



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 3:00 pm
by
Laura Reichhardt, MS, AGNP-C, APRN
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Testimony in Support for GM 649

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. Thank you for hearing this nomination. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing offers strong support for Dr. Anne Scharnhorst to serve as member of our Advisory Board for a term to expire June 30, 2025. Dr. Scharnhorst is a current Senate-confirmed Advisory Board member and represents nursing academia under group 1 of the board.

Dr. Anne Scharnhorst is a strong leader in nursing academia and a successful leader in the Maui nursing community. She has served as an engaged board member and has contributed greatly, in an advisory capacity, particularly during the COVID pandemic. Through her actions, our Center has improved our ability to respond to the needs of neighbor island nurses. Outcomes of her leadership include increased partnerships and work extending to Maui County, including on Lāna'i and Moloka'i, and enhanced services to long-term care nurses. Most importantly, Dr. Scharnhorst served as the catalyst of identifying critical access gaps for recent graduates of nursing programs to become licensed due to licensing exam center delays and early travel restrictions that resulted in the Governor providing waivers for new graduate nurses to work immediately while they sought to secure license exam dates and begin the process license applications. She also sounded the need for improved understanding of board or nursing requirements, accreditation standards, and evidence-based best practices about nursing education during the initial statewide and national COVID stay-at-home orders which resulted in a literature review of best practices that were used to support nursing education during those initial tenuous times. Her ability to be a canary for issues that primarily impact the state's most rural schools of nursing and nursing settings has increased the quality and responsiveness of the Center for Nursing's work.

As the neighbor island needs for nursing changes rapidly, it is 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. With Dr. Anne Scharnhorst's continued participation, I feel that the Center will have improved program offerings to meet the needs of our neighbor island nurses.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development; promotes a diverse workforce; and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

Anne is energetic, perceptive, a clear communicator, and a keen strategist. Her perspectives as an educator and a neighbor island nurse will strengthen the strategic and program plans and long-term impacts of the Center. With this testimony, I respectfully seek your consideration of Anne Scharnhorst for a re-appointment to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing.

Thank you for providing opportunity to testify in strong support of her re-consideration and re-confirmation to our Advisory Board.

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, PhD, RN
Interim Dean and Professor
Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing
(formerly the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene)

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 649 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Anne Scharnhorst, for a term to expire 06-30-2025

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to give our strong support to the appointment of Dr. Anne Scharnhorst to serve on the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Dr. Scharnhorst is a UH Maui colleague, experienced nursing educator and administrator with a commitment to academic progression and workforce development. She is aware of the issues faced by the nursing profession at this time – nursing faculty and workforce shortages. We are confident that she will continue to provide creativity, strong nursing expertise that includes a rural community perspective, and a collaborative spirit to address our most pressing nursing workforce concerns.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to write in strong support for Dr. Anne Scharnhorst to be a member of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.