

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura Chair of the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)
Subject: SB8 – Relating to Jury Duty

Hearing: January 27, 2025, 1:00p.m.

Aloha Senator San Buenaventura, Chair; Senator Aquino, Vice Chair; and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses, we appreciate this opportunity to voice our collective support for SB8, which seeks to extend jury duty exemptions to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), consistent with the exemptions currently granted to physicians and dentists.

APRNs play an essential role in Hawaii's healthcare system, often serving as primary care and mental healthcare providers, particularly in rural and underserved areas where access to care is limited. The responsibility of providing consistent and timely healthcare to our communities is a significant undertaking, one that requires uninterrupted focus and availability.

Currently, physicians and dentists are exempt from jury duty because their absence from work during a trial can disrupt critical healthcare services. APRNs, who deliver equivalent levels of care in their respective practices, face the same challenges when summoned for jury duty. The absence of an APRN, particularly in solo or small practices, can delay patient care, interrupt continuity of treatment, and exacerbate existing healthcare access challenges in our state.

We believe that extending jury duty exemptions to APRNs acknowledges their critical contributions to the healthcare system and ensures that patients continue to receive the timely, high-quality care they deserve. This exemption would also align with Hawaii's broader commitment to addressing healthcare workforce shortages and supporting the professionals who dedicate their careers to the health and well-being of our communities.

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. We have worked to improve the physical and mental health of our communities. As our ability to provide close care with our patients progressed, we also opened our own clinics to provide the care our patients deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony to your committee. Thank you for your enduring support of the nursing profession in the Aloha State.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jeremy Creekmore, APRN
HAPN President

SB-8

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:59:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Boling	Testifying for Optimum Health and Wellness Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 8: APRN Jury Duty Exemption

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature

From: Jamie Boling, MPH, MSN, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC
Optimum Health and Wellness Hawaii, Owner

Date: 01/26/25

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 8 - APRN Jury Duty Exemption

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 8, which proposes to allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) the option to elect exemption from jury duty. This measure is crucial in addressing the healthcare needs of our state, particularly given the current shortage of physicians and the vital role that APRNs play in providing healthcare services to Hawaii's residents.

As an APRN practicing in Kailua, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role that APRNs fulfill in both primary and specialty care settings. Our contributions are indispensable, especially in rural areas where healthcare providers are scarce and residents rely heavily on APRNs for their medical needs. The ability for APRNs to focus on their clinical responsibilities without the interruption of jury duty is essential to maintaining consistent and reliable healthcare services for our patients.

Currently, practicing physicians and dentists in Hawaii have the option to be exempt from jury duty due to the essential nature of their work. Extending this exemption to APRNs recognizes the parallel importance of our role in the healthcare system. Interruptions in care due to jury duty obligations can have significant impacts on patient health outcomes, particularly for those with chronic conditions or mental health needs that require ongoing attention.

The passage of SB 8 would acknowledge the critical contributions of APRNs and align our responsibilities with those of other key healthcare providers who are already exempt. It would

ensure that we can continue to meet the healthcare demands of our communities effectively and without unnecessary disruptions.

I urge you to support SB 8 and recognize the importance of allowing APRNs the ability to elect exemption from jury duty, thereby ensuring that we can continue to provide uninterrupted, high-quality care to our patients.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I am hopeful that you will see the value in supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jamie Boling, MPH, MSN, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC
Optimum Health and Wellness Hawaii, Owner

SB-8

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:18:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Grosskreutz, M.D.	Testifying for Hawaii Provider Shortage Crisis Task Force	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has a severe shortage of both doctors and nurses. Hawai'i County in one recent national survey of the 3000 U.S. counties had the third worse shortage of primary care providers. Maui had the fifth worse, but is likely #1 in primary care providers since several medical clinics burnt down.

Our APRN primary care providers are a large and critical part of our primary care providers in our state. Every APRN tasked with jury duty has to cancel many patients who often have limited access to care. Please pass SB8.

Scott Grosskreutz, M.D., FACR

SB-8

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:46:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alistair Bairos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the shortage of physicians in Hawai'i, APRN practice has rapidly increased to supplement physician in providing healthcare to Hawai'i residents. APRNs provide primary and specialty care to many individuals who are dependent on them for their healthcare services. Absence from practice of an APRN for jury duty may cause financial hardship for the APRNs practice and jeopardize care for the patients. This is especially true in rural areas where other providers may not be available. Practicing physicians and dentists already may elect to be exempt from jury duty. This bill will include APRNs as being able to elect exemption from jury duty.

APRNs are often the primary connection between patients and a medical practice and, as important as jury duty is, having a practitioner available when a patient is ill needs to take precedence,

Please support this cost-free bill. Mahalo and aloha!

SB-8

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:34:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Novak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the shortage of physicians in Hawai'i, APRN practice has rapidly increased to supplement physician in providing healthcare to Hawai'i residents. APRNs provide primary and specialty care to many individuals who are dependent on them for their healthcare services. Absence from practice of an APRN for jury duty may cause financial hardship for the APRNs practice, and jeopardise care for the patients. This is especially true in rural areas where other providers may not be available. Practicing physicians and dentists already may elect to be exempt from jury duty. This bill will include APRNs as being able to elect exemption from jury duty.

SB-8

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 5:13:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miki Miura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator San Buenaventura, Chair; Senator Aquino, Vice Chair; and Committee Members,

My name is Miki Miura, and I am a family nurse practitioner (NP) at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and St. Luke's Clinic Ala Moana. I appreciate the intent of the bill SB 8 and would like to offer comments, particularly as an NP who serves Hawaii residents in rural Oahu.

With the shortage of physicians in Hawaii, APRN practice has rapidly increased to supplement physician shortages and enhance access to care. This is particularly true in rural communities, including the ones I serve, as the physician shortage is even more significant in these communities. I provide women's health care to patients in rural Oahu communities and see many pregnant patients, including those who are considered at high risk and extremely high risk. Two physicians come to our office, but they are there only 1.5 days a week collectively, while my colleague NP and I see various cases, from non-urgent to extremely urgent, on all weekdays. Removing NPs from their work for jury duty can negatively impact access to care and potentially cause significant damage to patients with urgent healthcare needs, who may not receive timely care if NPs are not available to cater healthcare services. Therefore, I strongly support this bill to allow advanced practice registered nurses, including NPs, to claim exemption from service as a juror, consistent with the exemptions currently granted to physicians and dentists.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Respectfully,

Miki Miura, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

SB-8

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:54:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendra Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My husband is one of the few nurse practitioners on Lanai Island. His schedule is very busy as he, along with his co- nurse practitioners, service over half the islands population. His care and dedication to serving the Lanai community through health services is irreplaceable. Because of this I believe that nurse practitioners should be exempt from taking time to serve in Jury duty.

Mahalo for your time,

Kendra Medeiros

SB-8

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:54:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I live full time and work full time on the Island of Lāna'i as a primary care Family Nurse Practitioner and in our small rural clinic when myself or another one of my Nurse Practitioner colleagues are out of the clinic it severely delays patient care, interrupts continuity of treatment, and for my patient population here on Lāna'i they already have extremely limited healthcare access so being exempt from jury duty would prevent any disruptions to their critical healthcare services.

I strongly support this bill as it would directly impact me and my team of primary care Nurse Practitioners who care for the people of Lāna'i so they do not have to leave the island for primary care services.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jared Medeiros

SB-8

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:38:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas H Joslyn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators. Thanks for taking the time to read my testimony in favor of this bill. I am CRNA; Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist / Anesthesiologist. I am also an APRN. There are over 100 CRNA's in Hawaii, providing anesthesia and analgesia to all ages of patients. As our Physician Anesthesiologist (MDA's) colleagues, we provide the same services as they do, therefore we feel we should be treated the same. We both provide anesthesia services to many thousands of Hawaii patients and thus we both should also be exempt from Jury duty. Our absence from the Operating rooms will seriously delay needed treatment for patients coming for surgical / obstetrical, and pain treatment. Please pass this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas H Joslyn RN, APRN, CRNA, MS

Past President of the Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Past Hawaii Board Of Nursing member / Chair