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## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

February 10, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**Regarding S.B. 2103, Relating to Health**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President, Nursing, Trauma, ED and Chief Nursing Officer of The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), testifying in **support** for S.B. 2103, Relating to Health which clarifies that it is legal for nurses to act on orders from Physician Assistants (PAs).

The Queen's Medical Center is the largest private tertiary care hospital in the State of Hawaii. We offer specialized care in the areas of cardiology, neuroscience, orthopedics, behavioral health, oncology, women's health, emergency services and trauma care. We are designated by the American College of Surgeons as a Level II Trauma Center – the only one in the state. A significant and essential asset of our patient care team is our specialty trained Registered Nurses who enable us to provide high quality patient care to the citizens of Hawaii.

Our nurses work effectively in partnership with an increasing number of PAs in our hospital. This proposal will clearly allow both nurses and PAs to safely and quickly carry forward orders of supervising physicians, resulting in improved patient care.

Therefore, I recommend passage of S.B. 2103 and appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

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

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

SECTION 2. ~~Section 457-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending the definitions of "the practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse" and "the practice of nursing as a registered nurse" to read as follows:~~

~~"The practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse" means the performance of those acts commensurate with the required educational preparation and demonstrated competency of the individual, whereby the individual shall be accountable and responsible to the consumer for the quality of nursing care rendered. The foregoing may include, but shall not be limited to: implementation of basic nursing procedures in the plan of care; observing and caring for individuals at all levels of the health spectrum, giving counsel and acting to safeguard life and health and functioning as a part of the health care team, under the direction of a dentist, physician, osteopathic physician, registered nurse, osteopath, or podiatrist licensed in accordance with chapter 448, 453, 457, 460, or 463E or the orders of a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 453, practicing with physician supervision as required by chapter 453 and acting as the agent of the supervising physician."; administration of treatment and medication as prescribed; promotion of health maintenance of individuals, families, or groups; or teaching and supervision of auxiliary personnel.~~

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

~~"The practice of nursing as a registered nurse" means the performance of professional services commensurate with the educational preparation and demonstrated competency of the individual having specialized knowledge, judgment, and skill based on the principles of the biological, physical, behavioral, and sociological sciences and nursing theory, whereby the individual shall be accountable and~~

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responsible to the consumer for the quality of nursing care rendered. The foregoing may include but shall not be limited to observation, assessment, development, implementation, and evaluation of a plan of care, health counseling, supervision and teaching of other personnel, and teaching of individuals, families, and groups in any stage of health or illness; administration, supervision, coordination, delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice; provision of health care to the patient in collaboration with other members of the health care team as autonomous health care professionals providing the nursing component of health care; or use of reasonable judgment in carrying out prescribed medical orders of a licensed dentist, physician, osteopathic physician, or podiatrist licensed in accordance with chapter 448, 453, or 463E [or the]; orders of an advanced practice registered nurse recognized in accordance with this chapter[.] ~~or orders of a physician delivered through a physician assistant acting as an agent of the supervising physician."~~ or the orders of a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 453, practicing with physician supervision as required by chapter 453 and acting as the agent of the supervising physician.

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

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

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

**Report Title:**

Health; Licensed Practical Nurse; Registered Nurse; Physician Assistant

**Description:**

Amends the definition of the practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse and registered nurse to require licensed practical nurses and registered nurses to carry out the orders of physician assistants licensed pursuant to chapter 453, practicing with physician supervision as required by chapter 453 and acting as agents of their supervising physicians.