

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, March 30, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Licensing Administrator of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) allow certain physician assistants to sign orders for respiratory therapy and plans of care; and (2) expand the class of health care providers under whom respiratory therapists may practice respiratory care to include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses.

The Department supports this bill, which would provide greater access to health care for all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference
by
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.**

In Hawai'i, health care professionals are in high demand yet in low supply, particularly on the neighbor islands and in rural and underserved areas of our state. Improving access to care by qualified healthcare professionals is critical to ensuring the people of Hawai'i receive the healthcare when they need it, and by their preferred healthcare provider.

The Legislature has long recognized the high standard of care provided by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and established that APRNs are
"...authorized to diagnose, prescribe, and institute therapy or referrals of patients to health care agencies, health care providers, and community resources..." (HRS 457-8.6 (c)).

When laws outside of the Nurse Practice Act are not updated to align with the scope of practice that is established within the Nurse Practice Act, challenges and barriers in accessing health care services occur. Though the APRN is enabled to provide the service per their practice act, they remain unable to do certain healthcare functions because of disagreement across the constellation of laws in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

In this case, currently respiratory therapists cannot receive orders from APRNs, even though APRNs are authorized *"to diagnose, prescribe, and institute therapy or referrals of patients to health care agencies, health care providers, and community resources"*. Respiratory therapists provide care to people who have trouble breathing. The inability to accept a referral from an APRN can cause delays in care.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing respectfully **asks the Committee to pass S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1** through your committee. The Center thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i, and ensuring access to high-quality health care by our state's interprofessional healthcare team including APRNs.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development, promotes a diverse workforce, and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

March 30, 2023
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

Re: SB 599, SD1, HD1, Relating to Health.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 599, SD1, HD1, which expands the class of health care providers under whom respiratory therapists may practice respiratory care to include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS SB 599, SD1, HD1.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 269,000 members in Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports healthcare providers practicing to the full extent of their training and scope of practice. Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs) are credentialled to provide critical care to both adults and children, and are educated, trained and privileged to write orders to manage ventilators. However, Hawai'i law currently prohibits them from prescribing, ordering, or directing respiratory care services.

To provide our patients with high quality care despite Hawai'i's chronic provider shortage, it is crucial that providers' scope of practice reflects the full extent of their training. The ongoing pandemic and the severe flu and RSV season bring added urgency to this ongoing issue. **SB 599, SD1, HD1 aligns Hawai'i law with community standard of practice and CMS regulations in which qualified non-physician providers, including APRNs and Pas, are able to safely and**

competently order respiratory therapy for patients to be implemented by respiratory therapists. Therefore, we urge the committee to PASS SB 599, SD1, HD1 unamended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



TO: Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 30, 2023 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308 via Videoconference State Capitol

Re: SB599 SD1 HD1, Relating to Health

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB599 SD1 HD1, which allows certain physician assistants (PA) to sign orders for respiratory therapy and plans of care. Expands the class of health care providers under whom respiratory therapists may practice respiratory care to include PAs and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN).

Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB599 SD1 HD1

HAPA is the Hawai'i state chapter of The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA).

HAPA supports SB599 SD1 HD1 because it includes PAs as licensed medical providers who are qualified to create plans of care and provide direction to respiratory therapists for the provision of respiratory services for appropriate patients. This is consistent with PA training and scope of practice, and it ensures greater access to respiratory health care services in Hawai'i, especially during our ongoing physician shortage in the state.

PAs are highly skilled medical providers and authorized by the Affordable Care Act, along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care provider (PCP). PAs receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum which includes rotations in family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics



and gynecology, emergency medicine, psychiatry, and other specialty electives. PA training programs typically require thousands of hours of previous clinical care experience before matriculation is even considered.

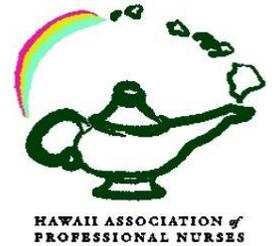
PAs are regarded as qualified licensed medical providers, who can provide medical direction and oversight of speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, among others. SB599 SD1 HD1 aligns Hawai'i law with community standard of practice and CMS regulations in which qualified non-physician providers, including APRNs and PAs, can safely and competently order respiratory therapy for patients to be provided by respiratory therapists. HAPA respectfully requests your support of SB599 SD1 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Denny, MSPA, PA-C
Legislative Liaison
Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA)

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



To: The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair of
the House Committee on Finance

From: Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)
Subject: SB599 SD1 HD1 – Relating to Health; in Support

Hearing: March 30, 2023, 3p.m.

Aloha Representative Yamashita, Chair; Representative Kitagawa, Vice Chair; and Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB599 SD1 HD1. HAPN is in **support** of this measure. This measure will improve access to care for our patients who require respiratory care services by authorizing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) to order respiratory services in collaboration with our respiratory care colleagues, further reducing delays in care. Health care professionals are in high demand with a decrease in supply as noted by several state agencies.

APRNs have been recognized by the legislature to practice to the full extent of our education/training, certification, and licensure. HRS 457 states that APRNs are “authorized to diagnose, prescribe, and institute therapy or referrals of patients to health care agencies, health care providers, and community resources”. Providing orders for respiratory care services is in line with HRS 457. APRNs have been able to demonstrate competent and safe care in our hospitals, clinics, and other places where we work.

HAPN’s mission, to be the voice of APRNs in Hawaii, has been the guiding force that propelled us to spearhead the advancement of patients’ access to healthcare as well as supporting the recognition of the scope of practice for APRNs in Hawaii, which led us to full practice authority. We have worked to improve the physical and mental health of our communities.

HAPN respectfully asks this Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to share the perspective of HAPN with your committee. Thank you for your enduring support of the nursing profession in the Aloha State.

Respectfully,
Dr. Jeremy Creekmore, APRN
HAPN President

Dr. Bradley Kuo, APRN
HAPN Legislative Committee, Chair
HAPN Past President

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Finance**

Thursday, March 30, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

On the following measure:

S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) allow certain physician assistants (PAs) to sign orders for respiratory therapy and plans of care; and (2) expand the class of health care providers under whom respiratory therapists may practice respiratory care to include PAs and advanced practice registered nurses.

The Board supports this bill, which clearly provides licensed PAs the authority to sign orders for respiratory therapy and plans of care. The Board recognizes the important role PAs have in health care and believes this bill is a step in the right direction to ensure access to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

**Before the
House Committee on Finance**

Thursday, March 30, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

On the following measure:

S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) allow certain physician assistants to sign orders for respiratory therapy and plans of care; and (2) expand the class of health care providers under whom respiratory therapists may practice respiratory care to include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses.

The bill will improve access to healthcare by removing barriers to practice by expanding the class of health care providers who may order respiratory care for their patients to include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference**

by

By Hawai‘i – American Nurses Association (Hawai‘i-ANA)



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.**

In Hawai‘i, health care professionals are in high demand yet in low supply, particularly on the neighbor islands and in rural and underserved areas of our state. Improving access to care by qualified healthcare professionals is critical to ensuring the people of Hawai‘i receive healthcare when they need it, and by their preferred healthcare provider.

The Legislature has long recognized the high standard of care provided by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and established that APRNs are...*authorized to diagnose, prescribe, and institute therapy or referrals of patients to health care agencies, health care providers, and community resources...*” (HRS 457-8.6 (c)).

When laws outside of the Nurse Practice Act are not updated to align with the scope of practice that is established within the Nurse Practice Act, challenges and barriers in accessing health care services occur. Though the APRN is enabled to provide the service per their practice act, they remain unable to do certain healthcare functions because of disagreement across the constellation of laws in the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes.

In this case, currently respiratory therapists cannot receive orders from APRNs, even though APRNs are authorized “*to diagnose, prescribe, and institute therapy or referrals of patients to health care agencies, health care providers, and community resources*”. Respiratory therapists provide care to people who have trouble breathing. The inability to accept a referral from an APRN can cause delays in care.

Hawai‘i -ANA respectfully asks the Committee to pass S.B. 599, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 through your committee. Hawai‘i -ANA thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai‘i, and ensuring access to high-quality health care by our state’s interprofessional healthcare team including APRNs.

Contact Information for Hawaii-ANA, President Dr. Nancy Atmospera Walsh, DNP, CCHN, FAAN, president@hawaii-ana.org Executive Director: Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN, FNP-BC executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org phone (808)779-3001 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu, HI 96825

Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 599, SD1, HD1
Relating to Health**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of SB 599, SD1, HD1 which expands the class of health care providers under whom respiratory therapists may practice respiratory care to include licensed physician assistants (PA) and licensed advanced practice registered nurses (APRN).

This measure aligns with community standards of practice and CMS regulations in which qualified non-physician providers including PAs and APRNs are able to safely and competently order respiratory therapy for patients to be implemented by respiratory therapists.

Enabling respiratory therapists to practice under the supervision of these additional health care providers of physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses is consistent with Hawai'i's multidisciplinary practice philosophy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



FIN_03-30-23 3pm SB599, SB900

TO: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SB599 SD1 HD1 (HSCR 1527) RELATING TO HEALTH
SB900, SD2, HD1 (HSCR1432) RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE
HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee

The Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has a membership of more than 2,000 politically active and aware seniors and we support all programs which will help Hawaii expand access to vital but basic medical needs like respiratory assistance. In addition more consistent research is needed to keep up with the medical and healthcare assistance needed by our increasing senior population.

It is a fact that many doctors' assistants, nurses with special training and nurse practitioners are being underutilized in our states medical community. There is no reason why trained professionals in the area of respiratory needs should not be able to initiate such assistance when they know it is needed. In a situation like the recent COVID pandemic how many lives might have been saved if infected people had received the respiratory assistance they needed sooner.

Constant and up to date reports on the status of seniors and their health insurance needs is vital to Making sure Hawaii is not caught by surprise when the next pandemic comes. By now we should all know it will come in some form again and seniors are always in the most danger from such waves of contagious disease.

Please pass these bills

Martha Randolph for the Kupuna Caucus of the
Democratic Party of Hawaii

SB-599-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:00:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/30/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Smith	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

There are many challenges facing healthcare due to physician shortages. The inadequate numbers of intensivists (ICU doctors) and pulmonologists (lung doctors) can be addressed in part by expanding the scope of practice for Physicians Assistants and Nurse Practitioners.

SB-599-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:04:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/30/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

Giving PA's and APRN's the ability to order and direct respiratory care by RT's can improve the access to care by RT's and decrease wait times for incorporating their services to patients with acute and chronic respiratory illnesses. Many of the patients that I care for have COPD, interstitial lung disease, asthma, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and lung cancer. With COVID-19 there is also long COVID with ongoing issues with breathing. With our homeless population there is higher prevalence of TB than in other regions of the US. Personally, as an APRN, I have had trouble getting the needed supplies for ALS patients with delays due to needing a physician to order equipment and settings for needed equipment. In one case, the patient progressed to needing more invasive support due to wait times to see a physician to order cough assist and BiPAP. I support this bill to improve the ability of PAs and APRNs to get the needed testing, equipment, oxygen, humidification, ventilatory support for the patients under our care.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-599-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:08:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/30/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Takahashi	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respiratory Therapy (RT) requires specific training that a PA or an APRN does not receive. Unless the PA or APRN receive the same type of training or degree, I am opposing the bill. It diminishes the RT skills and degree that they have earned. From reading the bill, I am not sure if it requires the same type of degree for a PA or APRN to practice RT. I agree with the ability of certain PA dn APRN to sign order for RT but who will enforce the statement that the PA or APRN "has specialty training or experience in the management of acute and chronic respiratory disorders "