Nurse Surges and Shortages: Can We Reach Balance?

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TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015
4:30 - 6:30 P.M.
THE PACIFIC CLUB, 1451 QUEEN EMMA STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96813

Lecture followed by discussion and reception.
This event is free and open to all members of the healthcare community.
Business casual or aloha attire.
RSVP online by Wednesday, March 25, 2015 to www.nursing.hawaii.edu/deanslecture2015.

Over the past 50 years, there have been cycles of surplus and shortage of RNs. There were widespread and severe shortages reported through the early 2000s, but more recently there have been reports of newly-graduated registered nurses (RNs) having difficulty finding employment. Declines in demand for RNs due to the recession of 2007-2009, combined with substantial increases in enrollments in RN schools, likely explain these reports.

However, recent forecasts of supply and demand for RNs published by the U.S. Bureau of Health Workforce indicate that some states may have a surplus of RNs in the future, suggesting that RNs may face longer-term challenges finding work. Is it possible to balance the workforce? How can we track the information we need, and develop robust partnerships to ensure that we have a well-prepared and adequately-numbered RN workforce for the future? This presentation will address these questions.

Our Distinguished Speaker: Joanne Spetz, Ph.D., is a Professor at the Institute for Health Policy Studies and in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the School of Nursing at the University of California, San Francisco. She is the Associate Director for Research Strategy at the UCSF Center for the Health Professions and the Director of the UCSF Health Workforce Research Center. Her fields of specialty are labor economics, public finance, and econometrics. She has led research on the health care workforce, organization of the hospital industry, impact of health information technology, effect of medical marijuana policy on youth substance use, and quality of patient care. Dr. Spetz’s teaching is in the areas of quantitative research methods, health care financial management, and health economics.