



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
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By

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HCR 123/HR 99 – REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE THE GAPS IN ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND THE SCOPE OF CARE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 123/HR 99. This resolution requests the Hawai'i Board of Nursing and the Hawai'i Medical Board to convene a working group to determine the gaps in access to healthcare and the scope of care that advanced practice registered nurses may provide. 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/HR 100 that requests the Legislative Reference Bureau, rather than a working group, to conduct the analysis and recommend a future legislative approach. The HCR 123/HR 99 working group can instead focus 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.

The primary purpose of scope of practice regulation is to protect public safety. State licensing boards-governed by state regulations and statutes-are the final arbiters of who is recognized to practice within a given state. The UH Mānoa SONDH notes that Hawai'i statute places the regulation of both entry level (RN) and advanced nursing practice (APRN) exclusively with the Hawai'i Board of Nursing and the practice of medicine exclusively with the Hawai'i Medical Board.

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