
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that physician assistants
2 and registered nurses provide valuable medical care to patients
3 under the orders of licensed physicians. Registered nurses
4 currently must use reasonable judgment in carrying out the
5 prescribed medical orders of a licensed dentist, medical doctor,
6 osteopathic physician, or podiatrist, or the orders of an
7 advanced practice registered nurse. The legislature also finds
8 that the relevant statutory language fails to explain whether
9 registered nurses are required to administer orders given by
10 physician assistants. That lack of clarity has led to confusion
11 between hospital administrators and nurses when physician
12 assistants write or give verbal orders in a hospital setting.

13 The purpose of this Act is to clarify that registered
14 nurses are required to use reasonable judgment in carrying out
15 the orders of a physician that are delivered through a physician
16 assistant acting as an agent of the supervising physician.



1 SECTION 2. Section 457-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending the definition of "the practice of nursing
3 as a registered nurse" to read as follows:

4 "The practice of nursing as a registered nurse" means the
5 performance of professional services commensurate with the
6 educational preparation and demonstrated competency of the
7 individual having specialized knowledge, judgment, and skill
8 based on the principles of the biological, physical, behavioral,
9 and sociological sciences and nursing theory, whereby the
10 individual shall be accountable and responsible to the consumer
11 for the quality of nursing care rendered. The foregoing may
12 include but shall not be limited to observation, assessment,
13 development, implementation, and evaluation of a plan of care,
14 health counseling, supervision and teaching of other personnel,
15 and teaching of individuals, families, and groups in any stage
16 of health or illness; administration, supervision, coordination,
17 delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice; provision of
18 health care to the patient in collaboration with other members
19 of the health care team as autonomous health care professionals
20 providing the nursing component of health care; or use of
21 reasonable judgment in carrying out prescribed medical orders of
22 a licensed dentist, physician, osteopathic physician, or



1 podiatrist licensed in accordance with chapter 448, 453, or 463E
2 [~~or the~~]; orders of an advanced practice registered nurse
3 recognized in accordance with this chapter~~[]~~; or the orders of
4 a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 453,
5 practicing with physician supervision as required by chapter
6 453, and acting as the agent of the supervising physician."

7 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Health; Registered Nurse; Physician Assistant

Description:

Amends the definition of "the practice of nursing as a registered nurse" to include carrying out the orders of a licensed physician assistant practicing with physician supervision as required by chapter 453, HRS, and acting as an agent of the supervising physician. (SD1)

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