
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 nurse practitioners,
2 advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants
3 are often asked by their patients to complete and sign medical
4 certifications for various purposes including physical
5 examinations, handicapped parking permits, physical and speech
6 therapy forms, and financial assistance certifications. Current
7 Hawaii law allows only physicians to sign documents attesting to
8 their patients' health, capabilities, or medical needs. Often,
9 a physician who did not provide care to the patient must be
10 found to sign these documents. At times, a physician cannot be
11 located causing difficulties for patients.

12 The legislature further finds that nurse practitioners,
13 advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants
14 provide a wide variety of health care to the people in this
15 State. Allowing these health care professionals to sign certain
16 medical certification documents will enable them to expedite the
17 processing of paperwork and provide optimal care at the first

1 point of access for their patients, especially in rural and
2 underserved areas.

3 The purpose of this Act is to permit physician assistants,
4 nurse practitioners, and advanced practice registered nurses,
5 including certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical
6 nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives, who provide the
7 actual care, to sign certain medical certification forms for
8 their patients applicable to the care provided within each
9 practitioner's scope of practice.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 **"§453- Physician assistant; power to sign certain**
14 **documents.** A physician assistant licensed under this chapter is
15 authorized to sign the following documents relating to patients
16 to whom the physician assistant provides actual care within that
17 practitioner's scope of practice:

- 18 (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the
19 parents of a child applicant for aid from the
20 temporary assistance for needy families program;
- 21 (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients;
- 22 (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care;

- 1 (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and
- 2 management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial
- 3 fibrillation;
- 4 (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care;
- 5 (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate
- 6 care only;
- 7 (7) Admissions applications for foster homes;
- 8 (8) Dietary consultations forms;
- 9 (9) Applications for handicapped parking permits; and
- 10 (10) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility
- 11 admission."

12 SECTION 3. Chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
 14 and to read as follows:

15 "§457- Nurse practitioner; advanced practice registered
 16 nurse; power to sign certain documents. Each nurse practitioner
 17 and advanced practice registered nurse, including certified
 18 registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse midwives, and
 19 clinical nurse specialists, licensed under this chapter is
 20 authorized to sign documents relating to patients to whom the
 21 nurse practitioner or advanced practice registered nurse

1 provides actual care within each practitioner's scope of
2 practice, including:

3 (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the
4 parents of a child applicant for aid from the
5 temporary assistance for needy families program;

6 (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients;

7 (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care;

8 (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and
9 management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial
10 fibrillation;

11 (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care;

12 (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate
13 care only;

14 (7) Admissions applications for foster homes;

15 (8) Dietary consultations forms;

16 (9) Applications for handicapped parking permits; and

17 (10) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility
18 admission."

19 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

Report Title:

Certain Health Care Professionals; Authority to Sign

Description:

Allows nurse practitioners, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants, who provide the actual care, to sign certain medical certification forms for their patients applicable to the care provided within each practitioner's scope of practice. (SD1)