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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Friday, February 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
by
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and
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SB 321 – RELATING TO THE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE COMPACT

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 321 with comments.

In 2012, the Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing (NAWSON) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa launched the doctorate in nursing program (DNP) program. Currently, NAWSON has 2 specialties—Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner with 99 students enrolled with an estimated 25 graduating each year. Our program produces high quality Family Nurse Practitioners, Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioners, and we are planning to expand our offerings to include Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners.

Because of the strong nurse practitioner educational options we offer, our state has grown our APRN workforce tremendously. Today we have over 1,400 APRN in Hawai'i. However, despite innovative programs in our state to facilitate APRN education and practice, like the Preceptor Tax Credit Program (Act 43, SLH 2018) and the Healthcare Student Loan Repayment Program, it remains a challenge for our program to secure preceptors to train our APRN students in clinical practice. Bolstering the innovative efforts that reinforce our local nurses including the UH Health Initiative in the state budget and the Preceptor Tax Credit Program will immediately and positively impact our capacity to train the future APRN workforce in Hawai'i.

NAWSON commits to educating advanced practice registered nurses to meet the healthcare needs of today and in the future. We thank you for your attention to solutions aimed at resolving the nursing workforce shortages, and for the opportunity to testify with comments on this measure.