



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Report Shows Hawaii'i has Doubled its Number of Advanced Practice Nurses, Increasing State's Supply of Primary Care Providers; Developing LPN Shortage Threatens Long-Term Care**

Honolulu, Hawaii'i (December 27, 2017) - The Hawaii'i State Center for Nursing's 2017 Nursing Workforce Report indicates that the number of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) licensed in Hawaii'i has more than doubled since 2005. APRNs are registered nurses with graduate education, specialized certifications and advanced nursing licensure.

The rapid increase in the number of APRNs is good news for consumers, as it comes at a time of a statewide critical primary care provider shortage. More than half of all Hawaii'i APRNs work in a primary care-related specialty such as family health, pediatrics, or mental health. Many work in remote and rural areas and provide primary care services to parts of the state that are most severely affected by provider shortages. This has been facilitated by enactment of legislation authorizing APRNs to work to the fullest extent of their education and training, allowing them to work as primary care providers skilled to perform health promotion, diagnose and manage acute and chronic illnesses, make referrals to specialized care, and prescribe treatments and medication.

While the number of APRNs has grown, the report also reveals evidence of a developing shortage of licensed practical nurses (LPNs) in the state. This shortage will most severely impact long-term and residential care facilities that employ more than one-quarter of all LPNs statewide. State forecasts project that by the year 2030, 1 in 4 persons living in Hawaii'i will be age 65 or older. An aging population will likely increase the demand for long-term care and a continuing decline in the number of practicing LPNs will be unable to respond to the demand.

"State-based workforce research and analysis is critical for the purposes of planning and policy-making. As the largest licensed healthcare workforce in the nation and in Hawaii'i, nurses are engaged in care delivery in all settings and specialties in healthcare, and in all geographic regions of Hawaii'i. Nurses play a critical role in ensuring delivery of safe, quality healthcare for patients" said Laura Reichhardt, MS, APRN, NP-C, director of the Hawaii'i State Center for Nursing.

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The 2017 Nursing Workforce Report presents the results of a biennial survey of nurses working in Hawai'i. It includes detailed characteristics of the nursing workforce including demographics, employment settings, practice specialties, academic preparation, where they practice and intention to leave the workforce. View the entire report at [www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/data-reports/](http://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/data-reports/).

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### **Hawai'i State Center for Nursing**

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 2003. We are dedicated to ensuring Hawai'i has a robust and well prepared nursing workforce, and believe that excellence in nursing practice leads to quality care for the people of Hawai'i. Through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development, promotes a diverse workforce and advocates for sound health policy to serve the health care needs of the people of Hawai'i. Visit us at [www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org](http://www.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org).