating the workload for Board staff.

The Board recognizes the strong public policy interest in protecting personal information. However, the State's inability to fully participate in Nursys makes it difficult for other states to verify a nurse's license status and also jeopardizes consumer protection if we do not receive timely notices of disciplinary actions taken in other states. Last year, there were two (2) incidents in which individuals submitted falsified verifications of a Hawaii nurse license to another Board of Nursing and were issued licenses to practice. If Hawaii had been fully participating in Nursys, this would not have happened and the individuals would not have been licensed, putting the public at risk.

In addition, the inability to fully participate in Nursys precludes the Board from participating in other national initiatives, such as, the nurse license compact.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2862.