



The Hon. Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairwoman

Senate Higher Education Committee

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Health

Other Honorable Senators;

Thurs Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009,

Room 225

1:15 PM

RE: Senate Bill 269; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

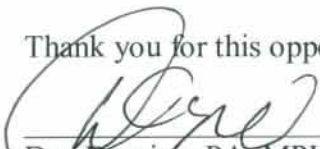
Thank you for the opportunity to write testimony IN STRONG SUPPORT of this bill and its intention to establish a PA training program within the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I only wish I could be there personally to applaud this effort.

Such a program is long overdue in Hawaii. Physician Assistants, working with physicians as clinical supervisors, have the potential to make an enormous contribution to health service delivery in Hawaii; to the rural and underserved areas, in operating theaters and emergency departments, and anywhere else a physician or a clinic might utilize them.

Candidates for this program will come from an eager bunch of alumni of Hawaii's Community College system; EMTs, Lab Technicians, Respiratory Therapists, and the like, all looking for a way up the clinical ladder to become "clinical practitioners of medicine". Only nurses can become Advanced Practice Nurses (APRNs), leaving all these other health professions with no route to get to this level. Such a program will afford them a way.

PAs have been present in Hawaii since the early 1970s, yet their numbers are nearly static. Hawaii ranks 45<sup>th</sup> nationally in the per capita utilization of PAs. The Physician/PA model of delivering high quality, cost effective services has been well documented over the last four decades in every venue nationally and now internationally. Why not in Hawaii? Perhaps our health care crisis has finally pushed us to recognize the value of this under utilized cadre of health professionals.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

  
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Dan Domizio PA, MPH

Clinical Programs Director.



## **Hawai'i Primary Care Association**

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To: **The Senate Committee on Higher Education**  
The Hon. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Vice Chair

**The Senate Committee on Health**  
The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 269**  
**Making an Appropriation for a Physician Assistant Program**  
**Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO**  
**February 5, 2008, 1:15 p.m. agenda, Room 225**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association urges your support for this bill which would pay for the development of a physician assistant training program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. We believe that the addition of more non-physician health care providers would help address the needs of the underserved and could result in more excellent practitioners in primary care, specialty, and inpatient settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

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**From:** Richard Bidleman [rbidleman@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2009 12:48 PM  
**To:** HRE Testimony  
**Subject:** SB-269 Physicians Assistant program funding

Passage of this bill and funding for same merits passage for the following reasons:

1. It will provide additional providers to the system.
2. It will reduce the cost of providing healthcare.
3. PA's can play a vital role in the startup and management of a medical center.
4. They can play a vital role in other kinds of healthcare delivery.

The following healthcare utilizes PA's in delivering care in TX

<http://www.housecallhealth.com/>

This PA on the Kona side makes housecalls.

<http://www.bigislandweekly.com/articles/2007/04/11/read/news/news03.txt>

Please fund this effort.

Aloha,

Richard Bidleman  
Treasurer & Board Member  
Puna Community Medical Center  
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