

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

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**From:** kellie@cosseboom.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2009 1:38 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony

I, Kellie Cosseboom, am in support of SB 1610. Thank you.

LATE

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**From:** matthew ota [pacman.ota@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2009 5:58 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** SB 1610

I, Matthew M. Ota, 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.

SB 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.

Matthew M. Ota, PA-C

LATE

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**From:** Joseph, Lynne [ljoseph@WILCOXHEALTH.ORG]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2009 4:54 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Support of SB 1610

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

I, Lynne Joseph, 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.

**Lynne Joseph**  
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