



**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 3:00 PM**

**by
Laura Reichhardt, MS, APRN, AGNP-C
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 778

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, it is with great honor that I write this letter of support for Arthur Sampaga Jr., RN, MSN, CCRN, CHEP, CNML, Chief Nursing Officer of Hilo Medical Center, to be reconfirmed to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Mr. Sampaga is a longstanding partner of the Center. In recent years, he has considerably helped to expand projects and programs of the Center to Hawai'i Island which has led to improved engagement by other neighbor islands as well. In 2016, Mr. Sampaga led the initiative to bring the Center's Evidence-Based Practice program to Hilo. Thanks to his leadership in 2020, the Hawai'i Nurse Residency Program Collaborative was able to negotiate considerable programmatic advancements that will improve access to these services for neighbor island nurses and introduce specialty transition-to-practice programs for the first time in our state on a widespread basis. Because of this initiative, 2 in every 5 (40%) nurse residents and preceptor pairs are employed by a neighbor island facility which is an incredible improvement in equity and access to professional development services for nurses across the state.

As the neighbor island needs for nursing change rapidly, it is vitally important that the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing hears and addresses these needs not only at our program level but also through feedback from our Advisory Board. His representation of Hawai'i Island will enable the Center to continue to improve our programs, our products including workforce research, and our work related to our strategic priorities that meet the needs of some of our most rural nursing communities. Additionally, his role as a nurse executive and his ability to be a change agent and futurist will help the Center continue to develop and deliver to the State's utmost benefit.

Thank you for your consideration of Arthur Sampaga, Jr. for the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board position.

Warmly,

Laura Reichhardt, MS, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing