



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection
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By

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HCR 123 HD1 – REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A WORKING GROUP
TO DETERMINE THE GAPS IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND THE POTENTIAL
ROLE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES MAY PLAY IN ADDRESSING
THESE GAPS

Chairs Keohokalole and Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 123 HD1. This resolution requests the Hawai'i Board of Nursing and the Hawai'i Medical Board to convene a working group to (1) identify the gaps and limitations that exist in providing access to health care, especially on the neighbor islands and in rural communities; and (2) evaluate how advanced practice registered nurses could increase equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and in rural areas in the state. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (SONDH) is named as a member of this committee.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) recognizes the need to review existing practice barriers in statutes and rules that exist outside of the Nurse Practice Act and Rules. UH prefers HCR 124 that requests the Legislative Reference Bureau, rather than a working group, to conduct the analysis and recommend a future legislative approach. UH recommends that HCR 123 HD focus instead on developing strategies to address gaps in care that can be addressed in a provider neutral manner.

The health care system is moving away from payment for particular procedures or volume by a one titled provider. When a service can only be provided by a one type of professional, it can increase the cost of that service. As the nation and Hawai'i continue to transform service delivery and payment to focus on the patient outcome, it is recognized that certain activities and functions can be provided by more than one type of provider.

Thank you for your longstanding support for the state nursing workforce and access to care for the people in our state.