

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

213

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2015

RE: S.B. No. 735
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 S.B. No. 735
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 on
July 1, 2017, 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 Hawai'i Pacific Health, American Organization of Nurse
Executives Hawai'i, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic and
Hospital, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, Wilcox
Memorial Hospital, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, Board of
Nursing, Hawaii Government Employees Association, and eleven
individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to
this measure from one individual. Your Committee received
comments on this measure from one individual.

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 newly
licensed, entry-level registered and practical nurses to perform

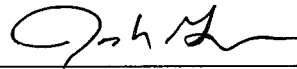


their jobs safely and effectively. Despite the clear benefits of this safeguard, continuing competency requirements are not currently instituted for nurse licensure renewal applications in the State. This measure enhances patient safety by requiring Hawaii-licensed nurses to complete continuing competency requirements prior to any application for license renewal, restoration, or restatement.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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. 735, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 735, 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,



JOSH GREEN, Chair



