



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2014

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### Nursing Center Study Drives Partnerships, Reveals Value In Long Term Care

Honolulu, HI - March 31, 2014 - The Hawaii State Center for Nursing recently published the results of a two-year project to address Hawaii's predicted nursing shortage and current staffing concerns in long term care (LTC). The report, *Hawaii Partners in Nursing: Addressing Recruitment and Retention in Long Term Care*, reveals the unique way in which Hawaii educators and LTC facilities rallied to lead to improvements in long term care.

The Hawaii Partners in Nursing (HPIN) project was an extension of an initial two-year project funded the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and by the HMSA Foundation intended to address the nursing shortage. The first highly successful HPIN project had demonstration model sites on two islands, O'ahu and Maui. Efforts were directed to meet specific needs, including recruiting and retaining nursing faculty, developing of new roles for nurses in the care setting, and empowering nurses to better assume leadership roles.

The extension project report, *Hawaii Partners in Nursing: Addressing Recruitment and Retention in Long Term Care*, with model sites on the islands of Hawaii and Kauai focused on issues concerning islands with smaller and more rural populations. "The outcomes of the project are palpable," said Sandra A. LeVasseur, PhD, RN, associate director, research at the Hawaii State Center for Nursing and author of *Hawaii Partners in Nursing: Addressing Recruitment and Retention in Long Term Care*. "The evident workplace strengths include: improved employee morale, a change in self-awareness, a feeling of pride in the professional work performed in long term care, and improved interactions with residents."

"Over the next decade Hawaii can expect a dramatic demographic shift in its aging population. It will occur at a pace twice that of the rest of the country. The demographic shift related to Hawaii's aging population is expected to increase the demand for RNs in Hawaii by 28%. The shortage of RNs will increase from about 11% in 2006 to 24% by 2020," explained LeVasseur.

"The availability of geriatric curriculum specific to long term care (LTC) services and clinical placement sites that provide students hands-on experiences in LTC remain small in Hawaii. Consequently, the number of both newly qualified geriatric LPNs and RNs available for employment in LTC settings and nursing educational facilities remains low."

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The purpose of the Hawai'i Partners in Nursing (HPIN) project was to build strong education and employer partnerships. The benefits of these kinds of partnerships lead to statewide education and practice initiatives that facilitate positive change in the initial and continuing education and training of nurses in long term care (LTC). In addition, partnerships will lead to improvements in the recruitment and retention of nurses in the geriatric specialty and in the long term care sector. The demonstration model sites became the vehicle that mobilized the partnerships.

"The partnerships were the foundational underpinning of the project. The follow-up data indicates the nursing staff in long term care may have gained the most benefit from the project. It is envisioned that the leadership preceptor training program will continue to occur in the long term care facilities with the staff," said LeVasseur.

To download the report, *Hawai'i Partners in Nursing: Addressing Recruitment and Retention in Long Term Care*, and the accompanying brochure visit [http://hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/hawaii\\_partners\\_in\\_nursing](http://hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/hawaii_partners_in_nursing).

To learn more about HSCN visit [hawaiiicenterfornursing.org](http://hawaiiicenterfornursing.org).

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing focuses include collecting and disseminating nursing workforce data in Hawaii, recruitment and retention of nurses, and research on best practices and quality care outcomes. The Center is located at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, and has an advisory board appointed by the Governor. The Center is funded by Hawai'i nurses through a surcharge on licensing fees.

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