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NEWS RELEASE



***** MEDIA STATEMENT *****

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ANA STATEMENT ON THE RECENT DECISION BY THE HAWAII NURSES ASSOCIATION

ANA is disappointed in the recent decision of the Hawaii Nurses Association (HNA), which is posted on its Web site, to vote to disaffiliate from ANA. The vote flies in the face of protections that were adopted by the ANA House of Delegates (including HNA delegates) to require a 2/3 vote of the entire membership before a state nurses association can sever its affiliation with ANA. The vote to disaffiliate from ANA occurred among the 36 members rather than the approximately 4,000 members of HNA.

HNA's stated reasons for disaffiliation reveal a fundamental misunderstanding about ANA's status. ANA remains a "labor organization" under federal law, and it continues its robust advocacy program for staff nurses throughout the United States. Accordingly, HNA's stated concerns about dues payments to ANA are unfounded. A continued relationship does not in any way jeopardize HNA or its members, and there certainly are no criminal implications.

References to an improper dues increase are equally unfounded. When ANA and the UAN terminated their affiliation agreement, a discount on ANA's national dues ended. The amount of ANA dues remained unchanged from the level that was set by the ANA House of Delegates in 2002 and affected in 2004 by the House of Delegates through its adoption of a dues escalator.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.