

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

AND

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Monday, March 23, 2009
2:00 p.m.

LATE TESTIMONY

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1142, S.D. 1, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE JON RIKI KARAMATSU, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on S.B. No. 1142, S.D. 1, Relating to Physician Assistants. The purpose of this bill is to authorize physician assistants to sign certain documents; to provide emergency medical care without supervision; to administer immunizations; to prescribe medications for patients suffering from human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome without preauthorization; and to limit liability of physician assistants under good Samaritan laws.

The Hawaii Medical Board ("Board") supports the intent of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this bill.

Sharon Sagayadoro

From: Dorothy.W.Toni@kp.org
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 10:52 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: Fielding.L.Mercer@kp.org
Subject: Support of SB 1142 SD1: Relating to Physician Assistants

LATE TESTIMONY

Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Chair, CPC
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair, JGO
RE: SB 1142 SD1
3/23/09

Support of SB 1142 SD1: Relating to Physician Assistants

I, Dorothy T. Maurice, support of SB 1142 SD1.

The bill assists supervising physicians extend care by including physician assistants (PAs) in the definition of health care provider, in certain instances, for the purpose of signing basic forms and certifications for the benefit of their patients. Physician assistants were not intentionally excluded from these definitions, but rather, these were unintentional omissions. All items addressed within the bill are within the current scope of practice for physician assistants licensed in Hawaii and practicing under the supervision of physicians. There are no controversial issues within the bill, but rather, it is a housekeeping issue to properly address the definitions of health care provider in the State of Hawaii.

The bill includes PAs as providers under the Good Samaritan Law and in the definition of those who may provide care in disasters. The earthquake on the island of Hawaii illustrated the importance of allowing all qualified providers to deliver care in emergency or disaster situations. In some rural areas of the Big Island, PAs may be the only providers available to provide care in such situation.

Passage of this bill will allow patients better access to health care in medically underserved areas, be it geographically or by medical specialty and allow physicians to better serve their patients.

I ask your support in passing SB 1142 SD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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