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**From:** Larry Alfrey [fredwgarfield@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:08 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* FW: SB 1610 scheduled for hearing 3/20/2009

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair HLT  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, HLT  
RE: SB 1610 SD2  
3/20/2009

I, Larry Alfrey, support SB 1610.

The concern as to whether nurses should execute orders from Physician Assistants has been raised in this state and others over the years since establishing the physician assistant model and licensure and utilization of physician assistants. Attorney general opinion in states such as Delaware, Florida and Washington and others have been that nurses should honor a reasonable treatment or medication order issued by a duly licensed physician assistant acting under the supervision of a physician. The nurse who honors such an order does so because it is, in effect, the order of the physician, and does not thereby violate the Nurse Practice Act.<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup> <sup>[3]</sup> Many states have enacted legislation to specifically address this issue.

Passage of this bill will improve care provided to patients in hospitals by physicians, physician assistants and nurses. It will establish a statute which will clearly define the role of PAs and nurses regarding hospital orders written by physician assistants.

Health care shortages in rural areas of Hawaii are being improved through the utilization of physician assistants both in clinics and hospitals. It is important that physician assistants working under the supervision of physicians be able to write medical orders to be executed by nursing personnel. Any ambiguity in the law could jeopardize safe patient care in the hospital setting.

We ask your support in passing SB 1610 with changes as amended by the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Larry Alfrey

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