



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
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by

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and

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SB 735 SD1 – RELATING TO NURSES

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, SB 735 SD1.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and for the betterment of the patients they serve. The individual nurse must embrace lifelong learning as an essential key to delivering safe high quality patient care.

The UH Mānoa Nursing supports the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's Continuing Education Joint Advisory Committee determination that a continuing competency program (self-assessment, implementation of a personal learning plan, CE and subsequent reassessment) is preferable to simple CE program. Additionally, CEJAC determined that continuing competency requirements may be implemented in the state without fiscal burden to nurses, their employers, or academic institutions. However, the UH Mānoa Nursing also supports the legislature's finding that the Hawai'i nurse continued competency program must be established in phases, beginning with learning activity requirements that support continuing competency in nursing.

Further, UHM Nursing supports new graduate nurses and therefore, agrees with the recommended amendments as proposed by the HSCN to clarify the exemptions for nurses with more than twelve months but less than two years of licensure prior to the renewal date.

Therefore, the UH Mānoa Nursing respectfully requests your support of this measure with amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.