



**GOV. MSG. NO. 1119**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kim, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on April 18, 2013, the following bill was signed into law:

HB79 HD1

RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE  
REGISTERED NURSES  
**ACT 019 (13)**

*Aloha*  
Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawaii

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that currently only  
2 nurses who have master's degrees in nursing can be recognized as  
3 advanced practice registered nurses in Hawaii. This precludes  
4 nurses who earn their doctor of nursing practice or other  
5 clinical doctorates in nursing recognized by the Hawaii state  
6 board of nursing and directly impacts doctor of nursing practice  
7 graduates of the University of Hawaii at Manoa school of nursing  
8 and dental hygiene and University of Hawaii at Hilo school of  
9 nursing. Similarly, other states' advanced practice registered  
10 nurses with doctor of nursing practice degrees are precluded  
11 from being recognized as advanced practice registered nurses in  
12 Hawaii.

13           In 2012, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
14 reported that all states except Hawaii and West Virginia accept  
15 a graduate degree instead of a master's degree provision in  
16 their laws for advanced practice registered nurse licensure and  
17 certification. West Virginia has since passed legislation to  
18 change its state practice act to reflect "graduate" degree in



1 nursing instead of "master's" degree as a requirement for  
2 advanced practice registered nurse licensure.

3 The purpose of this Act is to change the degree requirement  
4 for advanced practice registered nurse recognition from a  
5 master's degree in nursing to a graduate degree in nursing.

6 SECTION 2. Section 457-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

8 "(a) [~~Effective October 1, 2009, the~~] The board shall  
9 grant recognition as an advanced practice registered nurse  
10 to a nurse who has:

- 11 (1) A current, unencumbered license as a registered nurse  
12 in this State;
- 13 (2) An unencumbered license as a registered nurse in all  
14 other states in which the nurse has a current and  
15 active license;
- 16 (3) An unencumbered recognition as an advanced practice  
17 registered nurse or similar designation in all other  
18 states in which the nurse has a current and active  
19 recognition as an advanced practice registered nurse;
- 20 (4) Completed an accredited graduate-level education  
21 program [~~leading to a master's degree as a certified~~  
22 ~~registered nurse anesthetist, a nurse midwife, a~~



1 ~~clinical nurse specialist, or a nurse practitioner,]~~  
2 preparing the nurse for one of the four recognized  
3 advanced practice registered nurse roles;

4 (5) A current, unencumbered certification of having passed  
5 a national certification examination that measures  
6 role and population-focused competencies and is  
7 recognized by the board;

8 (6) Maintained continued competencies through  
9 recertification in role and population-focused  
10 competencies through a national certification program  
11 recognized by the board;

12 (7) Acquired advanced clinical knowledge and skills  
13 preparing the nurse to provide direct care to patients  
14 through a significant educational and practical  
15 concentration on the direct care of patients;

16 (8) Demonstrated a greater breadth of knowledge, a greater  
17 synthesis of data, greater complexity of skills and  
18 interventions, and greater role autonomy than  
19 demonstrated by a registered nurse;

20 (9) Been educationally prepared to assume responsibility  
21 and accountability for health promotion and  
22 maintenance and to assess, diagnose, and manage



1 patient problems through the use and prescription of  
2 pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions;  
3 (10) Acquired clinical experience of sufficient depth and  
4 breadth to reflect the intended license; and  
5 (11) Paid the appropriate fees."

6 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 18 day of APR, 2013



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

