

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, January 30, 2026
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2025 RELATING TO JURY DUTY**

Chair Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Chin, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii State Board of Nursing (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow actively practicing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to claim exemption from service as a juror, consistent with the existing exemption for physicians and dentists.

APRNs in Hawaii have full practice authority and provide primary and specialty care across the State, including to many high-risk and medically complex patients. In rural and underserved communities such as Lāna‘i and the Wai‘anae Coast, APRNs often serve as the primary or only on-island providers, and even short absences can significantly delay care, interrupt treatment, and reduce already limited access to services. For APRNs who own or operate small or solo practices, jury service can also create financial hardship and disrupt continuity of operations in a manner similar to physicians and dentists.

The bill maintains individual choice, as an exemption does not prevent an APRN from serving on a jury if they wish to do so. Aligning APRN jury duty exemptions with those of physicians and dentists recognizes their comparable role in Hawaii’s healthcare delivery system and supports the State’s broader goal of strengthening and retaining its healthcare workforce.

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

S.B. 2025

Page 2 of 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELA

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

January 29, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **SB 2025 -- RELATING TO JURY DUTY**

HEARING: Friday, January 30, 2026 @ 3:00 pm; Conference Room 224

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports SB 2025, with comments.

This bill is intended to guarantee continuity of patient care and promote fairness in jury duty exemptions by allowing actively practicing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to claim the same optional jury service exemption currently afforded to physicians and dentists. By extending this exemption, the bill recognizes the critical role APRNs play in Hawai'i's healthcare system and aligns statute with modern clinical practice realities.

APRNs in Hawai'i have full practice authority and provide essential primary and specialty care, often to elderly, disabled, pregnant and underserved populations, and many operate independent practices with ongoing patient and financial obligations. Requiring these providers to step away from practice for jury service can disrupt access to care and impose significant hardship, while the exemption remains voluntary for those who wish to serve. While also underserving in their respective areas, due to an ongoing shortage of workers in Hawai'i's healthcare facilities.

This bill helps protect access to timely health care by minimizing unnecessary disruptions to patient services, particularly in communities that rely heavily on APRNs for primary and specialty care. It promotes equity by aligning APRNs with physicians and dentists who already have the option to claim jury duty exemption, reflecting comparable clinical responsibility and practice structures.

SB 2025: testimony of SHPDA (2026), continued.

The bill also reduces financial strain on independently practicing APRNs and their staff, while preserving civic participation by keeping the exemption voluntary for those who wish to serve.

This measure is a practical, balanced update to Hawai'i law that acknowledges the essential role APRNs play in maintaining access to care across the state. It safeguards patients, supports small healthcare practices, and preserves the voluntary nature of jury service. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for this bill.

Thank you for hearing SB 2025.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

January 30, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senate Bill 2025 – Relating to Jury Duty

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2025 – Relating to Jury Duty. This bill allows actively practicing advanced practice registered nurses to claim exemption from service as a juror.

Hawai'i continues to experience a critical shortage of medical providers, including advanced practice registered nurses (APRN), who play a vital role in delivering timely and accessible health care. When APRNs are unavailable due to jury service, patients may experience delays in diagnosis and treatment. For individuals with disabilities, such delays can result in worsening health conditions, increased functional limitations, and preventable complications.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristine Pagano".

KRISTINE PAGANO
Acting Executive Director



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okolokolo, Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Friday, January 30, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

By

Dean T. Hiraki
Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Third Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2025, Relating to Jury Duty.

Purpose: Allows actively practicing advanced practice registered nurses to claim exemption from service as a juror.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position regarding the intent of this bill, provides comments on aspects of the measure that may cause operational issues for the courts.

The Judiciary respectfully requests that the effective date of this bill, if passed, begin on January 1, 2027. To implement the changes required by this bill, if passed and enacted, the Judiciary would need to revise and update the current juror qualification forms to include this exemption, along with the information sheet that accompanies the summons.

Each year, the Judiciary must finalize the juror qualification forms no later than mid-May to allow sufficient time for the forms to be printed, processed, and mailed out during the first week of August. Since the 2026 legislative session concludes in May 2026, and additional time is needed for the Governor to take action on this measure, the Judiciary may not have adequate time to make the necessary updates to the forms for the 2027 juror qualification cycle. This could impact the implementation of the measure.



Senate Bill No. 2025, Relating to Jury Duty
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, January 30, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Page 2

Additionally, the Judiciary respectfully requests that the term “advanced practice registered nurse” be clearly defined for the purposes of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 2025.



Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

HEARING: Friday January 30, 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room 224 State Capitol and via videoconference

SB2025 – Relating to Jury Duty

Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey,, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for providing this opportunity for Hawai'i nurses' voices to be heard.

Hawai'i-American Nurses Association (Hawai'i- ANA) is the professional association for over 17,000 registered nurses who live and work in Hawai'i. Our mission is to advocate for the improvement of the healthcare system in the communities where we live and work. **We stand in strong support of this bill 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.

Hawai'i-ANA thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i in ensuring that patients served by all primary care providers continue to receive the timely, quality care they deserve. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.



Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:
Chair of Advocacy Committee: Linda Beechinor, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
President: Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC
Executive Director: Elizabeth Kahakua, RN, BSN
phone (808) 779-3001 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825



Ōhi'a Midwifery & Wellness, LLC
65-1206 Mamalahoa Hwy. Suite 2-204 Kamuela, HI 96743
P: 808-649-5007
ohiamidwifery@gmail.com
ohiamidwifery.com

January 29, 2026

Re: SB 2025 RELATING TO JURY DUTY

Aloha Honorable Senators Inouye, Fevella, Gabbard, and Kanuha.

I submit testimony in support of SB 2025 with comment.

It is appropriate to include APRNs to be eligible for an exemption from jury duty based on all that is stated in Section 1, that they provide primary and specialist care, comparable to physicians, and many have achieved establishing freestanding private practices - and access to their care should not be interrupted.

There are a number of specialties recognized by the Board of Nursing detailed in HRS 457, the Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) is one of these specialties.

https://files.hawaii.gov/dcca/pvl/pvl/hrs/hrs_pvl_457.pdf

As of 2019, Hawai'i added a second advanced practice midwifery credential, the Certified Midwife (CM) for licensing and May 2025, law governing this credential was amended to continue as Act 28. This bill established equivalence of the CM with the CNM in the provision of midwifery care, and therefore should be also noted for option of exemption from jury duty as not doing so would deprive patients of needed health care services and can be a financial hardship for a certified midwife who owns a practice and is responsible for overhead costs. I work in private practice and provide 24/7 on-call services. I am also actively working on opening a licensed freestanding birthing facility on Hawai'i.

For all of these reasons, 1) equivalency with CNMs in scope of provision of midwifery services, 2) the essential services provided to the public, & 3) the hardship faced by provider in private practice - I urge your consideration of inclusion of the Certified Midwife (CM, LM), in this bill. The American College of Nurse-Midwives is the representing professional organization for the CM and has provided this reference for more information on this credential:

<https://midwife.org/certified-midwife-credential/>

Mahalo for your time & consideration,
I am available for questions via email or phone.
Margaret Ragen CM, LM, MS

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 11:31:27 AM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Novak	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

From: Allen Novak, APRN

Subject: SB2025 – Relating to Jury Duty

Hearing: January 30, 2026, 3:00 pm

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

I appreciate this opportunity to express support for SB2025, which seeks to extend jury duty exemptions to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), consistent with the exemptions currently granted to physicians and dentists.

1. play an essential role in Hawai‘i’s healthcare system, often serving as primary care and mental healthcare providers. This is particularly the case on neighbor islands and in rural underserved areas.

In Hawai‘i an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) is licensed to practice independently and many have chosen to establish their own private practice much as many physicians do. Ninety percent of APRNs have prescriptive authority. Being required to suspend healthcare practice when summoned to perform jury duty creates a significant hardship for physicians, dentists, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and the patients who depend on those clinicians for care.

The statute which provides for physicians and dentists to elect exemption from jury duty was created many years ago before APRNs became a significant portion of the healthcare workforce. This bill will simply bring the jury duty professional healthcare exemption up to date by recognizing the role which APRNs play in healthcare.

The exemption in this measure applies only to APRNs in active practice (the same criteria applied to physicians and dentists).

This measure does not need any financial appropriation.

I 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 Hawai‘i’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.

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

From: Fannie Yang, DNPc, BSN, RN

Subject: Support for S.B. No.2025, Relating to Jury Duty

Hearing: January 30, 2026, 3:00p.m.

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

I respectfully submit testimony in support of S.B. No.2025, which would extend jury duty exemptions to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), aligning them with exemptions currently granted to physicians and dentists.

APRNs are integral to Hawai‘i’s healthcare delivery system and frequently serve as primary care and mental health providers, particularly in rural and underserved communities. In Hawai‘i, APRNs are licensed for independent practice, and many operate private practices similar to those of physicians.

Requiring APRNs in active practice to suspend clinical services to fulfill jury duty obligations places a substantial burden on both providers and patients. Interruptions in care can negatively affect access, continuity, and health outcomes, especially in communities already experiencing provider shortages. These concerns are consistent with those that justified jury duty exemptions for physicians and dentists.

The current statute predates the expansion of APRNs as a critical component of the healthcare workforce. S.B. No.2025 appropriately updates the law to reflect modern healthcare practice. The exemption applies only to APRNs in active practice and does not require any financial appropriation.

Extending jury duty exemptions to APRNs recognizes their essential role in Hawai‘i’s healthcare system and supports ongoing efforts to maintain access to timely, high-quality care. I respectfully urge the Committee to support S.B. No.2025.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Fannie Yang, DNPc, BSN, RN

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

From: Ramona Nakagawa, RN-BSN, Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) Student

Subject: SB2025 – Relating to Jury Duty

Hearing: January 30, 2026, 3:00pm

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

I appreciate this opportunity to express support for SB2025, which seeks to extend jury duty exemptions to actively practicing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), consistent with the exemptions currently granted to physicians and dentists.

APRNs are essential to Hawaii's healthcare system with 81% serving in direct patient care and education¹. The Hawai'i Physician Workforce reports note that there is a 40% physician shortage on Hawai'i Island with the highest need in primary care². APRNs are licensed to practice independently in the state of Hawai'i and over 90% of APRNs have prescriptive authority¹. Many APRNs have chosen to establish their own private practice. According to the 2025 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply survey, 13% of APRNs report being self-employed and over half of all APRNs work in outpatient clinics¹. This represents a significant asset to healthcare accessibility. The requirement to suspend healthcare practice when summoned to perform jury duty creates significant hardship for physicians, dentists, APRNs and the patients that depend on these clinicians for care.

As a resident of Hawai'i Island and future APRN with the intention of working as a rural primary care provider in a private practice, this exemption will have a direct impact on my future work considerations. I believe that extending jury duty exemptions to APRNs acknowledges their critical contributions to the healthcare system in Hawai'i and ensures that patients continue to receive the timely, high-quality care they deserve. Thank you again for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

Ramona Nakagawa, RN, BSN, DNP student

References and Quick Links:

¹ Hawaii State Center for Nursing. (2025). *2025 Hawai'i nursing workforce supply: Statewide data tables by license* (October 2025). <https://www.hawaiicenterfornursing.org/data-reports/supply/>

² University of Hawai'i System. (2024). *Hawai'i physician workforce report 2024: Annual report on findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project (Report to the 2025 Legislature; Act 18, SSLH 2009, §5)*. https://ahec.hawaii.edu/_docs/annual-physician-workforce-report-2024.pdf

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 3:40:33 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wailua Brandman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It is logical, rational and practical and supports patient access to quality care. It does not prohibit an APRN from service on a jury. Please pass this bill out off committee. Mahalo, Wailua Brandman APRN

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 3:41:18 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Takamatsu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been an APRN since 2017 practicing as a primary care provider and urgent care provider functioning as an independent medical provider. When I was called into jury duty I missed work for 1 business day causing 20+ patients cancelled from my schedule, and these patients could not be rescheduled for weeks because my booked out schedule. If the jury duty lasted longer than 1 day it would have even more significantly impacted my patients for an extended time frame. This is dangerous to patient care. We already have a healthcare provider shortage and in a rural state we need to make sure practicing providers are able to work and treat patients. (My testimony does not include registered nurses or assistants, I am solely advocating for APRNs because we function similarly to physicians often with our own patient panels, managing patients independently through assessment, diagnosis, and prescribing treatment).

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 5:14:27 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob W Moore Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

As a Nurse Practitioner I am the primary care provider in a practice that serves over 850 homebound frail elderly. Our visits are scheduled well in advance and cancellations place a strain on our practice due to the fact that so few providers offer this service. Cancelling patient visits for jury duty creates a barrier to their access to care and potentially causes potential for medical complications in these patients.

Thank you for your attention

Jake Moore, APRN

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

From: Erika Murata, RN-BSN, Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) Student

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2025 – Relating to Jury Duty Exemptions

Hearing: January 30, 2026, 3:00pm

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

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are an integral component of Hawaii's healthcare delivery system. Across the state, APRNs provide essential primary care, behavioral health services, and chronic disease management, frequently serving as the primary or sole healthcare provider in rural and underserved communities. As physician shortages persist, APRNs have assumed an increasingly critical role in maintaining access to care, particularly in community-based and neighbor island settings.

The removal of APRNs from clinical practice for extended periods due to jury service has measurable consequences for patient care. In many practice environments—especially solo or small practices—there is no immediate clinical coverage available. Patient appointments must be postponed, medication management may be disrupted, and continuity of care is compromised. These disruptions disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including older adults, individuals with chronic conditions, and patients with limited access to alternative providers.

Hawaii has long recognized that prolonged absences of essential healthcare professionals can negatively impact patient access and safety, as reflected in existing jury duty exemptions for physicians and dentists. APRNs carry comparable clinical responsibilities within their authorized scope of practice, and their absence presents similar risks to the delivery of timely and consistent care.

SB2025 reflects the evolving structure of healthcare delivery in Hawaii and acknowledges the indispensable role APRNs play in sustaining healthcare system capacity. Extending jury duty exemptions to APRNs supports continuity of care, alleviates workforce strain, and aligns with the State's broader efforts to strengthen healthcare access for all residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued commitment to policies that support Hawaii's healthcare workforce and the well-being of our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Murata, RN, BSN, DNP student

References and Quick Links:

1. American Association of Nurse Practitioners. (n.d.). *Nurse practitioners in primary care*.
<https://www.aanp.org/advocacy/advocacy-resource/position-statements/nurse-practitioners-in-primary-care>
2. Hawaii State Office of Primary Care & Rural Health. (n.d.). *Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)*. <https://health.hawaii.gov/opcrh/home/health-professional-shortage-area-hpsa/>
3. Hawaii State Office of Primary Care & Rural Health. (n.d.). *Provider recruitment and retention*.
<https://health.hawaii.gov/opcrh/home/provider-recruitment-and-retention/>
4. Health Resources and Services Administration. (n.d.). *Health workforce shortage areas*.
<https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas>

To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Attn: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair; Senator McKelvey, Vice Chair

From: Connie Lamour, RN, BSN, Doctor of Nursing Practice Candidate

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2025 - Relating to Jury Duty

Hearing: January 30, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB2025, which would extend jury duty exemptions to actively practicing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, consistent with exemptions currently granted to physicians and dentists.

APRNs are essential to healthcare access in Hawai'i, particularly in rural and neighbor island communities where provider shortages are most pronounced. Hawai'i continues to experience a significant shortage of physicians, with the greatest gaps in primary care and outpatient services on Hawai'i Island and other rural areas.¹ In these settings, APRNs often serve as the primary or sole healthcare provider for entire communities.

APRNs in Hawai'i practice independently and are licensed to evaluate patients, diagnose conditions, and prescribe medications.² Many APRNs work in small outpatient clinics or are self employed.³ When summoned for jury duty, these clinicians may be forced to close their practices entirely, resulting in canceled appointments, delays in care, and disruptions in continuity for patients who may already face long travel distances or limited alternatives for care. In rural Hawai'i, these disruptions can significantly affect chronic disease management, preventive care, and timely follow up.

As a registered nurse with a decade of clinical experience in Hawai'i, a nursing educator, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice candidate preparing to practice as an APRN, I have witnessed the critical role APRNs play in sustaining access to care, particularly for rural and underserved populations. Extending jury duty exemptions to APRNs recognizes their comparable responsibility to physicians and dentists and reflects the realities of healthcare delivery in our state.

SB2025 supports healthcare workforce stability, protects patient access to care, and promotes equitable treatment of healthcare providers who are vital to meeting Hawai'i's healthcare needs, especially in rural communities. I respectfully urge your support of this measure.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Connie Lamour, RN, BSN
Doctor of Nursing Practice Candidate

References and Quick Links:

¹ Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project. (2023). Hawai'i physician workforce profile. John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. <https://www.ahec.hawaii.edu/hpwap/>

² Hawai'i Board of Nursing. (2024). Advanced practice registered nurse scope of practice. Hawai'i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. <https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/programs/aprn/>

³ Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. (2025). Hawai'i nursing workforce supply report. <https://www.hawaiicenterfornursing.org/workforce-reports/>

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

The Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Ms. Macey Min-Chu Luo-Souza, MSN, APRN-RX, PMHCNS-BC, HCPS, CSAC

Subject: Testimony in **SUPPORT of SB2025** Relating to Jury Duty

Hearing: Friday, January 30, 2026

Time: 3:00PM

Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Senator San Buenaventura, Senator, McKelvey, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 2025**.

I am a Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN-RX) in private practice serving children, adolescents, and adults in Chinatown, Honolulu, Hawai‘i.

I am in **support of SB 2025** relating to Jury Duty and allowing actively practicing advanced practice registered nurses to claim exemption from service as a juror.

APRNs have played an important role in the healthcare of our communities and we will continue to be by our clients' side as they make many healthcare decisions throughout their lives. Doing business in Hawaii has continued to levy its challenges as the cost of care continues to increase and the reimbursement from third party payers for these services continue to make it difficult to make ends meet. I am among many of APRN colleagues that are entrepreneurs and have opened clinics in our communities to meet the growing physical and mental healthcare needs.

From SB2025, A Bill for an Act: “Currently, under section 612-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of all healthcare professionals, only physicians and dentists are exempt from serving jury duty. Removing an advanced practice registered nurse from the nurse's daily practice to serve on a jury deprives patients of needed health care services and can be a

financial hardship for an advanced practice registered nurse who owns a practice and is responsible for overhead costs. The legislature also finds that a jury duty exemption does not preclude a person from jury duty service if the person chooses to serve.”

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with your committee and your enduring support of APRNs in the Aloha State.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ms. Macey Min-Chu Luo-Souza, APRN-RX
928 Nuuanu Avenue, Lower Level, Suite 2
Honolulu, HI 96817
808-380-9429 (Office)

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 9:35:11 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Luo-Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this because this is a fairness issue. APRN are just as important as doctors and dentist.

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 7:56:08 AM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Senator Joy A San Buenaventura, Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

I have been a registered nurse (RN) since 1992 and a nurse practitioner/advanced practice registered nurse (NP/APRN) since 2011. I have served jury duty in another state as both an RN and as an NP in the past prior to moving to Hawaii. As an RN, there were no disruptions to patient care while I served. Staffing for patient care in the hospital setting was added in my absence. However, as an NP/APRN, services to the patients were disrupted. I support exemption from jury duty for APRNs due to the needed services that APRNs provide for patients. As noted in SB2024, “Jury [duty} deprives patients of needed health care services”. Rescheduling of appointments with the APRN, just like with a physician, can cause delays in diagnosis and treatment which can worsen prognosis, increase the costs of the delayed treatment, and even cause unnecessary hospitalizations.

Sincerely,

Alison G. Kaneshiro, DNP, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC

To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Miki Miura, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
Subject: SB2025 – Relating to Jury Duty
Hearing: January 30, 2026, 3pm

Aloha Senator San Buenaventura, Chair; Senator McKelvey, Vice Chair; and Committee Members, I support SB2025, which seeks to extend jury duty exemptions to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), consistent with the exemptions currently granted only to physicians and dentists. APRNs include nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), and they play an essential role in healthcare systems. According to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, there were 1,545 APRNs licensed in our state.

In Hawai'i, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are licensed to practice independently and can open their own practice. APRN-owned and run practices are vital to address physician shortages, which have worsened in recent years. APRNs who are employed also play critical roles in improving access to care by providing additional options for earlier appointments with qualified health care providers, thereby enabling patients to focus on prevention, early detection, and management of illnesses. Being required to suspend healthcare practice when summoned for jury duty creates a significant hardship not only for physicians, dentists, and APRNs but also for the patients who depend on those clinicians for care.

I believe that extending jury duty exemptions to APRNs acknowledges their critical contributions to the healthcare system and ensures that people in Hawai'i continue to receive the timely, high-quality care they deserve.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Miki Miura, DNP, APRN, FNP-C

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 9:20:19 AM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Living on working on Lanai for the past 12 years as a family nurse practitioner it has been challenging when we are summoned for jury duty and we are not exempt like our other colleagues (Dentists and Physicians). As a rural island with limited medical providers we would need to close the clinic because I or my other APRN colleagues need to attend to jury duty on Maui. This increases barriers to access to care for our patients. I strongly urge you to support this bill to allow practicing APRNs to be exempt from jury duty as dentists and physicians are because APRNs are essential to the medical infrastructure of Hawaii.

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 10:08:53 AM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toni Ballard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) that manages the care for our states' injured workers; mainly working in worker's compensation, work injury and occupational health. Exempting APRN's from mandatory jury duty aligns with existing exemptions granted to physicians and is justified by the essential nature of our professional responsibilities.

The absence of an APRN from clinical practice, even for a short period of time, can result in delayed or interrupted patient care, further reduce access to healthcare services, and increase a strain on existing limited healthcare resources, ultimately putting the patient's safety at risk. In many settings, the APRN serves as the primary or sole healthcare provider, making their availability especially critical.

APRNs must also maintain other duties, often involving legal, ethical and professional obligations that require continuity and clinical judgement that cannot be paused without consequence. Substituting or redistributing their workload during jury service is often impractical and may compromise care.

Given my professional setting, in many cases I am the sole provider assigned to manage a work status or return to duty obligation. This not only affects the patient's healthcare, but also the community due to the given nature of my patient's profession as well.

An exemption for APRNs for jury duty service is reasonable and necessary. Doing so acknowledges the critical role we serve in safeguarding public health and reflects a modern understanding of the evolving healthcare workforce.

Mahalo,

Toni Ballard

MSN, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 12:18:39 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 12:40:40 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne Estes, CNM, APRN-Rx	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: Testimony in support of SB 1234

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. I run an independent / private practice in lower Puna on the Big Island. I work as a solo practitioner. I am a Home Birth midwife and on call 24/7. It is very difficult near impossible for me to find coverage in my absence as I am one of few CNM practicing Home Birth. If I am requested for Jury duty this would leave my clients /patients without a midwife or provider in my absence. This is a great bill. So glad this has been addressed.

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Michelle Franz, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN-Rx

Re: SB2025 – Relating to Jury Duty

Hearing: January 30, 2026 at 3:00 PM

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2025, which would extend jury duty exemptions to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), consistent with those already granted to physicians and dentists.

As a practicing APRN serving Hawai‘i’s community, I provide direct patient care in a setting where access to healthcare—particularly on the neighbor islands—is already limited. APRNs often function as primary care and mental health providers, and for many patients, we are their sole point of consistent medical access. When an APRN is required to suspend clinical practice to serve jury duty, appointments are canceled, continuity of care is disrupted, and patients are left without timely alternatives.

APRNs in Hawai‘i are licensed to practice independently, with most holding prescriptive authority and many operating private practices similar to physicians. The existing jury duty exemption statute was established before APRNs became a substantial and essential part of the healthcare workforce. SB2025 simply updates the law to reflect current practice realities.

Importantly, this exemption applies only to APRNs in active clinical practice, using the same criteria already applied to physicians and dentists, and it does not require any financial appropriation.

Extending this exemption recognizes the critical role APRNs play in maintaining access to care and supports Hawai‘i’s efforts to address healthcare workforce shortages. Most importantly, it helps ensure that patients continue to receive timely, high-quality care in the communities that rely on us.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Michelle Franz, DNP, FNP-BC, APRN-Rx



Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Head of Government Relations

LATE

Before:
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

January 30, 2025
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224
Via Videoconference

Re: SB 2025, Relating to Jury Duty.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2025, which would allow actively practicing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to claim exemption from service as a juror.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i SUPPORTS SB 2025 and requests an AMENDMENT.

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 271,000 members in Hawai‘i. In Hawai‘i, more than 4,600 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers, including over 80 physician assistants, 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 people living in the communities we serve.

We appreciate the committee’s consideration of this important measure and respectfully request that physician assistants be included because of the critical role they play in providing access to care across Hawai‘i. Their absence directly and indirectly impacts patients as well as fellow providers, potentially delaying care for many.

Like APRNs, physician assistants serve as primary care providers and are heavily relied upon by our members as well as our care delivery team. In addition to primary care, physician assistants collaborate with physicians and other medical professionals to provide high quality patient care in nearly all of our specialties. They are vital in our collective ability to supply care when and where it is needed most.

To maintain robust access to care and provide parity for physician assistants, similar to physicians (MD/DO), advanced practice registered nurses (APRN/NP), and dentists, we request the following amendment:

"§612-6 Exempt when. A person may claim exemption from service as a juror if the person is:

- (1) An elected official while the legislature is in session, or a judge of the United States, State, or county;
- (2) An actively practicing physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or dentist;
- (3) A member of the armed forces or militia when on active service and deployed out-of-state;
- (4) An active member of a police or fire department;
- (5) A person who has served as a juror, either in a court of this State or the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, within one year preceding the time of filling out the juror qualification form;
- (6) An active member of an emergency medical services agency;
- (7) A person living more than seventy miles from the court for which jury service is required;
- (8) A person eighty years of age or older; or

(9) A woman who is breastfeeding a child or expressing breast milk for a period of two years from the birth of the child.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure and for your consideration of our proposed amendment.

LATE

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 11:02:40 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am self employed with my own practice. If I don't see my patients, I don't get paid. I am in favor of this bill SB2025-To allow actively practicing advanced practice registered nurses to claim exemption from service as a juror.

Mahalo,

April Ramos, APRN, FNP-C

LATE



To Honorable Senators Inouye, Fevella, Gabbard, and Kanuha

January 29, 2026

By the Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA)

Re: SB 2025 RELATING TO JURY DUTY

SUPPORT FOR SB 2025 WITH COMMENT

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on SB2025. We provide testimony on behalf of our professional member organization, the Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (HAA), whose mission is “to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs).” As a part of the purpose of our organization to grow the profession, we also offer support to student midwives.

We appreciate the accommodation of APRNs in this bill. As of 2026, the majority of CNMs serving the community are APRNs. Patients of these providers would therefore benefit from this bill as would APRNs in private practice. Additionally - as of 2019, the Certified Midwife (CM) has been recognized as an advanced practice credential in Hawai'i equivalent in its eligibility to practice midwifery as offered by CNMs and can also serve in all locations where APRN/CNMs currently provide midwifery services. **Therefore we ask for consideration of inclusion of the Certified Midwife (CM) in this bill.**

For your review, the American College of Nurse-Midwives has a valuable resource which elaborates upon the equivalence of the CM with the CNM in the provision of midwifery care.

<https://midwife.org/certified-midwife-credential/>

We are also providing current locations where CNM and CMs serve, also available on our website via ‘Find a Midwife’:

KAUAI: Hua Moon Women's Health

Kauai Women's Health Center

O'AHU: Kalihi Palama Health Center

Kaiser Permanente

Kōkua Kalihi Valley

Ko-olau Women's Healthcare
Tripler Diagnostic Center and Tripler Army Medical Center
University of Hawai'i

MOLOKAI: Women's Health Center at Queen's

MAUI: Kaiser Permanente

Malama I Ke Ola Health Center
Maui Midwifery
Pregnancy & Wellness Maui
University of Hawai'i

HAWAII: East Hawai'i Midwife Service

Hamakua-Kohala Health Center
Hawai'i Island Community Health Clinic
Kaiser Permanente
‘Ohia Midwifery & Wellness
Women's Center at Queen's

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony and we are available for comment via email.

Sincerely,

The Hawai'i Affiliate of ACNM Board
Annette Manant, PhD, ARPN, CNM President
Alexandria Brito, CNM, APRN, WHNP
Connie Conover, CNM, MSN Treasurer
acnmhawaiiaffiliate@gmail.com
<https://hawaiimidwives.org/>

LATE

SB-2025

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 6:30:21 AM
Testimony for HHS on 1/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2025. I am a nurse practitioner practicing in Hawai‘i, and I see firsthand how critical APRNs are to maintaining access to care for our communities.

Hawai‘i grants APRNs full practice authority, recognizing that we independently diagnose, treat, and manage patient care. That level of responsibility should be respected and reflected in how state policy treats APRNs—consistent with physicians and dentists.

When an APRN is pulled away for jury duty, it can mean cancelled clinics, delayed care, and reduced access for patients, particularly in underserved areas. Many practices operate with limited staffing, and even short absences can significantly disrupt continuity of care.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support SB2025.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Shanda Brack, APRN