

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 21, 2014

RE: S.B. No. 2490  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2014  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2490, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONTINUING COMPETENCY FOR NURSES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to safeguard patient health and safety by updating continuing competency requirements and procedures in the practice of nursing. Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Establishes continuing competency procedures for licensed registered and practical nurses, including program, education, and record keeping requirements, along with other conforming amendments; and
- (2) Requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, in collaboration with the Center for Nursing, to convene a stakeholder group and report to the legislature regarding the proposed continuing competency requirements.

The Hawaii State Center for Nursing, Hawaii Medical Association, Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses, Hawaii Pacific Health, Pali Momi Medical Center, and several individuals testified in support of this measure. Two individuals testified

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in opposition of this measure. The Board of Nursing provided comments.

Your Committee notes that as the bill moves forward there remains questions on whether, employer groups and facilities, given the extended two year time period, will be able to properly and sufficiently support employed nurses in their ongoing efforts to maintain continuing competency requirements.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing provisions specifying the activities that do not meet the requirements for continuing competency;
- (2) Removing provisions specifying the types of acceptable documentation that may be used as evidence of a licensee's completion of continuing competency requirements;
- (3) Removing provisions setting out what contact hours or continuing education units may be used to fulfill continuing competency requirements;
- (4) Removing provisions setting out what entities constitute an authorized provider for the purposes of completing continuing competency requirements;
- (5) Removing licensee record keeping requirements;
- (6) Clarifying the procedures by which a nurse may be exempt from or receive an extension for the completion of continuing competency requirements;
- (7) Clarifying the procedures for a board audit of a nurse's completion of continuing competency requirements;
- (8) Specifying that each licensee, upon application for license renewal, shall both attest to and submit evidence of the licensee's completion of continuing competency requirements;
- (9) Clarifying the definition of "competence" for the purposes of the State's law relating to nurses;



- (10) Specifying that the continuing competency requirements for registered nurses and practical nurses shall take effect on July 1, 2017;
- (11) Clarifying that false attestation of compliance with the continuing competency requirements is grounds for disciplinary action; and
- (12) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2490, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2490, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-seventh Legislature

HSCR1204-14

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Health**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> SB 2490 SD2	<b>Committee Referral:</b> HLT, CPC	<b>Date:</b> 3/19/14		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	✓			
2. MORIKAWA, Dee (VC)	✓			
3. CARROLL, Mele	✓			
4. CREAGAN, Richard				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. JORDAN, Jo	✓			
7. KOBAYASHI, Bertrand	✓			
8. OSHIRO, Marcus R.	✓			
9. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
10. MATSUMOTO, Lauren Kealohilani	✓			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	9			1
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <span style="margin-left: 150px;">committee acronym(s)</span>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____ <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><i>[Signature]</i></span>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				