



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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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  
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And

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
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GM 651 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Linda Beechinor, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

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. Linda Beechinor to serve on the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Dr. Beechinor is an experienced advanced practice registered nurse (family nurse practitioner) that has provided care to our state's underserved populations for more than 27 years. She is currently leading the Hawai'i-American Nurses Association and has been and active leader in state and national nursing organizations throughout her nursing career. Additionally, she has taught in nursing programs across the state at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Beechinor will bring a strong combination of leadership, practice and education experiences to her role on the Advisory Board.

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



**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 651**

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. Linda Beechinor to serve as member of our Advisory Board for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

Dr. Linda Beechinor has worked diligently over the past several years to re-establish the American Nurses Association chapter in Hawai'i. This accomplishment, which required increasing Hawai'i nurse membership in the national professional nursing association, developing a board, and facilitating a commitment from Hawai'i nurses to subsequently join a Hawai'i chapter, which would also result in higher annual dues, was fraught with challenges. This did not stop Linda. Today, our state has returned to having an active and flourishing ANA chapter, and this achievement couldn't be more timely and more needed than it is today.

The vision and wherewithal of Dr. Beechinor has demonstrated her commitment to nurses, her belief in a coordinated professional body of nurses, and her understanding that national organizations and their developed best practices serve individual states. In Hawai'i, public and private schools of nursing are using the ANA curriculum to prepare their nurses about COVID, infectious disease control and mitigation, and person wellness, before they enter clinical education. She has also re-established a strong relationship that formerly existed between the nursing unions and nursing professional associations. Her ability to unify, to address unmet needs, and to develop community is remarkable.

As nurses in the state are at the brink of burnout, or already burned out, we need innovative and feasible solutions to address nursing wellness, as well as nursing recruitment and retention. Dr. Beechinor has a long track record of being able to identify specific, attainable actions based on the broad nursing voices she convenes, and then listens to. Her appointment will give us a stronger connection to nurses across the state, and in effect, we will be better able to address needs in nursing that we have never experienced to this degree before but know is mission critical now.

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

*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.*