

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Friday, March 20, 2009
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1610, S.D. 2, RELATING TO MEDICAL
ORDERS.**

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kathy Yokouchi. I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Board in support of Senate Bill No. 1610, S.D. 2.

The purpose of this measure is to clarify that, under certain conditions, a physician assistant ("PA") acts as an agent of the supervising physician when issuing a medical order and the order is deemed to be issued by the supervising physician. It further clarifies that, under certain conditions, when following a medical order issued by a PA, a registered nurse ("RN") follows a medical order issued by the supervising physician for whom the PA acts as agent. In such situations the PA or RN are not relieved from exercising due care in performing within their respective scope of practice.

The Board believes this measure will provide assurance for RNs that, in carrying out the orders and prescriptions issued by a PA, the prescriptions and orders are the orders of the supervising physician. It also requires RNs to use good nursing judgment in carrying out such orders.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 1610, S.D. 2
Friday, March 20, 2009
Page 2

We respectfully request that this measure be passed out of Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 1610,
S.D. 2.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Friday, March 20, 2009
9:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1610, S.D. 2, RELATING TO MEDICAL ORDERS.

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on S.B. No. 1610, S.D. 2, Relating to Medical Orders. The purpose of this bill is to clarify that a physician assistant acts as an agent of the supervising physician when issuing a medical order and the order is deemed to be issued by the supervising physician. The bill also clarifies that when following a medical order issued by a physician assistant, a registered nurse follows a medical order issued by the supervising physician for whom the physician assistant acts as an agent. It does not relieve physician assistants or registered nurses from exercising due care in performing within their respective scope of practice.

The Hawaii Medical Board ("Board") supports the intent of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on S.B. 1610, S.D. 2.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Testimony by:

Virginia Tully, OTR, MBA

SB 1610sd2, Medical Orders

Hse HLT Hearing – Friday, March 20, 2009

Room 329 – 9:00 am

Position: Support

Chair Yamane, and Members of the House HLT Committee:

I am Virginia Tully, OTR, and past-president of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, (OTAH), which represents 507 occupational therapists (OTs) licensed in Hawaii. I regret that I am not able to be present. I am working with patients and cannot take time off from work.

OT's work in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, and prisons, to private facilities and community programs. We work with very young children, ages 0-3, as well as school aged children, adults, and the elderly, seeking to restore or develop social-emotional, physical, cognitive, communication and adaptive behavior challenges.

Through understanding of the effect of the consumer's disability, illness and impairment, the occupational therapist develops a program that will promote development and establish needed skills to be independent in daily living activities. Daily living skills include self-care such a bathing, dressing, and skills required for learning, work or social interaction. Often times, OTs must design/fabricate special devices or suggest modification to the home environment.

We support this measure because it will expedite care to the consumer by allowing physician assistants to make referrals for rehabilitation services when the MD is not available to sign and complete a prescription for care. Currently, we see an increased number of referrals from physician assistants, which must be declined and resubmitted with an MD's signature. This delays treatment to the consumer. We support the recognition of the physician assistant and see this measure as in alignment with Medicare guidelines about physician assistants and referrals for care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I can be reached at 544-3336 if further information is needed.

Testimony of
Frank P. Richardson
Vice President and Regional Counsel

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

March 20, 2009
9:00 am
Conference Room 329

SB 1610, SD2 RELATING TO MEDICAL ORDERS

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB1610, SD2 which would amend the Medical Practice Act and Nurse Practice Act to deem medical orders issued by physician assistants to be issued by their supervising physician; and that when a registered nurse follows such a medical order issued by a physician assistant, the registered nurse is actually following an order of the supervising physician.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii provides comment on this bill.

This bill is not necessary because the law is already clear that Physician Assistants (PAs) may issue medical orders that a registered nurse may take and fulfill. Additionally, if enacted, this bill may cause confusion in how medical services by PAs are billed and reimbursed.

First, it is clear from the Medical Practice Act, HRS §453-5.3, that PAs are licensed to practice medicine. It is also clear that, in acting as the agent of their supervising physician, “medical services rendered by the physician assistants may include, but are not limited to...ordering, interpreting, or performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.” Hawaii Admin. Rules (HAR) §16-85-49.1(b)(2).

The Board of Nursing, in its Minutes of Meeting, dated November 7, 2003, at pages 5-6, addressed the issue of “Nurses Taking Orders from Physician Assistants (§457-2, HRS) (§16-85-49.1(b)(2), HAR).” The meeting minutes reflect the Board of Nursing’s conclusion: “The Board agrees that the law allows a PA, as an agent of the supervising physician, to order procedures which presumably a registered nurse should be able to take and fulfill.” The minutes go on to note that a registered nurse is not supervised by a PA, but that is not and should not be an issue.

Furthermore, PA services are generally billed and reimbursed at 85% of the physician fee schedule. If, as set forth in this bill, PA orders “shall not be deemed a medical order of the physician assistant but shall be deemed a medical order of the physician assistant’s supervising physician,” would the order be billed and reimbursed as a PA order or as a physician order at the full physician fee schedule rate?

If the purpose and intent of this bill, as it professes, is to clarify that RNs may follow and act upon medical orders issued by PAs, the simplest and most elegant solution would be to amend the definition of “The practice of nursing as a registered nurse” at HRS §457-2 of the Nurse Practice Act to simply add PAs to the list of practitioners whose medical orders an RN can carry out. The definition already lists dentists, medical doctors, osteopaths, and podiatrists; and it would take the addition of only three words to add PAs to the list. The same could be done for the definition of “The practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse.” (See attached.)

Thank you for your consideration.

§457-2 Definitions. As used in this chapter unless the content otherwise requires:

"Advanced practice registered nurse" means a registered nurse who has met the qualifications for advanced practice registered nurse set forth in this chapter and through rules of the board, which shall include educational requirements.

"Board" means the state board of nursing.

"Nurse" means a person licensed under this chapter or a person who holds a license under the laws of another state or territory of the United States that is equivalent to a license under this chapter.

"Telehealth" means the use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration, to the extent that it relates to nursing.

"The practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse" means the performance of those acts commensurate with the required educational preparation and demonstrated competency of the individual, whereby the individual shall be accountable and responsible to the consumer for the quality of nursing care rendered. The foregoing may include, but not be limited to, implementation of basic nursing procedures in the plan of care; or observing and caring for individuals at all levels of the health spectrum, giving counsel and acting to safeguard life and health and functioning as a part of the health care team, under the direction of a dentist, medical doctor, registered nurse, osteopath, ~~or~~ podiatrist, or physician assistant licensed in accordance with chapter 448, 453, 457, 460, or 463E; or administration of treatment and medication as prescribed; or promotion of health maintenance of individuals, families, or groups; or teaching and supervision of auxiliary personnel.

"The practice of nursing as a registered nurse" means the performance of professional services commensurate with the educational preparation and demonstrated competency of the individual having specialized knowledge, judgment, and skill based on the principles of the biological, physical, behavioral, and sociological sciences and nursing theory, whereby the individual shall be accountable and responsible to the consumer for the quality of nursing care rendered. The foregoing may include, but not be limited to, observation, assessment, development, implementation, and evaluation of a plan of care, health counseling, supervision and teaching of other personnel, and teaching of individuals, families, and groups in any stage of health or illness; or administration, supervision, coordination, delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice; or provisions of health care to the patient in collaboration with other members of

the health care team as autonomous health care professionals providing the nursing component of health care; or utilization of reasonable judgment in carrying out prescribed medical orders of a licensed dentist, medical doctor, osteopath, ~~or~~ podiatrist, or physician assistant licensed in accordance with chapter 448, 453, 460, or 463E or the orders of an advanced practice registered nurse recognized in accordance with this chapter. [L 1970, c 71, pt of §1; am L 1985, c 238, §1; am L 1994, c 277, §§3, 4; am L 1996, c 150, §1; am L 2000, c 9, §1]

Note

Chapter 460 referred to in text is repealed.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Fielding Mercer [mercers@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 2:49 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610 SD2

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

The Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants support SB 1610 SD2

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{[1] [2] [3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 SD2.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Fielding Mercer, PA-C
President
Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants

^[1] AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

^[2] Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

^[3] Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Dara Ono [daraono@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 12:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: support of SB 1610

I, Dara Ono support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{[1][1]} ^{[2][2]} ^{[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

^{[1][1]} AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

^{[2][2]} Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

^{[3][3]} Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Richard Cochran, MD [rcochran@hhsc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 11:42 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Richard P. (Pat) Cochran, MD, am a Cardiovascular and Thoracic surgeon who is in wholehearted support of SB 1610. I have worked with Physician's Assistants (PA) my whole career. I have found them invaluable in all clinical setting and have found them to be the only viable way to curb raising medical cost in our complex medical environment. As such, all states where I have worked have considered their orders written and oral valid and unimpeachable and there has been no question as to nurses following them.

The legal question, in Hawaii, as to whether nurses can implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised recently. The reality is that PA's have been writing and giving verbal orders for sometime in Hawaii and so to change this for an omission in the current law is a time consuming burden to our law makers but unfortunately, an essential one to resolve this controversy. When faced with similar questions elsewhere the Attorney General opinions in several states such as Delaware, Florida, Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act. Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue and have clarified the legal practice guidelines of a PA. I think following this precedent from others states to lay this issue to rest is appropriate.

In effect, HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders (written and verbal) given by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders, written and oral, by physician assistants.

This legislation will open the door for more wide spread use of PA's throughout Hawaii which can help improve the balance of healthcare provided to some of the underserved areas. Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are already being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. This bill will allow expansion of this effort. It is important that physician assistants, working under the supervision of physicians, be able to write medical orders and give verbal orders that can be clearly and legally implemented by nursing personnel to allow for the most expeditious patient care. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize these efforts in extending patient coverage and moreover could negatively impact patient safety.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

I am asking your support in passing SB 1610 with the changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely,

Richard P. (Pat) Cochran, MD
Director of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery
Maui Memorial Medical Center

221 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
808-442-5504

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nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Kimberly Finney [kfinney@hhsc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 9:11 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.gif

I, Kimberly S. Finney RN, wholeheartedly support SB 1610.

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act. Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue and have clarified the legal practice guidelines of a PA.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders (written and verbal) given by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kimberly S. Finney RN, BSN
Cardiac Rehabilitation Specialist
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nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Gloria Robson [grobson@hhsc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 9:41 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: FW: SB 1610

Importance: High

> I, Gloria S. Robson , wholeheartedly support SB 1610.
> The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act. Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue and have clarified the legal practice guidelines of a PA.
> HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders (written and verbal) given by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.
> Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved
> through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.
> This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.
> We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the
> Senate Health Committee.
> Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
>

Gloria S. Robson, RN, BSN, CNOR
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nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Lori Sterk [lori_sterk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 4:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610 SD2

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/18/2009

This letter is in request of support for SB 1610

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.

It will more clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lori Sterk PA-C

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: joseph morris [jwmorris58@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 4:54 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Joseph W. Morris, PA-C support SB 1610.

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others, including my former state of North Carolina, over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act. Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in Hawaii in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joseph Morris, PA-C

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Richard Smith [medex@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 5:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: RE: SB 1610 SD2

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT

RE: SB 1610 SD2

3/20/2009

I have worked with Physician Assistants for more than 25 years. I have been observing their work here and in other states as they have been steadily improving health care in urban, suburban and rural settings of our nation. Sound studies have demonstrated that Physician Assistants can expand and improve health care services and coverage like no other innovation in the past 50 years.

Recently described by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as the fastest growing health professional in the nation, physician assistants will be assuming increased responsibilities in the health care system in our future.

Observed as they are trained in academic medicine settings and then in close clinical collaboration with physicians as well as nurses, important studies have confirmed that physician assistants working on a team and under supervision can perform up to 80% of the tasks performed by primary care doctors.

Demonstrating the confidence the health care system has in their performance of diagnostic and therapeutic tasks in collaboration with doctors and nurses, they are members of oversight state Boards of Medical Examiners across the nation. Such Boards have performance and legal oversight responsibilities for medical doctors as well as physician assistants.

Extending the capabilities of doctors who supervise them directly or at a distance with in-person or electronic communications, physician assistants have dramatically demonstrated improved patient care in a variety of settings. As we continue to move towards improved health care for all of us in Hawaii, it is important to facilitate the smoothest and most appropriate medical treatment available.

Strengthening and supporting the health care team approach to our citizens' health care is a proven path to improving our citizens' health and well being.

It appears that I am not alone in thinking this way as I understand that the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants also support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you.

Richard A. Smith, M.D.

666 Prospect Street #610

Honolulu, HI 96813-1933

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Richard Bidleman [rbidleman@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 4:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

I want to urge you to support this bill. We all know how desperately we need healthcare people here in the islands and it is most acute here on the Big Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony.

Richard Bidleman, Treasurer
Puna Community Medical Center
Pahoa, HI 96778

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: sean910@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 4:05 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support for SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Sean M. Reilly, PA-C support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{i[1][1] ii[2][2] iii[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants. Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

[Great Deals on Dell 15" Laptops - Starting at \\$479](#)

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Lindsay Chang [lchang79@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 3:34 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

I, Lindsay Chang PA-C, support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{[1][1]} ^{[2][2]} ^{[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: tony leiggi [parsplana@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 2:30 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT

RE: SB 1610 SD2

3/20/2009

I, Anthony Leiggi, support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.[1][2][3]. Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants. We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Anthony Leiggi, MHS, PA-C
Chief Physician Assistant
General Surgery/Wound Care
Tripler Army Medical Center
(808)433-3446
State of Hawaii Physician Assistant License #AMD-216

[1] AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

[2] Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

[3] Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Molly Bryan [mollyibryan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 2:31 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB1610

I, Mary "Molly" Bryan, support SB1610.

As a practicing physician assistant I know how important it is that there is clarity in the law governing health professionals. Passage of SB 1610 will clarify the role of physician-PA teams in working with our colleagues in nursing.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be accepted and executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting. Many states have addressed this issue in the past and have enacted legislation to specifically clarify that orders issued by a physician assistant are, in effect, orders from the supervising physician and should be honored by nursing staff.

As a physician assistant working in the hospital setting, I can see the direct impact this legislation will have on the overall quality of patient care.

I ask you to vote "yes" on SB 1610 with the changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee when it is heard in your committee on March 3rd.

Thank you very much for considering this testimony.

Mary "Molly" Bryan

Maui Memorial Medical Center Hospitalist

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: James Ferstel [j1st@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 2:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, James P. Ferstel, PA-C, support SB 1610.

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{[1][1]} ^{[2][2]} ^{[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James P. Ferstel, PA-C

^{[1][1]} AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

^{[2][2]} Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

^{[3][3]} Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Marc Albertson [marcalbertson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 2:00 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Marc Albertson PA-C, support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{[1][1]} ^{[2][2]} ^{[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Vanessa Aveiro RN, MPAS, PA-C [ozziko@juno.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 1:37 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: in support of SB1610

I, Vanessa Aveiro PA-C support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{i[1][1] ii[2][2] iii[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Vanessa Aveiro PA-C

"You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have truly lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love."

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Donald Traller [dotrasuva@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 11:28 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: RE: SB 1610 SD2

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Donald Traller PA-C, support SB 1610 . I am a PA who has been practicing on Kauai with Kauai Medical Clinic for nineteen years. I currently care for over six hundred diabetes patient's on this island.

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{[1][1]} ^{[2][2]} ^{[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Don Traller PA-C

^{[1][1]} AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Ann Davis [Ann@aapa.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 11:23 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Please Support SB 1601

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

Dear Chairman Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The American Academy of Physician Assistants is the national professional association for physician assistants (PAs). In this capacity the Academy represents over 75,000 PAs in practice in the United States.

The American Academy of Physician Assistants encourages you to support SB 1610 with Senate amendments. This important legislation clarifies that nurses may implement orders written by physician assistants. Because all PAs practice with the supervision of licensed physicians, orders written by PAs can technically be considered to be the order of the supervising physician. However, the statute is currently unclear. Professional nurses deserve clarity in the language that governs their practice, as do physician assistants.

Improving the statute that regulates how health professionals work together has the potential to reduce medical errors and make health care more efficient. SB 1610 works toward this goal, and has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board, and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We urge your committee to pass SB 1610 with Senate amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Ann Davis, PA-C
Director of State Government Affairs
American Academy of Physician Assistants
ann@aapa.org
703/836-2272 extension 3201

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Anne Biedel [abiedel@mauimedical.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 11:30 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

As a practicing family physician on Maui I urge you to support SB 1610. We need our physician assistants to practice at their full capacity in our hospitals. I worked for many years side by side with PA's in Washington State and feel strongly that they are a vital part of our ability to offer comprehensive care to our patients especially in rural areas. These professionals are physician extenders who are trained to provide excellent care and should be extended the same courtesy as physicians when prescribing medications. It has been very difficult to keep and attract physicians into rural areas of Hawaii and by bringing in physician assistants we have been able to continue to provide comprehensive excellent care to our communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Anne E. Biedel, MD
President, Maui County Medical Society
Maui Medical Group, Lahaina

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Rob Frankel [cdep79@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 10:42 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support for SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT

RE: SB 1610 SD2

3/20/2009

I, Robert Frankel, support SB 1610

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida, Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.[1] [2] [3] Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.

I ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Frankel, PA-C
P.O. Box 1902
Kailua, HI 96734

[1] AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

[2] Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

[3] Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Frank Hollister [fhollister@mauiomedical.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 11:05 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support for SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Frank W. Hollister support SB 1610

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{[1][1]} ^{[2][2]}
^{[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 11:15 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dand@punahealth.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1610 on 3/20/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2009 9:00:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dan Domizio PA/MPH
Organization: Puna Community Medical Center
Address: 15-2662 Pahoia Village Rd, Ste 306 Pahoia, HI
Phone: 808-930-6001
E-mail: dand@punahealth.org
Submitted on: 3/18/2009

Comments:

Senate Health Committee, Bryan Yamane, Chair Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our strong support of this legislation. We are only sorry we cannot be there in person to express our opinion. Clarifying the role of PAs, and the orders they give on behalf of their supervising physicians, will enable Hawaii's in-patient care providers another way to increase services.

In Hospital PAs provide high quality, cost effective care across the country; now Hawaii can take advantage of all they have to offer.

Thank You!
Dan Domizio PA/MPH
Clinical Programs Director.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Yang Kim [yangk1m@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 9:32 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Yang K. Shin, PA-C support SB 1610

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^[1] ^[2] ^[3] Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Yang K. Shin, PA-C

Tripler AMC/Emergency Department

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Larry Alfrey [fredwgarfield@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:08 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** FW: SB 1610 scheduled for hearing 3/20/2009

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Larry Alfrey, support SB 1610.

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.[\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Larry Alfrey

Windows Live™ Contacts: Organize your contact list. [Check it out.](#)

RE: SB 1610

Passage of this important bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants. It is supported by the Hawaii Medical Board, Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

Sincerely,

Kanoi Roberson, P.A.-C.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Fielding Mercer [mercercs@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 2:54 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: FW: SB 1610 SD2

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
Fielding Mercer, PA-C

RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Fielding Mercer, PA-C, support SB 1610 SD2

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{[1] [2] [3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 SD2.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Fielding Mercer, PA-C

^[1] AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

^[2] Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

^[3] Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Teresa Martello [tmartello@hhsc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 8:19 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

I, Teresa Martello, PA-C, wholeheartedly support SB 1610.

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act. Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue and have clarified the legal practice guidelines of a PA. HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders (written and verbal) given by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants. Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Teresa (Teri) Martello
Cardiovascular Surgery Physician Assistant
(808) 872-5092 (Pager)
(808) 442-5504 (Office)

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Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Laura Reifsteck, support SB 1610.

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.¹^[1]^[1] ²^[2]^[2] ³^[3]^[3] Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: DMESSIII@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 4:46 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: (no subject)

I, David H Messer III_ support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{i[1][1]} ^{ii[2][2]} ^{iii[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Feeling the pinch at the grocery store? [Make meals for under \\$10.](#)

^{i[1][1]} AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

^{ii[2][2]} Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

^{iii[3][3]} Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: THEGRIMMS@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 12:43 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mercers.hawaii@gmail.com; pat.grimm@us.army.mil
Subject: I ask your support in passing SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, PATRICK J GRIMM MAJ(R) USAF, MPAS, EM PA-C support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney-general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.^{i[1][1] ii[2][2] iii[3][3]} Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

I'm serving overseas right now with the US Military hospital in Landstuhl Germany. My state license is in Hawaii. I have been a PA in a dozen states as well and have always had full prescription and nursing orders privileges. The US Military has always been on the forefront of supporting legislation like this and has recognized this practice requirement for PA's for over 30 years. This is NOT a new idea. It has been put to the test thousands of times daily across the nation with practical and logical success. It has been well shown to be a significant necessity to patient-PA care and relationships. NOT having this would have cost the lives of my patients. I work in Emergency Medicine and have been in remote, isolated or rural practices with nurses of many levels, from clinics to small hospitals, with NO physician on site. Being able to work side by side with outstanding nurses on determining the best care for a patient and then being able to write the orders and medications has been crucial to the patients well being. Without the thoughtful foresight of military leadership and state legislation to allow me to practice in such an appropriate manner in all the places I've been I know patients would have died for delay of care and for lack of adequate and early intervention or support. The supervising physician, the hospital or clinical administration and the medical nursing staff have been exemplary in supporting legislation such as this across the military and the nation for about 30 years because it works and makes sense. I look forward to passing of this Bill and returning to Hawaii so that I can work without the restrictions imposed by lack of this legislation and work in a professional environment that I'm accustomed to in order to use all my skill sets for the benefit of all Hawaiians.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

I/We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Grimm

MAJ(r) USAF, MPAS, EM PA-C

HI LIC# PA - AMD 256

Mail: CMR 402, BOX 2239 APO AE 09180

Work phone numbers: Local commercial: 06371-86-XXXX; (From US dial 011-49-6371-86-XXXX); DSN: 314-486-XXXX; OFFICE: - **6166, 7432.**

Home local phone number: 06301-710256, from US dial: 011-49-6301-710256.

Other: Part time residence: 1650 Kanunu St, Apt 1403, Honolulu, HI 96814.

Feeling the pinch at the grocery store? Make dinner for \$10 or less.

ⁱ[1][1] AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

ⁱⁱ[2][2] Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

ⁱⁱⁱ[3][3] Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 7:49 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: pajeffu@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1610 on 3/20/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 3/20/2009 9:00:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeffrey Robin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: pajeffu@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2009

Comments:

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Jeffrey M. Robin support SB 1610
The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.[1] [2] [3] Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.
Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants. Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.
We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey M. Robin MS, PA-C

[1] AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

[2] Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977 [3] Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Ben Taylor [traumapa@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 7:17 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support of Prop SB 1610

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT
RE: SB 1610 SD2
3/20/2009

I, Benjamin E. Taylor support SB 1610

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant acting with physician supervision. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.[1][1] [2][2] [3][3] Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders written by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants. Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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LT1 Benjamin Taylor PA-C, MCMS
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nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Mari Sato [msato@hhsc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 2:23 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB 1610

I, Mari Sato, wholeheartedly support SB 1610.

The question of whether nurses can legally implement orders written by physician assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since the creation of the physician assistant profession. Attorney general opinions in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have determined that professional nurses may legally implement medication and treatment orders issued by a licensed physician assistant. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act. Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue and have clarified the legal practice guidelines of a PA.

HB 1610 clarifies the ability of nurses to implement orders (written and verbal) given by PAs. Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders that may be clearly legally implemented by nursing personnel. Ambiguity in the law has the potential to jeopardize safe patient care.

This important legislation has the support of the Hawaii Medical Board, the Hawaii Nursing Board and the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mari Sato

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