

Dean Mary G. Boland, Finalist for Inaugural Healthcare Hero Award for Commitment to Excellence

Pacific Business News recognized UH Manoa Nursing Dean Mary G. Boland as a Healthcare Hero in the Administrative Excellence category at the 2015 Healthiest Employer and Healthcare Hero event on Thursday, July 30, 2015. This is the first year Pacific Business News has recognized individuals who are making a difference in the healthcare community.

Dr. Mary G. Boland was nominated for her indelible contributions to the local healthcare community. Over her decade of service to Hawaii's healthcare and nursing communities, she has led initiatives to increase the number of nurses to address nursing shortages, led program expansion at the graduate level to respond to primary care provider shortages, and engaged in interdisciplinary activities, including partnership with the Department of Education to re-establish school nurses in the public school system in Hawaii.



Most recently, Dr. Boland spearheaded and achieved passage of continuing competency requirements for nurses in Hawaii. For five years, Dr. Boland worked to gain statewide and local support by disseminating the importance of this bill for nursing and for safe patient care, and working with legislators and the Board of Nursing to ensure questions related to the implementation of this bill were answered with

evidence based information. Her ability to engage stakeholders across the healthcare sector's many disciplines to achieve actionable outcomes is a signature of her contribution to the State. Championing continuing competency for nurses is a key marker of her contributions to our healthcare community, as it will establish the culture of lifelong learning in nursing practice with the aims of providing safe and quality care to the people of Hawaii.



“As an education leader, I am inspired by the opportunity to steward the UH Manoa School of Nursing – a precious state asset. In doing so, I engage with amazing Hawaii public and private leaders who have embraced me with their ‘can do’ spirit. The recognition by peers in the health and business communities is much appreciated,” said Dr. Boland.

Under Dr. Boland’s leadership, the nursing department reorganized the bachelor of science in nursing program, using the consortium model, to support nursing students graduating

with associate degrees in nursing across the state to achieve a bachelor's degree in nursing and developed an executive RN program to facilitate working nurses with ADNs to achieve a BSN while maintaining full-time nursing schedules. The school expanded to include a graduate entry program in nursing to address Hawaii's primary care provider shortage as well as a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. Under her stewardship, the School is moving up in national rankings as evidenced by U.S. News and World Report Magazine's 2015 ranking: #83 for Best Graduate Nursing Schools and #70 for Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs.

