



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Tuesday, February 11, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.
via Videoconference**

**by
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Comments on HB 1575, HD1

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on **HB 1575, HD1 as it pertains to Section 8.**

In Hawai'i, health care professionals are in high demand yet in low supply, particularly on the neighbor islands and in rural and underserved areas of our state. Improving access to care by qualified healthcare professionals is critical to ensuring the people of Hawai'i receive quality healthcare when they are in need and provided by their preferred healthcare provider.

The Center defers to the profession of Physician Assistants and their regulatory body related to their education, training, and the contents of this bill that address their profession's scope of practice and authorities.

The Center also supports the language as it pertains to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Hawai'i. This language, as with the other sections of this bill, will enable qualified healthcare professionals to perform services for patients pursuant to their education, training, and licensure.

We commend the State Legislature for identifying solutions to address access to healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for providing opportunity to comment on this measure.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that 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 changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.



TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Hearing Date/Time: February 11, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
Place: Via Videoconference

Re: HB 1575 HD1, Relating to Physician Assistants

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1575 HD1, which expands the scope of practice for physician assistants and requires a sampling of medical records, rather than all medical records, to be reviewed when physician assistants prescribe controlled substances.

Hawai`i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 1575 HD1

HAPA is the Hawaii state chapter of The American Academy of Physician Assistants. According to the 2021 annual report on findings from the Hawaii physician workforce assessment report, Hawai`i has an unmet need for 732 full time physicians across the state with neighbor island counties facing the most severe shortages.

Paradoxically, physician assistant practice in Hawaii has grown by 36% over the past five years. This is most noticeable on some of the neighbor islands, where physician assistant presence has grown over 100%.

Notably, physician assistants are one of the three health care professionals (along with physicians and nurse practitioners) authorized by the Affordable Care Act to serve as primary care provider (PCP).

Physician assistants already play an integral role in filling our well-known provider shortage gaps in Hawai`i, but state restrictions on physician assistant practice, some of the toughest in the nation, limit physician assistants from practicing medicine to their highest ability. HB 1575 HD1 lowers restrictions and administrative burdens and will help ensure timely quality care for all our populations.

HAPA appreciates the Legislature's passage of Act 181, Session Laws of Hawai`i 2019, which was a monumental bill that modernized physician assistant chart review by collaborating physicians. This has successfully lowered administrative burden for physicians, without compromising patient care. HB 1575 HD1 expands the review structure established in 2019 to include physician assistant prescribed controlled substances. Like 2019, we expect this change will continue to prioritize patient care while significantly decreasing physician administrative burden. In addition, HB 1575 HD1 will allow physician assistants, like Advanced Practice Nurses (APRNs), to sign temporary disability insurance forms, disability parking permits, Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms, and other administrative forms that are time sensitive and critical for patients' quality of life but, are often delayed by the physician shortage.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Hawai`i Academy of Physician Assistants

Friday, February 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM
Via Video Conference

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

To: Representative Aaron Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **HB 1575, HD1 – Testimony In Support
Relating to Physician Assistants**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 1575, HD1 which expands the scope of practice for physician assistants and streamlines the process of reviewing records.

The 2021 annual report on findings from the Hawaii Physician Workforce Assessment found that Hawaii has an unmet need for seven hundred thirty-two full-time doctors. The islands of Maui and Hawaii face the most severe shortages, each needing forty per cent more healthcare providers. In contrast, the number of licensed physician assistants has grown by one hundred five per cent on the island of Hawaii, one hundred fourteen per cent on the island of Kauai and thirty-five per cent on the island of Maui.

Utilization of physician assistants provides a viable option to managing both the growing physician shortage and the growing medical demands of the State's aging population. Physician assistants are skilled health care providers trained to take medical histories, perform physical examinations, order and interpret laboratory tests, diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and assist in surgery. Thus, they offer an effective and efficient method of delivering healthcare to our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 10, 2022

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson – Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa– Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

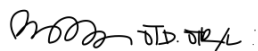
On behalf of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii (OTAH) we support HB 1575, HD 1 - Relating to Physician Assistants which modernized physician assistant scope of practice. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

The Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) is also in favor of HB 1575, HD 1 to include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care in HRS 453-5.5.

We hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. With passage of this bill, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at (808) 542-1882.

Sincerely,



Brooke Nakamura, OTD, OTR/L
Doctorate of Occupational Therapy
President, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii

February 10, 2022

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson – Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa– Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC. We support the intent of HB 1575, HD 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC, we work closely with Physician Assistants who frequently refer their patients for custom orthotic fabrication and specialty hand therapy/occupational therapy outpatient services. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support HB 1575, HD 1 which will amend the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

We hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. The consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 593-2830.

Sincerely,

Sheri Azama, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

Sheri Azama, OTD, OTR/L, CHT

Managing Member

And our staff of occupational therapists:

Tammy Momohara, Bonnie Moy, Lynn Yoshioka, Kristen Christensen, Rachelle Lam, Christina Lindop, Kathleen Kauper, Bryson Calma, Man Wa Shing, Kelli Higuchi, Zena Aarii, Susan Pinho, Carol Yee, and Lily Yang

February 10, 2022

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson – Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa– Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Kuakini Medical Center. We support the intent of HB 1575, HD 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Kuakini Medical Center, we work closely with Physician Assistants. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Kuakini Medical Center and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support HB 1575, HD 1 which will amend the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY §453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents** that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

We hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. The consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808)547-9128.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Clements, OTR

Molly Hahn, OTR *Molly Hahn*

Wanda Ishiki, OTR *Wanda Ishiki, OTR*

Catherine Sakai, OTR *Catherine Sakai, OTR*

Cindy Odo, COTA *Cindy Odo COTA*

LesliAnn Kikuchi, Rehab Manager *LesliAnn Kikuchi, PT*

February 10, 2022

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson – Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa– Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Hilo Medical Center and all East Hawaii Medical Clinics. We support the intent of HB 1575, HD 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hilo Medical Center and Our East Hawaii Clinics,, we work closely with Physician Assistants in our in patient and out patient rehabilitation clinic. On behalf of the OT practitioners at our facilities and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support HB 1575, HD 1 which will amend the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY §453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents** that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

We hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. The consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, we can be reach us at 808 932-3045.

Sincerely,

 OTR

 Claire J. Jungblut, OTR/L

 MTR/L

 Kyung Callahan OTR, OTR/L



Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Friday, February 11, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1575, H.D. 1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) expand the scope of practice for physician assistants; and (2) require a sampling of medical records, rather than all medical records, to be reviewed when physician assistants prescribe controlled substances.

The Board supports this bill, as it: (1) broadens physician assistants' scope of practice to provide a wide range of services, which would benefit the citizens of Hawaii; and (2) alleviates the overly burdensome administrative requirement of having a supervising physician review all medical records that contain written orders or prescriptions for controlled substances.

The Board recognizes the important role physician assistants have in healthcare and believes this bill is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 11, 2022

Re: Support for HB 1575 HD1: Relating to Physician Assistants

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 1575 HD1, which would expand the scope of practice for physician assistants. Requires a sampling of medical records, rather than all medical records, to be reviewed when physician assistants prescribe controlled substances. We appreciate the intent of this measure to help bring parity with APRN in scope of practice, supervision, and streamlining of record review process. They continue to play an increasingly important role in expanding physician care – especially on neighbor islands and in rural healthcare settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

February 11, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: HB 1575 HD1, Related to Physician Assistants

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1575 HD1, which modernizes the practice of physician assistants.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 1575 HD1.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is Hawai‘i’s largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 265,000 members. Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i believes that physician assistants should be permitted to practice medicine at the top of their training, education and experience. Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i appreciates the contributions made by licensed physician assistants and has a great deal of confidence in the quality of health care they provide to our members. Our physician-owned Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group (HPMG) – Hawai‘i’s largest multispecialty medical group – employs over 650 physicians and licensed medical providers, including over 80 physician assistants. Within the Kaiser Permanente system, physician assistants collaborate with physicians and other medical professionals to provide high quality patient care in a variety of specialties and settings, including: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Orthopedics, Cardiology, Oncology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Emergency medicine, Nephrology, Occupational Medicine, Vascular, General and Cardiothoracic Surgery, Infectious Disease, Radiology, Urology and Otolaryngology (ears, nose and throat).

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i supports HB 1575 HD1 because it removes barriers to practice for physician assistants and ensures greater access to health care for Hawai‘i residents, especially those who reside on the neighbor islands where need is greatest. Since 2016, the number of physician assistants has increased by 105% on the island of Hawai‘i, 114% on Kauai, and 35% Maui. Despite this increase, physician assistants remain underutilized because Hawai‘i’s restrictive practice laws prevent physician assistants from practicing at the top of their training and education. We support HB 1575 because it removes some of these restrictions and helps bring Hawai‘i physician assistant scope of practice into alignment with national practices.

HB 1575 HD1 builds on the Legislature's previous successes modernizing physician assistants' practice in Hawai'i. In 2019, the Legislature passed Act 181, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2019, modernizing physician assistant chart review by collaborating physicians, which has successfully lowered administrative burden on physicians, without compromising patient care. HB 1575 HD1 expands the review structure established in 2019 to include physician assistant prescribed controlled substances. Similar to 2019, we expect this change will continue to prioritize patient care while significantly decreasing physicians' administrative burden. In addition, HB 1575 HD1 will allow physician assistants, like Advanced Practice Nurses (APRNs), to sign temporary disability insurance forms, disability parking permits, Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms, and other administrative forms that are time sensitive and critical for patients' quality of life but, are often delayed by the physician shortage.

Physician assistants are skilled health care providers and authorized by the Affordable Care Act, along with physicians and APRNs, to provide primary care. They receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum which typically includes rotations in family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine and psychiatry. In practice, physician assistants routinely take medical histories, perform physical examinations, order and interpret laboratory tests, diagnose illnesses, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and assist in surgery. With their skills and training, physician assistants play a critical role on our care delivery teams and are represented in every medical specialty within our medical group. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i continues to focus on recruiting physician assistants because physician assistants possess a skillset and training that allows them to be able to pivot quickly and supply care when and where it is needed most. This has been invaluable during the pandemic when we rely heavily on our physician assistants' unique adaptability to provide care in an ever-changing landscape.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:11:25 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Teresa San Mateo	Kaiser Permanente	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: (name)

Re: HB 1575 HD1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Friday, February 11, 2022 2:00pm

Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

My name is Teresa San Mateo I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente/Hawaii Permanente Medical Group and I strongly support HB 1575 HD1 as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Teresa San Mateo PA-C

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:37:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dorothy Maurice	Kaiser PA-C	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Dorothy Maurice. I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente and I **strongly support HB 1575 HD1** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dorothy Maurice, PA-C

Electronically signed



DATE: 10 Feb 2022

TO: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

RE: **Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1575, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

HRG: 11 Feb 2022, 2:00 PM House conference room 329 via Videoconference

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

We are providing this testimony in **strong support of HB 1575**, which seeks to improve patients' access to care by reasonably expanding the scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs). In 2021, the annual report on the physician workforce in Hawai'i estimated a shortage of over 700 full time physicians. Physician shortages are a barrier to access timely medical care, especially for remote rural communities, and can lead to significant health disparities and poor community health outcomes. PAs are an essential part of the solution to expand access to healthcare and reduce health disparities.

The people of Hawai'i deserve access to safe, timely, and nearby medical care. Hawai'i PAs remain committed to this kind of quality healthcare delivery in our community. The PA profession has had significant growth both nationally and in the state of Hawai'i over the last decade. PAs have demonstrated the ability to deliver high quality medical care along with physicians and advanced practice nurses, fill gaps in care, and reduce health disparities by expanding access to quality health care. PAs are highly educated and trained in the medical curriculum and model, and are nationally certified to provide a wide range of clinical services. This bills help to reduce barriers to PA practice and thus, improve community access to quality medical care.

We support HB 1575 and respectfully ask that you pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue affecting members of our community.

Sincerely,

J. Leocadia Conlon, PhD, MPH, PA-C
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawai'i Public Health Association

February 10, 2022

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson – Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa– Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at one of Oahu's acute care hospital and outpatient clinics. We support HB 1575, HD 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, but not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At our hospital and outpatient clinics, we work closely with Physician Assistants in orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery and general surgery to name a few. On behalf of the OT practitioners at our facility and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support HB 1575, HD 1 which will include changes to the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

With hope that your committee will pass HB 1575, HD 1. Passage of this bill will allow the consumer to receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. At our facility, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 522-4602.

Sincerely,

Avis Sakata, OTR/L

Avis Sakata, OTR
Occupational Therapy Team Lead

Additional OT staff in agreement with testimony:

Whitney Reigh Asao, OTD

Ashley Cadavona, OTR

Brian Coyle, COTA

Farrah Dimagiba, OTR

Lisa Hall, OTR

Casey Imelio, OTR

Wendy Kondo, OTR

Andrea Muraoka, OTR

Bernice Oishi, COTA

Vandana Pal, OTR

Melissa Pang, OTR

Tisha Taba, OTR

Katie Watanabe, OTR

Dale Yasumoto, OTR

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:23:52 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emily Callaway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committees,

I am a physician assistant (PA) practicing at The Queen's Medical Center. I am providing this testimony in strong support of HB1575, which seeks to improve patients' access to care by reasonably expanding the scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs) and reducing overly burdensome medical records review requirements.

The people of Hawai'i deserve access to safe, timely, and nearby medical care. Hawai'i PAs remain committed to this kind of quality healthcare delivery in our community. The PA profession has had significant growth both nationally and in the state of Hawai'i over the last decade. PAs have demonstrated the ability to deliver high quality medical care, and fill gaps in care and reduce health disparities by expanding access to quality health care. PAs are highly educated and trained in the medical curriculum and model, and are nationally certified to provide a wide range of services. This bills help to reduce barriers to PA practice and allow us to do what we do best, delivery quality, compassionate, patient-centered care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Emily Callaway

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:43:41 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Abby Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: Abby Gardner, PA-C

Re: HB 1575 HD1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Friday, February 11, 2022 2:00pm

Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

My name is Abby Gardner, I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente and I strongly support HB 1575 HD1 as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Abby Gardner, PA-C

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:48:00 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Flora Wang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

DATE: 9 Feb 2022

To: Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1575, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Hrg: 11 Feb 2022, 2:00 PM House conference room 329 via Videoconference

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committees,

I am a physician assistant (PA) practicing at Windward Orthopaedic Group. I am providing this testimony in strong support of HB1575, which seeks to improve patients' access to care by reasonably expanding the scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs) and reducing overly burdensome medical records review requirements.

The people of Hawai'i deserve access to safe, timely, and nearby medical care. Hawai'i PAs remain committed to this kind of quality healthcare delivery in our communities. The PA profession has had significant growth both nationally and in the state of Hawai'i over the last decade. PAs have demonstrated the ability to deliver high quality medical care, fill gaps in care, and reduce health disparities by expanding access to needed health care. PAs are highly educated and trained in the medical curriculum and model, and are nationally certified to provide a wide range of services. This bill helps to reduce barriers to PA practice and allow us to do what we do best, delivering quality, compassionate, patient-centered care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Flora Wang, MPH, MSHS, PA-C

February 10, 2022

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson – Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa– Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

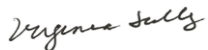
I am a retired Occupational Therapist who continues to be interested in healthcare concerns for our consumers. I support the intent of HB 1575 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants.

Currently under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy (OT). Allowing physician assistants to sign occupational therapy orders will allow consumers timely access to occupational therapy services. Consumers will not need to wait for a physician's co-signature or for the physician to re-write the orders for OT services.

The proposed SB1575, HD1 will amend Hawaii Revised Statutes §453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents to also allow Physician Assistants to sign orders and plans of care for Occupational Therapy services.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,



Virginia Tully

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 6:21:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Dusenbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: (name)

Re:HB 1575 HD1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Friday, February 11, 2022 2:00pm

Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

My name is Nicole Dusenbury I am a physician assistant and I strongly support HB 1575 HD1 as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai`i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nicole Dusenbury PA-C

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:04:33 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charina Toilolo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: Charina Toilolo

Re: HB 1575 HD1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Friday, February 11, 2022 2:00pm

Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

My name is Charina Toilolo. I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente Koolau Medical Office and I **strongly support HB 1575 HD1** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charina Toilolo

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: (name)

Re: **HB 1575 HD1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**
Friday, February 11, 2022 2:00pm
Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

My name is Sarah Palm. I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente. I provide care on Oahu and the Big Island of Hawaii. I **strongly support HB 1575 HD1** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities and expand access to vital medical care on our neighbor islands.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Sarah Palm, PA-C

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:56:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Madeleine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair, Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Madeleine Redding PA-C

DATE: **[INSERT DATE]**

RE: HB1575 – Strong Support

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

My name is **Madeleine Redding**. I am a physician assistant (PA) practicing at **Hale Nani**. I write in strong support of HB1575, which seeks to improve patients' access to care by reasonably expanding the scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs) and reducing overly burdensome medical records review requirements

The people of Hawai`i deserve access to safe, timely, and nearby medical care. Hawai`i PAs remain committed to this kind of healthcare delivery in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Redding



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 11, 2022

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

House Bill 1575, House Draft 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports with comments House Bill 1575, House Draft, 1 Relating to Physician Assistants.

The DCAB supports with changes to the amendments to Section 291-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes to include "licensed" physician assistant to the Definitions of Certificate of Disability and Person with Disability.

SECTION 2. Section 291-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending the definition of "certificate of disability" to read:
""Certificate of disability" means a medical statement issued by a licensed practicing physician, licensed physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse [which] that verifies that a person is disabled, limited, or impaired in the ability to walk."
2. By amending the definition of "person with a disability" to read:
""Person with a disability" means a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk, and who, as determined by a licensed practicing physician, licensed physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse:
 - (1) Cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest, and who has been diagnosed with:
 - (A) An arthritic, neurological, orthopedic, renal, vascular, or oncological condition;
 - (B) Lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty mm/hg on room air at rest; or
 - (C) A cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to the standards set by the American Heart Association; and
 - (2) Because of a condition identified in paragraph (1):
 - (A) Cannot walk two hundred feet under the person's own power without stopping to rest;
 - (B) Cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device; or
 - (C) Uses portable oxygen."

Licensed physician assistants who treat patients will have the authority to assess and verify patients who meet the definition of a person with a disability to apply for a disability parking permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano

for KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

LATE

February 10, 2022

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson - Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa- Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 - 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 - Relating to Physician Assistants - In Support

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Kaiser Permanente. We support the intent of HB 1575, HD 1 - Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Kaiser we work closely with Physician Assistants in the outpatient rehab department. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Kaiser and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support HB 1575, HD 1 which will amend the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY §453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents** that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

We hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. The consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at 243-6075

Sincerely,

Andrea Pahukula OTR/L

LATE

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

I am an occupational therapy practitioner and work in outpatient rehabilitation services at a hospital clinic. I support the intent of HB 1575, HD 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At the clinic, I work closely with Physician Assistants in many different clinics. On behalf of the OT practitioners in Hawaii and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support HB 1575, HD 1 which will amend the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY §453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents** that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

I hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. The consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 808-392-2077

Sincerely,
Kari-lyn Whitaker, OTR/L

LATE

HB-1575-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:00:02 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David H Messer III, PA-C	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in strong support of HB1575, which seeks to improve patients' access to care by reasonably hexpanding the scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs) and reducing overly burdensome medical records review requirements

The people of Hawai`i deserve access to safe, timely, and nearby medical care. Hawai`i PAs remain committed to this kind of healthcare delivery in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

David. H Messer PA

TO: Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair, Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: **Janet Ditto, PA-C**

DATE: **Feb 11, 2022**

RE: HB1575 – Strong Support



Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

My name is **Janet Ditto**. I am a physician assistant (PA) practicing at Aloha Kona Urgent Care in Kailua Kona. . I write in strong support of HB1575, which seeks to improve patients' access to care by reasonably expanding the scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs) and reducing overly burdensome medical records review requirements

The people of Hawai`i deserve access to safe, timely, and nearby medical care. Hawai`i PAs remain committed to this kind of healthcare delivery in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Janet Ditto

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

TO: Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair, Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Edie Hamilton, MS, PA-C

DATE: February 11, 2022

RE: HB1575 – Strong Support

LATE

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Edie Hamilton. I am a physician assistant (PA) practicing at Maui Medical Group. I write in strong support of HB1575, which seeks to improve patients' access to care by reasonably expanding the scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs) and reducing overly burdensome medical records review requirements. The people of Hawai'i deserve access to safe, timely, and nearby medical care. Hawai'i PAs remain committed to this kind of healthcare delivery in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Edie Hamilton, MS, PA-C

LATE

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

I am an occupational therapist employed at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC (HHRS). I support the intent of HB 1575, HD 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At HHRS, occupational therapists work closely with Physician Assistants from All Access Ortho, which are orthopedic urgent care facilities. These urgent care facilities provide immediate and specialized care for mild to moderate bone and joint injuries. Referrals from All Access Ortho are often time sensitive. Therefore, it is important for Physician Assistants to have the ability to order necessary care, including occupational therapy services. Delaying medically necessary care may delay and negatively impact healing. At HHRS, we specialized in hand injuries. Improper healing of one's hands greatly impact one's ability to fulfill school and job duties, essential self-care, and valued leisure and social activities.

On behalf of the OT practitioners at HHRS and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support HB 1575, HD 1 which will amend the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY §453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents** that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

I hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. The consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, due to the lack of authorization under HRS 453-5.5., referrals with order for Occupational Therapy are send back for physician signature or be re-written by primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC.

Sincerely,

Man Wa Shing
Occupational Therapist
Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC
1401 S. Beretania Street, Suite 730
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 593-2830

LATE

February 10, 2022

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson – Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa– Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support


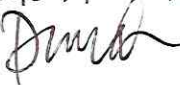

We are Occupational and Physical therapy practitioners employed as Outpatient Rehabilitation clinics. We support the intent of HB 1575, HD 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

We work closely with Physician Assistants in outpatient rehabilitation services. On behalf of the OT practitioners who work in this setting and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support HB 1575, HD 1 which will amend the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY** **§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents** that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

We hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. The consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 691-3879.

Sincerely,

Nicole Cardillo, OTR, CHT 
Diane Morton PT 
Norma Pershing, OTR
A. G. A., P.T.
 PT.

To: Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson – Chair, Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa– Vice Chair

LATE

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.

RE: HB 1575, HD1 – Relating to Physician Assistants – In Support

I am an occupational therapy practitioner and am employed at [Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC](#). I support the intent of HB 1575, HD 1 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At [Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC](#), we work closely with Physician Assistants in an outpatient setting. On behalf of the OT practitioners at [Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC](#) and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support HB 1575, HD 1 which will amend the current **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY §453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents** that will include orders for Occupational Therapy and plans of care.

I hope that your committee will favorably pass HB 1575, HD 1. The consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at [\(808\) 677-4263](tel:8086774263)

Sincerely,

[Rachelle Lam, OTR/L](#)