

JAN 23 2009

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 clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and
3 physician assistants are often asked by their patients to
4 complete and sign medical certifications for various purposes
5 including physical examinations, handicapped parking permits,
6 physical and speech therapy forms, and financial assistance
7 certifications. Current Hawaii law allows only physicians to
8 sign documents attesting to their patients' health,
9 capabilities, or medical needs. Often, a physician who did not
10 provide care to the patient must be found to sign these
11 documents. At times, no physician can be located causing
12 difficulties for patients.

13 The legislature further finds that nurse practitioners,
14 clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and
15 physician assistants provide a wide variety of health care to
16 the people in this State. Allowing these health care
17 professionals to sign certain medical certification documents
18 will enable them to expedite the processing of paperwork and



1 provide optimal care at the first point of access for their
2 patients, especially in rural and underserved areas.

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

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

12 "§453- Physician assistant; power to sign certain
13 documents. Each physician assistant licensed under this chapter
14 is authorized to sign the following documents relating to
15 patients to whom the physician assistant provides actual care
16 within each practitioner's scope of practice:

- 17 (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the
18 parents of a child applicant for aid from the
19 temporary assistance for needy families program;
20 (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients;
21 (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- Registered nurse; advanced practice registered
16 nurse; certified nurse midwife; clinical nurse specialist; power
17 to sign certain documents. Each registered nurse, advanced
18 practice registered nurse, certified nurse midwife, and clinical
19 nurse specialist licensed under this chapter is authorized to
20 sign the following documents relating to patients to whom the
21 registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, certified



1 nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist provides actual care
2 within each practitioner's scope of practice:

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 upon its approval.

21

INTRODUCED BY: Resalyne H. Baker
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Report Title:

Certain Health Care Professionals; Authority to Sign

Description:

Allows nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, 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.

