

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2009

RE: S.B. No. 1610  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 1610 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL ORDERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to clearly define the role of physician assistants regarding medical orders issued to a registered nurse by clarifying that:

- (1) Physician assistants may act as agents of a supervising physician when issuing a medical order; and
- (2) A medical order issued by a physician assistant to a registered nurse is a specific direction from the supervising physician.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Hawaii Medical Service Association, the Board of Nursing, Puna Community Medical Center, and five individuals. The Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants submitted testimony in support of the measure with amendments. Comments on this measure were received from Kaiser Permanente and the Hawaii Medical Board.

Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that physician assistants serve a vital role in the health care community. Clearly authorizing physician



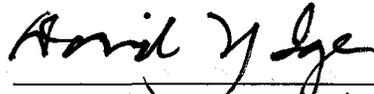
assistants to issue medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel will help to clear any ambiguities in the current statutes and ensure safe patient care in the hospital setting. The measure does not relieve physician assistants or registered nurses from exercising due care in performing within their respective scope of practice.

Your Committee has amended this measure by adopting the recommendations of the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants by:

- (1) Removing the requirement that the supervising physician must affirmatively authorize the physician assistant to issue a medical order;
- (2) Removing the requirement that a supervising physician must personally review patient records within seven days of the issuance of a medical order by a physician assistant;
- (3) Requiring the supervising physician to conduct record review in compliance with section 16-85-49, Hawaii Administrative Rules; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1610, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1610, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

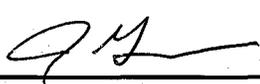
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health**  
**HTH**

|  |  |                        |          |          |
|--|--|------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:*<br><b>SB 1610</b>  | Committee Referral:<br><b>HTH, CPN</b> | Date:<br><b>2-11-9</b> |          |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.<br>If so, then the previous decision was to: _____  |  |                        |          |          |
| The Recommendation is:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 |  |                        |          |          |
| Members  | Aye                                    | Aye (WR)               | Nay      | Excused  |
| IGE, David Y. (C)  | ✓                                      |                        |          |          |
| GREEN, M.D., Josh (VC)   | ✓                                      |                        |          |          |
| BAKER, Rosalyn H.  | ✓                                      |                        |          |          |
| ESPERO, Will   | ✓                                      |                        |          |          |
| NISHIHARA, Clarence K.   |  |                        |          | ✓        |
| HEMMINGS, Fred   | ✓                                      |                        |          |          |
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| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>5</b>                               | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted   |  |                        |          |          |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:<br><div style="text-align:center; margin-top: 10px;"></div>                                  |  |                        |          |          |
| <b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod<br>File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy   |  |                        |          |          |

**\*Only one measure per Record of Votes**

**Report Title:**

Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

**Description:**

Clarifies that a physician assistant acts as agent of the supervising physician when issuing a medical order and the order is deemed to be issued by the supervising physician. 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 agent. Does not relieve physician assistants or registered nurses from exercising due care in performing within their respective scope of practice. (SD1)

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL ORDERS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that both physician  
2 assistants and registered nurses provide valuable medical care  
3 to patients under the orders of licensed physicians.

4           Physician assistants are licensed under section 453-5.3,  
5 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and practice under the supervision of a  
6 physician or osteopathic physician. The Hawaii medical board  
7 implemented administrative rules to delineate the scope of  
8 practice of a physician assistant and the complementary  
9 responsibilities of the physician assistant and the supervising  
10 physician.

11           Specifically, under section 16-85-44.5, Hawaii  
12 Administrative Rules, "a physician assistant may perform those  
13 duties and responsibilities delegated by the physician  
14 assistant's supervising physician." In turn, a supervising  
15 physician is defined to mean "a physician or group of physicians  
16 or an osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed to practice  
17 medicine and surgery in this State who accepts the

1 responsibility for the supervision of services rendered by  
2 physician assistants. The supervising physician shall direct  
3 and exercise supervision at all times." Supervision means  
4 "overseeing the activities of, and accepting responsibility for,  
5 the medical services rendered by a physician assistant.  
6 Supervision shall be continuous but shall not be construed as  
7 necessarily requiring the physical presence of the supervising  
8 physician at the time and place the services are rendered." In  
9 providing this supervision, the supervising physician is  
10 required under section 16-85-49(a)(4), Hawaii Administrative  
11 Rules, to provide "adequate means for direct communication  
12 between the physician assistant and the supervising physician;  
13 provided that where the physical presence of the supervising  
14 physician is not required, the direct communication may occur  
15 through the use of technology which may include but is not  
16 limited to, two-way radio, telephone, fax machine, modem, or  
17 other telecommunication device." In addition, a supervising  
18 physician is required to "personally review the records of each  
19 patient seen by the physician assistant within seven working  
20 days."

21 Furthermore, under section 16-85-46(a)(10), Hawaii  
22 Administrative Rules, a physician assistant is required to

1 provide a "statement signed by the licensed physician or group  
2 of physicians, as the case may be, stating that the physician or  
3 group of physicians will direct and supervise the physician  
4 assistant and that the physician assistant will be considered  
5 the agent of the physician or group of physicians."

6 The legislature also finds that registered nurses are  
7 licensed under chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and are  
8 regulated by the board of nursing. Among other actions, in  
9 performing the practice of nursing as a registered nurse, a  
10 registered nurse uses reasonable judgment in carrying out  
11 prescribed medical orders of a licensed dentist, medical doctor,  
12 osteopath, or podiatrist, or the orders of an advanced practice  
13 registered nurse.

14 Because the historical process of licensing and regulating  
15 the scopes of practice of physician assistants and of registered  
16 nurses has developed independently for the two health care  
17 disciplines, the relevant regulatory language pertaining to  
18 their respective responsibilities with respect to following  
19 physician orders is neither compatible nor clear. This  
20 situation has led to conflict between the two groups when  
21 registered nurses decline to accept orders from physician  
22 assistants.

1           The legislature finds that clarifying the relevant  
2 statutory language is necessary to resolve the situation to  
3 clearly state that, under certain conditions, orders from a  
4 physician assistant do not originate from the physician  
5 assistant but from the supervising physician for whom the  
6 physician assistant acts as an agent.

7           SECTION 2. Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
9 and to read as follows:

10           "§453-    Order given by physician assistant; agent. (a)  
11 Any medical order issued by a licensed physician assistant, who  
12 is properly performing within the physician assistant's scope of  
13 practice under this chapter, shall not be deemed a medical order  
14 of the physician assistant but shall be deemed a medical order  
15 of the physician assistant's supervising physician; provided  
16 that:

17           (1) The physician assistant is acting under the required  
18           supervision of a supervising physician; and

19           (2) The supervising physician:

20           (A) Accepts full responsibility for the issuing of  
21           the medical order by the physician assistant;

1           (B) Provides adequate means for direct communication  
2           between the physician assistant and the  
3           supervising physician; provided that where the  
4           physical presence of the supervising physician is  
5           not required, the direct communication may occur  
6           through the use of technology that may include  
7           but is not limited to two-way radio, telephone,  
8           fax machine, modem, or other telecommunication  
9           device; and

10          (C) Conducts a record review in compliance with  
11          section 16-85-49, Hawaii Administrative Rules, as  
12          adopted by the Hawaii medical board.

13          (b) In issuing any medical order under subsection (a), a  
14          physician assistant shall be deemed an agent of the supervising  
15          physician.

16          (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve  
17          any physician assistant from an obligation to exercise due care  
18          in the performance of the physician assistant's scope of  
19          practice."

20          SECTION 3. Chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21          amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
22          and to read as follows:

1           "§457-       Order given by physician assistant; agent. (a)

2   Any medical order issued by a physician assistant properly  
3   licensed under section 453-5.3 and who is properly performing  
4   within the physician assistant's scope of practice shall not be  
5   deemed a medical order of the physician assistant but shall be  
6   deemed a medical order of the physician assistant's supervising  
7   physician; provided that:

8           (1)   The physician assistant is acting under the required  
9               supervision of a supervising physician; and

10          (2)   The supervising physician:

11           (A)   Accepts full responsibility for the issuing of  
12               the medical order by the physician assistant;

13           (B)   Provides adequate means for direct communication  
14               between the physician assistant and the  
15               supervising physician; provided that where the  
16               physical presence of the supervising physician is  
17               not required, the direct communication may occur  
18               through the use of technology that which may  
19               include but is not limited to two-way radio,  
20               telephone, fax machine, modem, or other  
21               telecommunication device; and

1           (C) Conducts a record review in compliance with  
2           section 16-85-49, Hawaii Administrative Rules, as  
3           adopted by the Hawaii medical board.

4           (b) In following any medical order issued by a physician  
5           assistant under subsection (a) and section 453- , a registered  
6           nurse shall be deemed to be following a medical order issued by  
7           the supervising physician of the physician assistant, who shall  
8           be deemed as acting as an agent of the supervising physician.

9           (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve  
10          any registered nurse from an obligation to exercise due care in  
11          the performance of the registered nurse's scope of practice."

12          SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

13          SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, March 3, 2009  
9:30 a.m.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL NO. 1610, S.D. 1, RELATING TO  
MEDICAL ORDERS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 written comments on behalf of the Board in support of Senate Bill No. 1610, S.D. 1.

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.

Written Comments on Senate Bill No. 1610, S.D. 1  
Tuesday, March 3, 2009  
Page 2

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on Senate Bill No. 1610,  
S.D. 1.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, March 3, 2009  
9:30 a.m.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1610, S.D. 1, RELATING TO MEDICAL ORDERS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on S.B. No. 1610, S.D. 1, 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. 1.

Testimony of  
Frank P. Richardson  
Vice President and Regional Counsel

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

March 3, 2009  
9:30 am  
Conference Room 229

### **SB 1610 SD1 RELATING TO MEDICAL ORDERS**

Chair Baker and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on SB1610 SD1 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 opposes 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.  
SB 1610 Page 2 February 9, 2009

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?

Additionally, under this bill it would be necessary for the supervising physician to “affirmatively authorize the physician assistant to issue a medical order.” See Section 2, amended language to Ch. 453 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Would this be a specific order in a specific circumstance? Or would this be a standing authorization for PAs to issue orders, in general? Certain orders? Any orders? Would the PA simply be “transmitting” physician orders?

If the purpose and intent of this bill is to clarify that RNs may take and act upon medical orders from 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 but a comma and two 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.” Proposed amendment follows

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.

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Ann Davis [Ann@aapa.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 1:17 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Cc:** 'Fielding Mercer'  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 1610

March 2, 2009

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator David Y. Ige

**Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

Dear Chairman Baker and Members of the Committee:

The American Academy of Physician Assistants joins the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants in support SB 1610.

Because physician assistants (PAs) uniformly practice as members of a supervising physician's team, it is logical for a nurse to believe that acting upon orders written by a physician assistant is indeed legal. However, because PAs are not specifically named in the nursing law, not are orders addressed in PA law, current law is unclear.

Specifically authorizing professional nurses to implement appropriate orders written by PAs has the potential to improve and streamline patient care, diminish medical errors and increase the efficiency of health professionals. Physician assistants act as the agent of the supervising physician; nurses may logically consider the order generated by the PA to be the order of the supervising physician. Making this clear in the laws governing both professions is the goal of SB 1610.

We support SB 1610 as amended by the Senate Health Committee and hope for your "yes" vote on this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Sincerely,

Ann Davis, PA-C

Director of State Government Affairs

American Academy of Physician Assistants

[ann@aapa.org](mailto:ann@aapa.org)

703/836-2272 extension 3201

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2009 9:38 AM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Cc:** dand@punahealth.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1610 on 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dan Domizio  
Organization: Puna Community Medical Center  
Address: 15-2662 Pahoia Village Rd, Ste 306 Pahoia, HI  
Phone: 808-930-6001  
E-mail: [dand@punahealth.org](mailto:dand@punahealth.org)  
Submitted on: 2/26/2009

Comments:  
Consumer Protection Committee  
The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

We are writing in COMPLETE SUPPORT of this bill.

Our shortage of physicians is critical, both in and out of hospitals. By using PAs in the hospital setting, a physician's set of tasks can be drastically reduced.

By clarifying that a physician's orders can be passed through a PA, and then acted on by a nursing member of the health care team, we can make the hospital stay of our community members, safer, shorter, and more comfortable.

Everyone benefits with this arrangement; and the patient feels better cared for. Please pass this important piece of health care legislation.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to support SB-1610.

Dan Domizio PA/MPH  
Clinical Programs Director  
Puna Community Medical Center  
Pahoia, Hawaii

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Anne Biedel [abiedel@mauimedical.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2009 9:04 AM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1610 testimony

Please support our PA's at Maui Memorial Hospital. They provide excellent patient care and allow our hospitalists and surgeons to offer quality services to all patients entering the hospital. Physician Assistants have been an integral component of my practice for over ten years both in Washington State and on Maui. It would be inconceivable to not have these proven professionals working alongside our doctors and nurses. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Biedel, MD  
Maui Medical Group

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Christine Pratt [physicianassistant@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2009 4:30 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB 1610

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator David Y. Ige

**Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, Christine Pratt PA-C, MPAS 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. 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.

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AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

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

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Kathleen and David [jonelli@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 12:31 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1610 - SUPPORT

Please support SB 1610.

We need PAs in Hawaii working in hospitals, and we need nurses to respect their training and follow their orders, just as they follow the orders of physicians/MDs.

I am a physican and have worked with PAs in many settings. They are invaluable to Hawaii's health care system.

Please pass SB 1610.

Sincerely,

David Jones, MD

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center 86-260 Farrington Highway Waianae, Hawaii 96792

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Donald Traller [dotrasuva@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 10:47 AM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator David Y. Ige

### **Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, \_\_Donald W Traller PA-C\_AMD #69\_\_\_\_\_ support SB 1610

**I have been practicing on Kauai for 19 years as a Physician Assistant at Kauai Medical Clinic. I currently manage over six hundred Diabetes patients.**

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.<sup>1,2,3</sup> 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.

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Chong, Elisa [echong@straub.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 12:52 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

Dear Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Senator David Y. Ige and the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee Members,

RE: SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, Elisa Chong support SB 1610

I have worked at Straub Clinic and Hospital for over 17 years and have noted many advances in Hawaii State Laws regarding usage of Physician's Assistants. When I first started there were some nurses that would not take my orders and patient care was delayed until the Physician verified my orders. I work at both Straub and Tripler and in our present day I have no problems issuing and having Nurses accept my orders. Unfortunately, some of the other Outer Island Hospitals Nurses are still unfamiliar with the Physician Assistants concept that we are working under the supervision of the Physician. Hence the Physician's Assistants' orders are representative of the Supervising Physician's orders both in the Clinic and Hospital.

Passage of this bill will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PA's and nurses regarding hospital orders written by Physician Assistants. 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.<sup>1,2,3</sup> Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue. By passing this bill, care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses will improve as there will no delay treatment or medication due to ambiguity of the orders.

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.

Elisa Chong, PA-C  
Straub Occupational Health Services  
Tripler Army Medical Center Emergency Department  
Ph: (808) 342-7767

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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator David Y. Ige

**Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, Elmer Parwani 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.<sup>1 2 3</sup> 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.

Elmer Parwani, PA-C

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<sup>1</sup> AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

<sup>2</sup> Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

<sup>3</sup> Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Fielding Mercer [mercers.hawaii@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2009 11:52 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Support SB 1610

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator David Y. Ige  
**Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**  
Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610  
Conference room: 229  
Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants  
Testifier position: support  
Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair  
Respected Committee Members:  
RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

The Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants strongly supports SB 1610 with amendments as recommended by the Senate Health Committee.

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.<sup>i[1] ii[2] iii[3]</sup> 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.

Fielding Mercer  
President - Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants

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<sup>i[1]</sup> AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

<sup>ii[2]</sup> Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

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

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Gabe Merrill [gabenlynette1@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 01, 2009 6:39 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Physician Assistant in support of SB 1610

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator David Y. Ige  
**Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**  
Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610  
Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair  
Respected Committee Members:  
RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, Gabriel Merrill, MSPA-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.<sup>i[1]</sup> <sup>ii[2]</sup> <sup>iii[3]</sup> 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.

Gabriel Merrill, MSPA-C  
HMC - West Clinical Services Center  
Suite 170 , 91-2135 Fort Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, HI. 96706, (808) 676-5331 office, (808) 256-2979 cell

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<sup>iii</sup>[1] AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

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

1[1] Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

1[1] Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

Gabe Merrill

[gabelynette1@earthlink.net](mailto:gabelynette1@earthlink.net)

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<sup>i[2]</sup> Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

<sup>ii[3]</sup> Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Brumley, James M CPT MIL USA USARPAC [mike.brumley@us.army.mil]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 12:48 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM 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.

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.

MAJ James M Brumley, Aviation Physician Assistant - Certified, Schofield Barracks, HI

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** James Winkler [winkler@kauai-medical.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 2:43 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 1610

TO: Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Senators Rosalyn H. Baker and David Y. Ige

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: **support**

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, James Winkler, PA-C, and President *Kauai Community Health Alliance*, **support SB 1610**

As the president of *Kauai Community Health Alliance*, and director of *Hale Lea Medicine*, a primary care community medical facility serving Kauai for over 15 years, I encourage you to pass SB 1610 to bring to Hawaii the national standard of care regards the roles shared by MD/PA teams and their nurse colleagues.

By bringing PA practices in line with current national standards, several outcomes will ensue, including (1) improved patient care, (2) easier and more effective mid-level (PA) utilization with cost savings to the state in our present healthcare crisis, (3) alleviation of health care provider shortages in Hawaii, and (4) improved public safety through more comprehensive access to health care.

Please vote "yes" on SB 1610 with the changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you very much for considering this testimony.

James Winkler, PA-C

*Hale Lea Medicine*  
*dba of Kauai Community Health Alliance*  
<http://www.kauai-medical.org>  
2460 Oka Street  
Kilauea, Kauai, Hawaii, USA  
808-828-2885  
fax 808-828-0119

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator David Y. Ige

**Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, \_\_\_\_\_Jeffrey M. Robin, MS, 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.<sup>1 2 3</sup> 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\_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> AGLO 1978 No. 12 - March 23, 1978

<sup>2</sup> Number: AGO 77-96 September 13, 1977

<sup>3</sup> Civil Division - Kent County (739-7641) Feb 28, 2002 02-IB06

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** joseph morris [jwmorris58@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 28, 2009 3:41 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1610

Senator David Y. Ige

**Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

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 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, including my previous state of North Carolina, 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, and for your support of this significant piece of legislation.

Respectfully;

Joseph W. Morris, PA-C

Physician Assistant

## Eric Arquero

---

**From:** Kathleen Elliott [kathleen.elliott808@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 12:10 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB 1610 regarding Medical Orders by physician assts

As a physician assistant, I urge you to pass SB 1610.

Physician assistants who work in hospitals are authorized to write orders for patient care, which are then followed by the nurses working in the hospital. This represents our training and is done across the country. Hawaii needs the additional health care work of PAs. Please help us do our jobs for our patients, and encourage the cooperation of the nursing community as well.

aloha,

Kathleen Elliott, PA-C  
2045 Alaeloa St  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
732-9971

## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Larry Alfrey [fredwgarfield@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 10:14 AM  
**To:** CPN Testimony

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, Larry Alfrey, 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.<sup>1,2,3</sup> 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. Residency hours have been shortened and may even be shortened further in the near future further reducing their working hours. Subsequently the time available contact to receive/answer questions from nursing staff is reduced even further. Nurses recognize the role of a PA in hospitals that employ PAs. They also have learned the ease to have contact with the Doctor-PA Team by calling the PA and anticipating a rapid response to address the issue at hand. 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 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Larry Alfrey, PA-C

Trauma Services

The Queen's Medical Center

Honolulu, HI

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## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Lori Sterk [lori\_sterk@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 12:06 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1610

Dear Legislators,

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.

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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you very much for considering this testimony.

Lori Sterk PA-C

Honolulu, HI

## Eric Arquero

---

**From:** Clinic Waipahu UCERA [clinicwaipahu@ucera.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 10:28 AM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Support for SB 1610

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator David Y. Ige  
Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

As a practicing physician, 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.

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.

Michael Aaronoff, M.D.  
UCERA  
94-235 Hanaway Circle Suite 1B  
Waipahu, HI 96797

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## Eric Arquero

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**From:** patsycolvin@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 1:35 PM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Support for SB1610

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator David Y. Ige

**Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, Patsy Colvin, 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.<sup>1,2,3</sup> 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.

Sincerely,  
Patsy Colvin,  
PA-C

PS - Hi Roz, It's me, Patsy from Church!

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## Eric Arquero

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**From:** Susan Weldon [makakilogirl@weldoncope.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 10:23 AM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Support for SB 1610

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Senator David Y. Ige

### **Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee**

Testimony for CPN 3/3/2009 9:30:00 AM SB1610

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Support of SB 1610: Physician Assistant; Registered Nurse; Medical Orders

The Honorable Senator R. Baker, Chair

Respected Committee Members:

RE; SB-1610 Relating to medical orders.

I, Susan Rinaldi Weldon, 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.<sup>1,2,3</sup> 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.

*Susan Rinaldi Weldon, PA-C*  
3763 Anuhea St.  
Honolulu, HI, 96816

## Eric Arquero

---

**From:** Vanessa Aveiro RN, MPAS, PA-C [ozziko@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 02, 2009 11:32 AM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** In support of SB 1610

I Vanessa Aveiro am in support of SB 1610

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.

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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you very much for considering this testimony.

Vanessa Aveiro, PA-C

Straub Dermatology Hawaii