

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 , 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2415  
H.D. 2

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 2415, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Authorize the Governor to enter the State into the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact to allow nurses who are licensed by a home state to practice under a multistate licensure privilege in each party state;
- (2) Beginning January 1, 2026, require nurses who hold multistate licenses issued by a state other than Hawaii to complete demographic data surveys; and
- (3) Authorize the Board of Nursing to charge different fees for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who hold a multistate license issued by the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the United States Department of Defense; University of Hawai'i System; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Disability and Communication Access Board; Hawai'i State



Center for Nursing; West Hawaii Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; Hawaii Primary Care Association; Hawai'i Pacific Health; Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i; Grassroot Institute of Hawaii; Healthcare Association of Hawaii; Hawai'i Care Choices; Hawaii Military Affairs Council; Hawaii Association of Health Plans; The Queen's Health System; Hawaii Medical Service Association; and two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Board of Nursing and Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care providers. This shortage was most evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the pandemic required staff to work consecutive double- and triple-shifts to meet the ever-present demand. To alleviate the workload, health care providers from other states were brought in to assist in keeping health care facilities operational. In particular, the large number of out-of-state nurses brought in to the State required the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to shift employees from other boards to assist the Board of Nursing. Despite the hard work of Department employees, the process of verifying out-of-state licenses through endorsement took significant time and resources. As a result, instead of treating patients immediately, the out-of-state nurses had to wait.

Your Committee further finds that the Nurse Licensure Compact is an agreement that allows mutual recognition of nursing licensure between member states. The Compact allows a nurse who is a legal resident of and possesses a valid nursing license in a compact state to practice in any of the other compact states without facing time-consuming, costly, and redundant regulatory barriers. The Compact is effective in forty-one states and two territories. Adopting it in Hawaii would streamline the licensing process for nurses and attract more registered nurses to the State, which would help address the nursing workforce shortage and improve health care access for all residents.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Board of Nursing may charge different fees that are customarily and historically charged for registered nurses and licensed practical



nurses who hold a multistate license issued by the State; and

- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2415, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2415, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Consumer  
Protection & Commerce,



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MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair



