

## **Testimony of the Board of Nursing**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
and  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, April 9, 2021  
1:05 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.C.R. 123, H.D. 1, 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**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of this resolution and offers comments.

The purposes of this resolution are to request that the Board and the Hawaii Medical Board 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 would increase equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and in rural areas in the State.

The Board understands the intent and the purpose of the working group to identify gaps and limitations to the provision of health care due to the physician shortfall, especially for neighbor island residents. However, the working group is also tasked with evaluating how advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) would increase equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and in rural areas in the State.

APRNs are already recognized as health care practitioners who can provide equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and rural areas, due to prior statutory amendments that recognize APRNs as health care providers, and the establishment of the APRNs' scope of practice pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 457 and Hawaii Administrative Rules chapter 16-89. Although input from other health care professionals is vital in determining what area of health care services are

lacking, the members of the working group may inadvertently create a “turf” battle among their health care professional colleagues in determining the APRNs’ scope of practice.

Consequently, the Board prefers that the Legislative Reference Bureau, a neutral third party, perform an analysis of state and local laws and regulations identifying “gaps and limitations” that exist in providing access to health care, especially on the neighbor islands and in rural communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

**Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
and  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, April 9, 2021  
1:05 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.C.R. 123, H.D. 1, 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**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this resolution.

The purposes of this resolution are to request that the Board and the Board of Nursing 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) conduct an evaluation of how advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) would increase equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and in rural areas in the State.

The Board appreciates the intent of this measure and commends the Legislature for its inclusivity in allowing various professions to work together to address very important issues. However, this resolution also requires the working group to determine and evaluate whether APRNs would increase equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and rural areas in the State. The Board is concerned that this may lead to conflict among the professions without achieving the desired outcome of the working group.

Like the Board of Nursing, the Board prefers that the Legislative Reference Bureau, a neutral third party, conduct an analysis of gaps and limitations that may exist in providing access to care in specified areas throughout the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, April 9, 2021 at 1:05 p.m.

By

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor  
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
and  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, April 9, 2021  
1:05 p.m.  
Via Videoconference  
By  
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC  
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**Comments on the following measure:  
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 Chairs Baker and Chang, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide written 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 would increase equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and in rural areas in the State.

Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) feels a neutral third party, such as the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB), is best suited to identify the remaining statutes that restrict APRNs from providing care as authorized per Chapter 457, the Nurse Practice Act. HSCN recognizes that despite the great progress Hawai'i has achieved, barriers remain for patients across the state to receive care from APRNs. Because of these barriers, identifying gaps in access to health care and the potential role advanced practice registered nurses may play in addressing these gaps has the potential to greatly improve the health and wellbeing of people in Hawai'i. With Act 169, SLH 2009 Hawai'i, the Legislature formally recognized APRNs as primary care providers and granted APRNs global signature authority. In addition, through Act 46, SLH 2014 Hawai'i, the Legislature enabled Hawai'i to become the 8th state to adopt the national best practices for APRN regulation. This action resulted in Hawai'i formally requiring the LACE standards (licensure, accreditation, education, and certification) for practitioners to be recognized as an APRN by the board of nursing. In passing these Acts, the Legislature established that APRNs can directly provide care to people in all regions of Hawai'i.

The HSCN is legislatively mandated to collect nursing workforce data and report by county to increase the understanding of workforce supply across all islands.<sup>1</sup> The number of APRNs more than doubled in Hawai'i between 2005 and 2017 with continued growth since that period. At this time, nearly 1,300 licensed APRNs reside in Hawai'i. Of these, 80% provide direct patient care, 79% are Nurse Practitioners (NPs), followed by 8% Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs), 7% Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), 4% Certified Nurse-

*The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development; promotes a diverse workforce and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.*

Midwives (CNMs), and 2% holding multiple APRN certification types.<sup>x</sup> Currently, more than 25% of Hawai'i's APRNs are working in rural areas.<sup>ii</sup> Further, the majority of APRNs working in the Counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i work in federally designated medically underserved areas.

National research continues to monitor APRN outcomes as it relates to access to care delivery<sup>iii</sup> in rural areas,<sup>iv</sup> quality of care,<sup>v</sup> and cost of care.<sup>vi</sup> Research indicates APRNs are more likely to provide care to underserved people and communities including rural areas, urban areas, to women, and to Medicaid recipients or uninsured people.<sup>vii</sup> In 2011, the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine, IOM) called for states “with unduly restrictive regulations [to] be urged to amend them to allow advanced practice registered nurses to provide care to patients in all circumstances in which they are qualified to do so” and listed common regulatory variances across states that prohibit clarity in the APRN role across jurisdictions (Chapter 3).<sup>iii</sup> As a result of the IOM report, the Federal Trade Commission issued Policy Perspectives (2014) which recognized that physician and APRN scope may have overlaps which benefits patients by increasing their access to services.<sup>viii</sup>

Therefore, HSCN is supportive of the intent of this resolution but urges the committee to consider a neutral, third party, such as the LRB, to engage in this inquiry and evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution and for your longstanding advocacy for access to care for people across the Hawaiian Islands.

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- <sup>i</sup> Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (2021). Nursing Workforce Supply. <https://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/supply/> Accessed March 17, 2021
- <sup>ii</sup> Hawaii State Center for Nursing. (2017). *2017 Nursing Workforce Supply Survey Special Report: Location of APRN Employment*.
- <sup>iii</sup> Xue, Y., Ye, Z., Brewer, C., & Spetz, J. (2016). Impact of state nurse practitioner scope-of-practice regulation on health care delivery: Systematic review. *Nursing Outlook*, 64(1), 71–85. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2015.08.005>
- <sup>iv</sup> Buerhaus, P. I. (2018). *Nurse practitioners: A solution to America's primary care crisis*. <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/nurse-practitioners-a-solution-to-americas-primary-care-crisis/>
- <sup>v</sup> Bosse, J., Simmonds, K., Hanson, C., Pulcini, J., Dunphy, L., Vanhook, P., & Poghosyan, L. (2017). Position statement: Full practice authority for advanced practice registered nurses is necessary to transform primary care. *Nursing Outlook*, 65(6), 761–765. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2017.10.002>
- <sup>vi</sup> Perloff, J., DesRoches, C. M., & Buerhaus, P. (2015). Comparing the Cost of Care Provided to Medicare Beneficiaries Assigned to Primary Care Nurse Practitioners and Physicians. *Health Services Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.12425>
- <sup>vii</sup> Buerhaus, P. I., DesRoches, C. M., Dittus, R., & Donelan, K. (2014). Practice characteristics of primary care nurse practitioners and physicians. *Nursing Outlook*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2014.08.008>
- <sup>viii</sup> Federal Trade Commission. (2014). *Policy Perspectives: Competition and the Regulation of Advanced Practice Nurses* (p. 53). <https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/reports/policy-perspectives-competition-regulation-advanced-practice-nurses/140307aprnpolicypaper.pdf>

*The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development; promotes a diverse workforce and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.*



ALOHACARE

To: The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
The Honorable Senator Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Date: Friday, February 9, 2021 1:05PM

From: Peggy Mierzwa, Sr. Public Policy Analyst, AlohaCare

RE: **SUPPORT 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**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **HCR 123 HD1**, which would convene a working group that would identify the gaps and limitations that exist in providing access to health care, especially on the neighbor islands and rural communities as well as evaluate the ways advanced practice registered nurses would increase equitable access to health care on the neighbor islands and in rural communities.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 73,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. It is the only state health plan exclusively serving Medicaid patients. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care, including access to housing and food security, to build a stronger, healthier Hawaii.

Hawaii has struggled with a shortage of health care providers for decades. This shortage means that in certain areas, residents are unable to access and obtain timely and appropriate health care. We appreciate that addressing this shortage requires multiple solutions and approaches. The Legislature has several measures before them this year ranging from scope of practice to telehealth bills in order to increase patient's access to care with qualified providers.

This resolution further supports increasing access to care by finding the existing gaps in care for patients and identifying the ways in which APRNs can help to address those gaps particularly on neighbor islands and rural areas. This measure also seeks to identify ways in which APRNs can increase equitable access to care. AlohaCare supports increasing equitable access to care throughout Hawaii. We want to help ensure our members and all residents have timely access to important health care services.

AlohaCare also supports HCR124 that requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to provide an independent study. The study would include basing the full scope of APRNs in Hawaii on national professional guidelines, the distinctions between the educational training and scope of practice between physicians, APRNs and physician assistants, and the ways that Hawaii differs from other states in those scopes of practice. This study would help to identify Hawaii's options for improving access to care utilizing APRN scope of practice in the HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR123.

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## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

From: Colette Masunaga, Director, Government Relations & External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: April 9, 2021

Re: Comments on HCR123: 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.

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The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's supports the intent of HCR123 which requests the Board of Nursing and Hawai'i Medical Board to convene a working group to determine the gaps in access to health care and the scope of care that advanced practice registered nurses may be allowed to perform or provide. We believe it is important that all qualified providers, including APRNs, are able to exercise their scope of practice and assist in addressing the shortage of physicians and other medical professionals in our state – especially on the neighbor islands. There are currently about 120 APRNs working at Queen's and we expect this number to increase in order to meet the community need for services.

We appreciate the previous Committee's amendment to include a representative from the major non-profit health care systems in the working group. Thank you for allowing us to provide testimony on this measure.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



**HCR-123-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 5:57:54 AM

Testimony for HTH on 4/9/2021 1:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly oppose, mahalo. It took me two days to digest this proposed reso. Whomever promulgated this measure neglected to inform our Legislators of some important information. First and foremost, Hawai'i's APRN practice is highly regulated and while having a "working group" oversee our practice may have worked in the dark ages of health care it no longer serves our community to return to the days where APRNs examined our patients, made treatment recommendations and then had to run up and down the halls to find a physician colleague to sign a prescription or an application for a handicapped bus pass. I always admired their willingness to put themselves in a position of liability without seeing the patient.

APRNs identified these barriers to practice and actively lobbied to modernize our antiquated laws. Our APRN working group has evolved over decades and we now have a group lead by the Center for Nursing which actively identifies and lobbies to update Hawai'i's statutes so that we may take care of our community members.

We don't need another legislatively mandated "working group." Mahalo for your consideration, Yvonne Geesey APRN NP-C JD