A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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. The

4   legislature acknowledges that registered nurses are licensed

5   under chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and are regulated by

6   the board of nursing, whereas physician assistants are licensed

7   under section 453-5.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and practice

8   under the supervision of a physician or osteopathic physician.

9   When performing the practice of nursing as a registered nurse, a

10   registered nurse must currently use reasonable judgment in

11   carrying out prescribed medical orders of a licensed dentist,

12   medical doctor, osteopathic physician, or podiatrist, or the

13   orders of an advanced practice registered nurse.

14   Since 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 legislature finds that the relevant statutory

18   language pertaining to their respective responsibilities is

1   unclear. Specifically, there is a lack of clarity with respect

2   to nurses administering orders given by physician assistants and

3   this has led to confusion between hospital administrators and

4   nurses when physician assistants write or give verbal orders in

5   a hospital setting.

6   SECTION 2. Section 457-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

7   amended by amending the definition of "the practice of nursing

8   as a registered nurse" to read as follows:

9   ""The practice of nursing as a registered nurse" means the

10   performance of professional services commensurate with the

11   educational preparation and demonstrated competency of the

12   individual having specialized knowledge, judgment, and skill

13   based on the principles of the biological, physical, behavioral,

14   and sociological sciences and nursing theory, whereby the

15   individual shall be accountable and responsible to the consumer

16   for the quality of nursing care rendered. The foregoing may

17   include but shall not be limited to observation, assessment,

18   development, implementation, and evaluation of a plan of care,

19   health counseling, supervision and teaching of other personnel,

20   and teaching of individuals, families, and groups in any stage

21   of health or illness; administration, supervision, coordination,

22   delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice; provision of

1 health care to the patient in collaboration with other members

2 of the health care team as autonomous health care professionals

3 providing the nursing component of health care; or use of

4 reasonable judgment in carrying out prescribed medical orders of

5 a licensed dentist, physician, osteopathic physician, or

6 podiatrist licensed in accordance with chapter 448, 453, or 463E

7 or the orders of an advanced practice registered nurse

8 recognized in accordance with this chapter[-] or the orders of a

9 physician delivered through a physician assistant licensed

10 pursuant to chapter 453 and practicing with physician

11 supervision as required by chapter 453."

12   SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed

13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14   SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

15

S.B. NO. 705 S.D. 2

Report Title:
Health; Registered Nurse; Physician Assistant

Description:
Amends the definition of "the practice of nursing as a registered nurse" to require registered nurses to carry out the orders of physicians that are delivered by licensed physician assistants practicing with physician supervision.   (SD2)

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