

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
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By

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**SB 44, SD1, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee on Health. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (Center for Nursing) supports Senate Bill 44, SD1, to amend Section 334-59, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, relating to mental health, mental illness, drug addiction, and alcoholism, to apply to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). The amendments recognize APRNs as qualified healthcare professionals competent to assess whether there is probable cause to believe a person is mentally ill, imminently dangerous to self or others, gravely disabled, suffering from substance abuse, or is otherwise in need of care, treatment, or both. Additionally, APRNs will have authority to direct law enforcement officers to take the person into custody in order to deliver the person to an appropriate facility for further assessment, treatment and/or care.

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