



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
Friday, January 31, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

by  
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### HB 2451 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the Committee on Health:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2451, with recommended amendments as it relates to advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) participation in medical aid in dying in accordance with their scope of practice and prescriptive authority.

The Hawai'i Legislature recognizes that access to care is a significant problem statewide and in particular in rural island settings. You have enacted over 25 bills since 2009 enabling APRNs in Hawai'i to practice to the full extent of their education. Since then, the number of APRNs in the state has increased across all the islands including rural settings.

APRNs provide high quality safe care for people across the lifespan, in accordance with their education, training, national certification, and licensure. In Hawai'i, 41% of APRNs work in ambulatory settings, nearly 33% report working in family practice or adult-gerontology. Another 8.5% work in palliative care/hospice, nephrology, cardiology, and oncology; specialties where they care for people with terminal illnesses.<sup>1</sup> Further, APRNs are caring for vulnerable populations enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Hilo Doctor of Nursing (DNP) Programs educate family and adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioners, the most common type of APRN in our state. Our graduates meet both the national and Hawai'i Board of Nursing requirements for advanced pharmacological education, as well as education related to the assessment, diagnosis, and care planning that prepares them to care for patients

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, 2019 Nursing Workforce Report. Data provided through the voluntary nurse re-licensure survey of nurses.

across the continuum of life. Thus, their scope of practice and education prepares them to serve as both attending provider and consulting provider for persons suffering from a terminal disease. APRNs are recognized in Hawai'i and the nation for their high quality care, safe prescribing practices, and are trusted by the people and families under their care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2451.