



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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LATE

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 1, 2015

H.B. 354, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 -
RELATING TO NURSES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 354, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, which amends Chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes by adding two new sections: 1) Continuing competency requirements; exemptions and 2) Learning activity options. H.B. 354, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 provides for licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of completed continuing competency requirements prior to the renewal, restoration or reinstatement of their license. The continuing competency requirements would begin July 1, 2017.

Nursing is a dynamic field that improves with best practices. However, we have concerns that this bill does not address how the cost and time of the continuing competencies may affect nurses. Providing a discount on the cost of all learning activities would alleviate any financial hardship that might be imposed on nurses.

Time is another factor that needs to be addressed. The reality of working a full shift, and many times beyond their scheduled shift, is an obstacle in itself. Balancing work and personal time can be challenging. Whether the learning activities are available on-line, or the nurses are required to be physically present, employers should allow employees to complete all continuing competency requirements on work time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for H.B. 354, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

for Randy Perreira
Executive Director