



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Tuesday, February 01, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.
via Videoconference**

**by
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Comments on HB 1758

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness, thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments on HB 1758**.

Hawai'i is currently facing a nursing workforce shortage. Improving access to care by nurses is critical to ensure the people of Hawai'i receive quality healthcare when they are in need that is provided by high-quality healthcare professionals. In 2021, the Center reported that the current workforce shortage has several contributors including the pandemic's impact on the workforce, pre-existing challenges including nursing faculty shortages, and efforts in new-graduate nurse recruitment as well as other factors such as difficulty in recruiting travel nurses, high cost of living and limited housing availability in Hawai'i, and other issues. The problem is complex so there is a need to address nursing workforce supply using a multifaceted approach. The Center recognizes a long history of recruitment of internationally trained nurses. In addition, the Center acknowledges the important role of the legislature in supporting local and foreign graduates of nursing to pass the entry to practice licensing exams and enabling nurses who are licensed and in good standing under the laws of another state, territory, or foreign country to become licensed by endorsement in Hawai'i.

The Center defers to the Board of Nursing and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs as it relates to the processing and reviewing eligibility of applications by endorsement for temporary permitting.

We commend the State Legislature for identifying solutions to address access to healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for providing opportunities to comment on this measure.

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.

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

**Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1758, RELATING TO NURSES**

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow for temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country that are seeking a State license by endorsement.

The Board appreciates the bill's intent to expand the eligibility for a temporary permit to certain registered nurses and qualified licensed practical nurses from other territories and foreign jurisdictions to allow more qualified healthcare professionals to quickly find employment and enter the State's healthcare industry.

For the committee's information, all applicants for temporary permits by endorsement are required to meet all licensing requirements, which includes, but is not limited to: (1) satisfactory evidence of passing a professional licensing examination recognized by the Board; (2) proof of authorization to work in the United States; (3) fingerprinting for criminal history checks; and (4) proof of graduation from a nursing program at an educational institution in the United States or any territory or possession under the jurisdiction of the United States or proof of graduation from a nursing program at an educational institution in a foreign jurisdiction and have had their transcripts evaluated by professional evaluators designated by the Board and are considered qualified as determined by the Board.

As such, the amendments proposed in this bill will expand the pool of qualified applicants without undermining the strength of the Board's current screening process.

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

H.B. 1758

Page 2 of 2

Lastly, for purposes of consistency, the Board recommends the following amendments be made to page 5, line 4, to read “United States, territory, or a foreign jurisdiction”.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



January 28, 2022

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: HB 1758 – Relating to Nurses

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 1758, which allows for temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country that are seeking a state license by endorsement.

HMSA believes in expanding access to quality health care for the people of Hawaii. Nurses provide an important key role in patient care. We support the legislature's intent to address the shortage of these invaluable health care workers in the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1758.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew W. Sasaki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being the most prominent part.

Matthew W. Sasaki
Assistant Vice President
Government & External Relations

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM
Via Video Conference

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **HB 1758 – Testimony In Support
Relating to Nurses**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 1758 which would allow temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country who are seeking a state license by endorsement.

Under the licensing statutes, licensure by endorsement is available to licensed practical nurses who are licensed and in good standing in other states, territories, or foreign countries. Certain qualified applicants for licensure by endorsement who are licensed in another state are eligible for a temporary permit to practice in the State while their applications are verified and reviewed. Making it possible for qualified nurses from another territory or foreign country to be eligible for a temporary permit would create a pathway for more nurses to enter the workforce quickly. This process may encourage nurses from another state, a territory or foreign country to relocate to Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 1, 2022

Re: Comments on HB 1758: Relating to Nurses

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1758, which would allow for temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country that are seeking a state license by endorsement. Queen's appreciates the intent of this measure which seeks to address the ongoing shortage of licensed nurses in Hawai'i. We are also optimistic that proactive efforts of the legislature to address workforce shortages in the healthcare industry will have a combined beneficial impact this Session.

Should this measure advance we would urge the Committee to ensure that adequate minimum education and training requirements are met or exceeded for any nurse or licensed practical nurse that would qualify under amended subsection (b).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this HB 1758.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1758
Relating to Nurses

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice-Chair
Video Conference Hearing Date: February 1, 2022 Room Number: 329

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights submits testimony supporting House Bill 1758. The measure will allow temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country seeking a state license through endorsement.

Hawai'i's capacity to meet the state's demand for nursing care may already be at a critical tipping point as the pandemic extends into its third year and exhausted health care providers retire or leave the profession. According to the Hawai'i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, almost 5,000 nurses left the field between 2019 and mid-year 2021 shrinking the total active workforce from 33,410 to 28,548 in mid-2021. Hawai'i employers have turned to travel nurses, throughout the pandemic, to fill the gaps left by the nursing shortage and our increased pandemic-related health care needs.

An aging U.S. population will further increase the demand for nursing care across the nation and in Hawai'i. In its December 2021 report, *The Elderly Population in Hawaii: Current Living Circumstances and Housing Options*, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism reports Hawai'i's percentage of elderly persons (ages 65 and over) at 19% in 2020 or approximately 1 in 5 persons. Accounting for aging baby boomers and increased life expectancy rates, Hawaii's percentage of elderly residents is projected to increase to 22.6% in 2030 and 23.7 % by 2040.

To obtain a work visa to enter the United States, foreign nurses must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited academic nursing institution and a minimum of two years relevant work experience. They also must pass rigorous background checks by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. The largest groups of immigrant nurses are from the Philippines, India, and Canada.

Immigrants comprise 23.4% of Hawai'i's registered nurse workforce according to a May 2021 report published by the New American Economy. Their prior work experience brings added

value to hospitals and other health care providers. Multi-lingual registered nurses may also be relied upon to communicate vital medical information to limited English proficient patients.

The same regulations governing U.S. citizen nurses seeking endorsement should be extended to immigrant nurses and nurses from U.S. territories. Equity demands it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1758,

Pat McManaman, Co-Chair

Barbara Yamashita, Co-Chair



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1758, RELATING TO NURSES.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1758, RELATING TO NURSES.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's FQHCs. FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would allow the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to issue temporary permits for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country that are seeking a state license by endorsement. This bill is part of the Filipino Caucus legislative package.

No event nor circumstance in recent memory has placed such enormous demands on Hawaii's health care infrastructure than the COVID-19 pandemic. Never before had our Nation (or the entire world for that matter) had to mobilize resources to vaccinate the entire population in such a short time while millions of our friends and family members were sick or in many cases, dying. Health workers have had to risk their personal wellbeing on a daily basis to meet the needs of the ill. Cases of infection would spike placing enormous pressure on Hawaii's limited capacity of hospital beds, emergency rooms, and primary care providers.

Even before COVID-19 hit our islands, Hawaii experienced a severe shortage of qualified health care providers. This shortage became even more evident with COVID requiring staff to work consecutive double- and triple-shifts to meet the ever present demand. The situation became so pronounced that health care workers from other states had to be brought in to keep our health care facilities open.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1758
Tuesday, February 1, 2022; 9:00 a.m.
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To facilitate this influx of health workers, DCCA scrambled to permit these workers under Hawaii's professional licensure laws. In particular, the huge number of nurses brought in to Hawaii forced DCCA to shift employees from other Boards to assist the Board of Nursing to permit these nurses to work here. Yet despite these heroic efforts, it took much time and resources for these nurses to have their professional licenses verified through endorsement. So instead of treating patients, these nurses had to wait.

This bill would remedy the problem by allowing registered and licensed practical nurses from territories or foreign countries to be issued temporary permits while they seek license by endorsement. That way, should the need arise again for a large number of nurses to be brought to the State, these qualified professionals would be allowed to work immediately to address the situation that brought them here.

For this reason, the HPCA supports this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1758, RELATING TO NURSES
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam., Vice Chair
Hearing Date: 2/1/2022

Chair Yamane and Vice-Chair Tam,

I write in strong SUPPORT of HB 1758, Relating to Nurses, which allows for temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country that are seeking a state license by endorsement.

This bill allows immigrant nurses and nurses from the territories to have the same opportunities as nurses from non-Hawai`i U.S. states. Currently, qualified applicants for licensure by endorsement who are licensed in another U.S. state are eligible for a temporary permit, while their counterparts licensed in a territory or foreign country are not. Expanding the eligibility would fix this unequal treatment and lower barriers for these nurses to enter the health care profession in Hawai`i.

Hawai`i is lucky to have many Filipino and Filipina nurses that have immigrated to the state and are currently under-employed. Many of them are working within the healthcare or elder care system but at lower levels than their capacity or training. This bill would help address Hawai`i's nursing shortage, which was already a long-standing problem and has been exacerbated by COVID-19. It would also mean that we have more bilingual and culturally-competent nurses, which has been shown to improve healthcare outcomes.

I SUPPORT HB 1758 so that experienced, highly qualified nurses can tackle Hawai`i's critical health care needs immediately while they wait for their permanent licenses to process. This is important not only to Hawai`i's immigrant communities but to its economy and public health.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Liza Ryan Gill

Co-coordinator
HI Coalition for Immigrant Rights
808-498-8832



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1758
RELATING TO NURSES**

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 2/1/2022

Room Number: 329

Chair Yamane and Vice-Chair Tam,

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) SUPPORTS HB 1758, Relating to Nurses, which allows for temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country that are seeking a state license by endorsement.

First, this bill fixes the inequitable treatment between registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country and those from non-Hawai'i U.S. states. All nurses without a Hawai'i-based license must obtain one to practice nursing in Hawai'i. Currently, for nurses who are licensed in other U.S. states, certain qualified applicants for licensure by endorsement are eligible for a temporary permit. This allows these nurses to begin practicing immediately as their application undergoes the verification and review process. For nurses licensed in a U.S. territory or foreign country, however, the otherwise similarly-situated qualified applicants for licensure by endorsement do not currently have this option for a temporary permit. There is no reason for the discrepancy in treatment of these experienced, qualified nurses.

Second, this bill is an important step in lowering the barriers for immigrant professionals to contribute to our economy and our community. Many immigrants end up leaving behind their professional careers when they come to the United States in search of a better life for their families. One HCIR member shares that her mother was a health care professional in their country of origin. When they moved to the United States, her mother gave up that career because of the practical and economic barriers in obtaining a new license. Immigrants should not be made to choose between their profession and their communities in the United States. Hawai'i is worse off if experienced, highly qualified nurses are unable to use their skills due to bureaucratic barriers. The passage of this bill will allow nurses to quickly find employment with the temporary permit while they wait for their permanent licenses to process, thus lowering the economic barriers to entering the nursing profession here in Hawai'i.

Finally, this bill is a critical piece in addressing Hawai'i's well-documented nursing shortage. It will allow qualified nurses to tackle Hawai'i's critical health care needs immediately. Even



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before COVID-19, the nursing shortage in Hawai`i was a prominent problem, and COVID-19 exacerbated that problem, straining Hawai`i's health care system to unprecedented levels.¹ The shortage leaves Hawai`i particularly vulnerable due to the remote location. This month, the effects of the shortages were acutely felt, as significant numbers were unable to work due to COVID-19 infections or exposures, with one day seeing 1,500 frontline caregivers out of work (10% of the workforce).²

As many have noted, we are heading into the next chapter of the fight to end COVID-19 and recover economically. This bill will allow registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country to more quickly and easily join that fight. That would be to the benefit of the whole Hawai`i community.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Catherine Chen, Co-chair, Hawai`i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Liza Ryan Gill, Co-chair, Hawai`i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

¹ Kirstin Downey, *Pandemic Hardships Have Made Hawaii's Nursing Shortage Even Worse*, HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT (Oct. 6, 2021), <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/10/pandemic-hardships-have-made-hawaiis-nursing-shortage-even-worse/>.

² Allyson Blair, *Head of nurses union: Severe staffing shortage at hospitals is impacting patient care*, Hawaii News Now (Jan. 12, 2022), <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/01/13/head-nurses-union-severe-staffing-shortage-is-impacting-patient-care/>.

HB-1758

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 8:32:41 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and HHH Committee Members,

As a public health professional and son of refugee parents, I strongly recommend support for **HB 1758**, which allows for temporary permits to be issued to nurses licensed in a territory or foreign country that are seeking a state license by endorsement.

These temporary permits are already issued to those licensed in non-Hawai'i states, so this bill makes it fair for immigrant nurses and allows them to start working immediately while waiting for permanent licenses to process. My mother first started work in the US as a nurse, so I can attest to the importance of accessible work options for trained, hard-working, and and eager immigrant communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HB-1758

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 6:48:55 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Matt Bishop	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this measure as it is currently presented. Hawaii has had in place for years an avenue to allow foreign educated individuals a chance to obtain a license in the state. The CGFNS system assures the safety and protection of all patients. How does the liability risk of an individual potentially not obtaining an endorsement and caring for people in their most vulnerable state. The CGFNS system assures that the individual has been properly trained and makes that individuals liability to others the lowest possible risk. Allowing a temporary license or permit to individuals that care for and treat others is just not a risk that the state needs to take, regardless of how the workforce has been mismanaged in the state for the last several years! Maybe the legislators should spend more time speaking to professional nurses about the health care system they operate in on a regular basis instead of the one that they think exists!

HB-1758

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:06:05 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness,

I am in strong support of HB1758.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1758, RELATING TO NURSES
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam., Vice Chair

Hearing Date: 2/1/2022

Chair Yamane and Vice-Chair Tam,

I am writing in support of HB 1758, Relating to Nurses, which allows for temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country that are seeking a state license by endorsement. With the longstanding critical nursing shortage in Hawai'i, and, more urgently, the phasing out of federal funds to support the extraordinary expenses that state face in meeting the demands of COVID-19 surges, this bill is both essential and timely.

Moreover, nursing is one area where we do best when we hire those who plan to put down roots and become members of our community. Immigrants to our state have chosen to make their home in Hawai'i, and deserve every opportunity to have access to earn a living on a par with their level of education and professional training. Not only is this essential for them to thrive in their newly-chosen home, but it is also an essential way for them to become contributing members of our community.

I support HB 1758 so that experienced, highly qualified nurses can tackle Hawai'i's critical health care needs immediately while they wait for their permanent licenses to process. This is important not only to Hawai'i's immigrant communities but to its economy and public health.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Dina R. Yoshimi

January 30, 2022

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1758, RELATING TO NURSES
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam., Vice-Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
329 Via Videoconference
Hearing Date: 2/1/2022

To: Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice-Chair Adrian K. Tam, and Committee Members on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness: Cedric Suega Gates, Sharon E. Har, Jeanne Kapela, Scott Y. Nishimoto, & Gene Ward

Aloha Chairman Yamane, Vice-Chairman Tam, and fellow Committee Members,

My name is Paul Sneed, and I'm testifying in support of HB 1758, Relating to Nurses, which allows for temporary permits to be issued to registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from a territory or foreign country seeking a state license by endorsement. I offer my testimony as a private citizen and a master's student in social work at the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a social work student, my goal is to protect people from vulnerable populations and help them maintain their dignity in living. Passing this bill into law will help foster the well-being and inclusion of nurses who are immigrants or residents of US territories and that of the future clients they will serve. Though I do not write in any way representing the views of the Hawaii Language Roadmap, my work as Graduate Assistant with that initiative has further sensitized me to the need for more significant support of immigrant workers in the state.

My wife is a nurse who first got her certification in Kansas in 2011. When we moved to Hawai'i in the summer of 2019, she applied for an endorsement to allow her to work. In her case, not only did she have the license from another state, but she also held US citizenship after moving to our country from her native Brazil to marry me in 2003. In Hawai'i, she has been surprised to find so many nurses from other states and countries. We now understand that Hawaii faces tremendous challenges, both in terms of the ability of immigrants to set up their lives here, with the high costs of living, and with healthcare providers facing crippling staff shortages. Such shortages mean that patients and clients often don't have the necessary access to caregivers. My wife works in a non-union nursing job in home health. Like many others, she often feels pressured by her company to work long hours or pick up undesirable shifts because of the shortages. She is happy to get the pay, but it's tough with childcare and keeping from burnout from overworking. Allowing nurses from other countries and US territories would offer a practical solution to such shortages while fostering greater diversity and social justice in the state through supporting immigrants and residents of US territories.

For these reasons, I support HB 1758 so that experienced, highly qualified nurses can tackle Hawai`i's critical health care needs immediately while they wait for their permanent licenses to process. This is important to Hawai`i's immigrant communities and its economy and public health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Paul Sneed

HB-1758

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 7:54:27 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
stephanie marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a registered nurse for over 40 years, I fully support this measure. Nurisng workforce is critical to the care of our residents and granting temporary licenses to allow nurses to be employed in a timely manner is critical

Please support this measure

Stephanie Marshall, RN, FAAN

HB-1758

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 12:49:04 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates supports HB 1758 These temporary permits are already issued to those licensed in non-Hawai'i states, so this bill makes it fair for immigrant nurses and allows them to start working immediately while waiting for permanent licenses to process. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

HB-1758

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:37:40 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maria Ver, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Maria Ver, MD, FACS, FASMB, a practicing physician in the state of Hawaii, and recent President of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii. I am speaking as in individual in **SUPPORT of HB 1758.**

As an inpatient and outpatient provider, I can attest to the nursing (and physician) shortages in our state. The Filipino population of our state is almost 25%, thus similar demographics exist in the hospitals / care facilities. Because of the shortages, facilities have relied on travelers, majority from the mainland, who are well versed in nursing care, but may not have much education about Asian / Pacific Islander culture or language. This presents as a language barrier, and perhaps misscommunication/mistrust with the patient and family. In our state and in healthcare overall, the patient-provider relationship is essential.

I am supporting HB 1758 to increase the workforce of culturally sensitive nurses for the state of Hawaii. However, I do expect employers / sponsors to supervise and train these nurses closely so that optimal care for our patients is given.