

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

**Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.R. 126, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS TO AMEND TITLE 16, CHAPTER 89, OF THE HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES TO PROHIBIT REGISTERED NURSES FROM DELEGATING
THE INTERPRETATION OF DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY RESULTS
TO UNLICENSED ASSISTIVE PERSONNEL**

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this resolution is to urge the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to amend Hawaii Administrative Rule title 16, chapter 89, to prohibit registered nurses from delegating the interpretation of diagnostic laboratory results to unlicensed assistive personnel.

As noted in the first paragraph of the resolution, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 457-7.5 already provides that the practice-pervasive functions of assessment, evaluation, and nursing judgment shall not be delegated. As such, the Board does not believe amending its administrative rules to specifically prohibit this act is necessary. In fact, prohibiting this particular practice by rule without identifying other types of prohibited delegation may create uncertainty about the interpretation of this statutory section.

To the extent the Board may need to provide additional guidance or education regarding delegation, the Board is both willing and able to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

HR-126

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 11:02:06 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirk Urada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

Thank you for accepting the following testimony.

I strongly recommend the prohibition of registered nurses delegating the interpretation of diagnostic laboratory results to unlicensed assistive personnel.

I am writing to you today to express my deepest personal concerns of the extremely unethical, appalling professionalism, and emotional experience I've had with a so called "One of the best" health centers in Hawaii.

It is an absolute disservice to the good citizens in Hawaii for health centers to allow unlicensed assistants to deliver life changing test results. In many cases, those results may be interpreted wrong, which therefore can cause unforgiving mental anxiety, trauma, and severed relationships. Worst case scenerio, a patient could get wrongly diagnosed with a disease he/she does not have, and begins to take prescribed medication for something they DO NOT need, which could develop further health complications.

I humbly ask for your consideration to make this change possible.

Hawaii deserves better.

Thank you

HR-126

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:42:18 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Min Ji	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness.

My name is Minji Chon, and I am testifying as a victim in strong support of HCR 150/HR 126. The misinterpretation of diagnostic lab results by medical professionals are affecting thousands of people each year. You can only imagine numbers of misinterpretation of these results by a non-licensed personnel. The emotional toll and devastation to hear a diagnosis that was never intended and to only hear a few hours later it was mistake due to the negligence of an office assistive personnel is an experience that is not only traumatic but self-loathing. Without my urgency of a re-test or having medical professionals double check records, I would be taking medication that is not intended for a healthy being.

This resolution will not only help lessen the emotional trauma of victims effected but lead Hawaii's licensed medical professional to be more mindful when interpreting test results to patients. I'm strongly urging you to please support this resolution.