

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2333, RELATING TO NURSING.

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer for the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2333, Relating to Nursing, which would allow the Board to participate in a national nurse license database operated by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing ("NCSBN") known as Nursys.

The Board strongly supports this Administration bill. Hawaii is one of four states that does not fully participate in Nursys. Currently, the Board submits disciplinary actions to Nursys. If a nurse is licensed in another state, the other state is immediately notified of Hawaii's disciplinary action. This bill would allow the Board to "fully" participate in Nursys by sharing license information so that Hawaii may also be notified of disciplinary actions taken in another state against one of our licensees in a timely manner.

In addition, individual nurses may have their Hawaii nurse licenses verified through Nursys. Currently, license verifications take approximately fifteen to twenty working days to process and the cost is \$15. A verification through Nursys costs \$30

and is almost immediately available to the state or states where the individual is applying, thereby, streamlining the process and alleviating the workload for Board staff.

The Board recognizes the strong public policy interest in protecting personal information. However, the State's inability to fully participate in Nursys makes it difficult for other states to verify a nurse's license status and also jeopardizes consumer protection if we do not receive timely notices of disciplinary actions taken in other states. Last year, there were two incidents in which individuals submitted falsified verifications of a Hawaii nurse license to another Board of Nursing and were issued licenses to practice. If Hawaii had been fully participating in Nursys, this would not have happened and the individuals would not have been licensed, putting the public at risk.

In addition, the inability to fully participate in Nursys precludes the Board from participating in other national initiatives, such as, the nurse license compact.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2333.

**February 17, 2016 at 9:30am
Conference Room 329**

House Committee on Consumer Protection

To: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Representative Justin Woodson, Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone
Chief Nurse Executive, Hawaii Pacific Health
Chief Executive Officer, Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic & Hospital

Re: Testimony in Support – HB 2333

My name is Art Gladstone and I am the Chief Nurse Executive at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH), and the Chief Executive Officer of Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic and Hospital. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

HPH is writing in **support** of HB 2333 which allows the Board of Nursing to more fully participate in Nursys. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (Nursys) is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BONs may utilize Nursys to verify a nurse's licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining states that do not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONS nationwide in Nursys participation.

In addition to increasing timely information access to the BON for license verification, discipline, and practice privileges, Nursys may be used by the employers and individual nurses for license verification. Employers may use Nursys to verify a nurse's license and status and may use bulk processing to accommodate for an entire nursing staff. This program may offer increased efficiency for personnel management in health care systems for employers in addition to the potential positive impacts to the Hawai'i BON. For individuals, nurses may use Nursys to verify existing or previously held licenses from a Nursys participating state when seeking license endorsement into a state.

Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
February 17, 2016 9:30 AM.
by
Laura Reichhardt, NP-C, APRN, Director
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

HB2333 RELATING TO NURSING

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB2333 Relating to Nursing.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing Nursys is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BONs may utilize Nursys to verify a nurse's licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining states that do not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONs nationwide in Nursys participation.

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Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawai'i's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing respectfully requests that the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce pass HB2333 Relating to Nursing without amendments.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
February 17, 2016 9:30 AM.
by
Susan Lee, BSN, RN, WCC

HB2333 RELATING TO NURSING

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB2333 Relating to Nursing.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing Nursys is the only national verification database for nurse licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). Data is submitted to Nursys directly by the participating Boards of Nursing (BONs) nationwide and uses a secured mechanism for data transfer. BONs may utilize Nursys to verify a nurse's licensure details, enter and review disciplinary actions, enhance communication between participating BONs, nationwide, and retrieve discipline and other reports. Currently, Hawai'i BON, Kansas BON, Louisiana Practical Nursing BON, and Oklahoma BON are the remaining states that do not participate in Nursys. Alabama BON has recently signed an agreement, joining the existing 52 BONs nationwide in Nursys participation.

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Utilizing Nursys in Hawai'i will support a cohesive system of receiving accurate and up-to-date information about nursing licenses and backgrounds to ensure the quality of nursing and the safety of the public.

Thank you for your continued support for Hawai'i's nurses and ensuring a safe and quality health care system. I respectfully requests that the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce pass HB2333 Relating to Nursing without amendments.