



## HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Health

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
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### H.B. 354, H.D.2 – RELATING TO NURSES

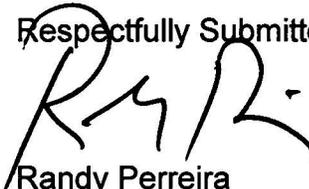
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the concept and intent of H.B. 354, H.D. 2, which amends Chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes by adding two new sections: 1) Continuing competency requirements; exemptions; extensions; records retention; audit and 2) Learning activity options.

H.B. 354, H.D. 2 provides for licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of completed continuing competency requirements prior to the renewal of their license beginning July 1, 2017. Nursing is a dynamic field that improves with best practices. However, we have strong concerns that this bill does not address how the cost and time will impact nurses. Providing a discount on the cost of all learning activities would alleviate any financial hardships.

Time is a huge factor that needs to be addressed. The reality of working a shift and many times beyond their scheduled shift is an obstacle in itself. Balancing work and personal time is difficult, therefore the question is when are nurses suppose to take the 30 contact hours of the learning activity options? Whether the learning activities are available online or the nurses are required to be physically present, employers should allow employees to conduct and complete any and all trainings on work time.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

Support for Nursing Competencies  
2015 Hawaii State Legislature

I am writing to offer my support for SB735 and HB354 for building the nursing competencies in Hawaii.

The Hawaii State Center for Nursing created the Continuing Education Joint Advisory Committee (CEJAC) comprised of representation from the Hawai'i State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), Hawaii Board of Nursing (HBON), nursing academic institutions, professional organizations, employers, and the unions which represent nursing. This committee recommended:

- Development of a continuing competency program (CCP) for registered and practical nurses in Hawai'i
- Implementation of a CCP would have no fiscal impact on nurses, employers, or Hawai'i educational institutions.
- CCP requirements support the HBON, and DCCA's Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVLN) and Regulated Complaints Office (RICO) interest in and responsibility for consumer safety and ensuring that nurses practice safely and demonstrate competency throughout their career.

Nationally, 71% of Boards of Nursing require some level of continuing competency, with an overall increase in CCP requirements of 33% since 2010. The most common requirements include 30 contact hours of continuing education (CE), academic courses related to nursing, national certification in a nursing specialty, refresher courses, authoring publications, or giving nursing presentations.

Insuring nursing competency will benefit patients from all areas of Hawaii, both urban and rural. Therefore, as a member of Hawaii State Rural Health Association, and a patient, I support the CCP learning activity options including national certification in a nursing specialty, 30 contact hours of CEs, academic credits related to nursing, nursing refresher courses, and professional development activities including completing nursing research or evidence based practice projects, authoring or co-authoring nursing related articles, papers, books, or book chapters, developing and conducting nursing education presentations, and completing nurse residency programs.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter!