

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 25 2015

RE: H.B. No. 354  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2015  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 354,  
H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NURSES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to, beginning with the July 1, 2017, licensing biennium, require licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of completed continuing competency requirements prior to the renewal of the license.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Board of Nursing, Hawaii State Center for Nursing, Hawai'i Pacific Health, Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses, University of Hawaii at Mānoa Nursing, Hawaii Government Employees Association, and fourteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that the requirement of all candidates for an initial nurse license to pass a national examination has resulted in the consistent practice of quality health care services administered to the public. This examination safeguards the quality of health care practices by ensuring that each candidate possesses the minimum competencies necessary for a newly-licensed, entry-level registered or practical nurse to perform the job safely and effectively. Despite the clear benefits of this safeguard, continuing competency requirements are not currently instituted for nurse licensure renewal applications



in the State. Your Committee finds that the most efficient means to ensure patient safety is to require Hawaii-licensed nurses to complete continuing competency requirements prior to any application for license renewal, restoration, or reinstatement.

Your Committee has amended this measure by deleting its contents and inserting substantively similar contents from S.B. No. 735, S.D. 2, Regular Session of 2015, which includes the following major differences from H.B. No. 354, H.D. 2:

- (1) Specifies different continuing education options for licensees who graduated or completed pre-licensure requirements from an accredited nursing program more than twelve months but less than two years prior to the renewal date;
- (2) Includes participation as a preceptor as one of the learning activity options available to meet the continuing competency requirement; and
- (3) Inserts an effective date of upon approval.

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 H.B. No. 354, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 354, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

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



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JOSH GREEN, Chair



