
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT AN
ANALYSIS OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that there is a
2 physician shortage in the State and this often leaves rural
3 communities with challenges to health care access; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Legislature is currently looking at different
6 legislation to expand the scope of practice for advanced
7 practice registered nurses and physician assistants; and
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9 WHEREAS, according to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing,
10 since 2009, the Legislature has passed twenty-two laws related
11 to the scope of practice of advance practice registered nurses;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, the 2021 Legislature has or is considering five
15 measures related to expanding the scope of practice for advance
16 practice registered nurses in a variety of ways in Hawaii; and
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18 WHEREAS, it is challenging to expand the scope of practice
19 for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants
20 without a holistic view of what their scope of practice could
21 and should be in Hawaii; and
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23 WHEREAS, there is a need to make clear distinctions to
24 understand the differences between physicians, advanced practice
25 registered nurses, and physician assistants and what each
26 profession's scope of practice in Hawaii should be; now,
27 therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2021, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to



1 conduct an analysis of advanced practice registered nurses and
2 physician assistants; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its analysis, the
5 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to include the
6 following:

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8 (1) The full scope of practice for advanced practice
9 registered nurses and physician assistants based on
10 national professional guidelines;
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12 (2) The distinctions between the educational training and
13 scope of practice between physicians, advanced
14 practice registered nurses, and physician assistants;
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16 (3) An examination of potential scope of practice
17 limitations for advanced practice registered nurses
18 and physician assistants in the Hawaii Administrative
19 Rules; and
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21 (4) A comparative study of how Hawaii differs from other
22 states regarding the scope of practice for advanced
23 practice registered nurses and physician assistants;
24 and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
27 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the
28 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular
29 Session of 2022; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
33 and Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

