

JAN 28 2009

S.B. NO. 1217

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that advanced practice  
2 registered nurses are often asked by their patients to complete  
3 and sign medical certifications for various purposes including  
4 physical examinations, handicapped parking permits, physical and  
5 speech therapy forms, and financial assistance certifications.  
6 Current Hawaii law allows only physicians or psychologists to  
7 sign documents attesting to their patients' health,  
8 capabilities, or medical needs. Often, a physician who did not  
9 provide care to the patient must sign these documents. At  
10 times, there is not a physician available to sign medical  
11 certifications at the point of care.

12           The legislature further finds that advanced practice  
13 registered nurses provide a wide variety of health care to the  
14 people in this State. Allowing these advanced practice  
15 registered nurses to sign medical certification documents will  
16 enable them to expedite the processing of paperwork and provide  
17 optimal care at the first point of access for their patients,  
18 especially in rural and underserved areas.



1           The purpose of this Act is to permit advanced practice  
 2 registered nurses who provide the actual care, to sign medical  
 3 certification forms for their patients applicable to the care  
 4 provided within the advanced practice registered nurse's scope  
 5 of practice.

6           SECTION 2. Chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
 8 and to read as follows:

9           "§457-    Advanced practice registered nurse; power to sign  
 10 certain documents. Each advanced practice registered nurse  
 11 licensed under this chapter is authorized to sign certification  
 12 forms relating to patients to whom the advanced practice  
 13 registered nurse provides actual care within the advanced  
 14 practice registered nurse's scope of practice."

15           SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Ronald H. Pak*  
*By Request*

**Report Title:**

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses; Authority to Sign

**Description:**

Allows an advanced practice registered nurse who provides care to a patient requesting medical certification forms, the authority to sign certifications applicable to the care provided within the advanced practice registered nurse's scope of practice.

