

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016  
8:30 a.m.**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2255, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2255, Relating to Physician Assistants. The Board has not had an opportunity to discuss this bill, but will do so at its next meeting on February 11, 2016. Therefore, the Board is not able to offer comments on the proposed amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill  
No. 2255.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 7:27 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** wailua@aya.yale.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2255 on Feb 3, 2016 08:30AM

**HB2255**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 3, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wailua Brandman	Hawaii Assoc. of Professional Nurses	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the House Committee on Health. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in Strong Support of HB 2255. This bill will place the authority of Physician Assistants squarely in the appropriate location in Hawai'i's statutes. PAs are not Licensed Independent Providers in Hawai'i. PAs authority to write orders is unnecessary in the Nurse Practice Act; RNs and LPNs statutorily follow physician orders and PA orders are extensions of and under supervision by the physician. Thank you for helping to clarify this murky situation. HAPN strongly supports this bill as written. Warmest Aloha, Wailua Brandman APRN FAANP, HAPN Legislative Committee Chair, 615 Piikoi Street, Suite 1406, Honolulu, HI 96814; 808-255-4442

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House Committee on Health  
The Honorable Representative Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable representative Creagan, Vice Chair

Honorable Representative and Committee Members

The Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants has comments regarding House Bill 2285, regarding physician assistants and with regard to changing language which eliminates the “Sunset” provision of Act 255.

While we support the intent of the bill, regarding nurses complying with the orders of physician assistants, it does not make sense to change HRS 453 to accomplish this goal.

Physician and osteopathic orders to nurses are not stated in HRS 453. They are stated in HRS 457. Following the reasoning of removing physician assistants from the language of HRS 457, then physicians, osteopathic physicians, dentists and podiatrists should also be removed and their authority to give orders to nurses be stated in the their respective HRS.

Nurses are regulated by HRS 457 and this is the reason the language regarding orders was placed within HRS 457. Nurses are not governed by HRS 453, and that it the reason that language regarding orders for nurses does not belong in HRS 453.

The ACA recognizes PAs as an essential part of the solution to the primary care shortage by formally acknowledging them as one of the three primary care health providers along with NPs and doctors. It doesn't make sense to remove PAs from HRS 457. Medical home accreditors recognize PAs. Standards from NCQA, The Joint Commission and URAC recognize PAs as primary care providers and as qualified to lead patient care teams.

SB 2103, when submitted in 2012 received support from the following:

The Hawaii State Board of Nursing , HMA, The Queens Health System, The Hawaii State Center for Nursing, Hawaii Pacific Health, The University of Hawaii – School of Nursing and Dental Health, The American Academy of Physician Assistants, The Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants in addition to nurses, physicians assistants and physicians. Review of archive testimony confirms the information above.

There has been ample time to evaluate the law and its effect on public health. There has been no demonstrated or documentable harm, but rather benefit. The change made by Act 255, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, has provided clarity and improved communication for all health care providers and specifically, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and physician assistants.

In summary, the original bill SB 2103 was widely supported by the medical community in general, as referenced above. There has been no indication that it has negatively impacted health care delivery or caused any malpractice. The bill has given clarity that when nurses carry out prescribed medical orders from physician assistants that they are acting lawfully and within their scope of practice.

The best solution is to leave the PA language in HRS 457 and remove the sunset provision which is what you supported last year when you passed SB 805.

Fielding Mercer, PA-C  
Legislative Liaison  
Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 11:25 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** kukana77@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2255 on Feb 3, 2016 08:30AM\*

**HB2255**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 3, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 10:17 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** lenora@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2255 on Feb 3, 2016 08:30AM

**HB2255**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 3, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Lenora Lorenzo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the House Committee on Health. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in Strong Support of HB 2255. This bill will place the authority of Physician Assistants in the appropriate location in Hawai'i's statutes. PAs authority to write orders are unnecessary and awkward in the Nurse Practice Act. RNs and LPNs adhere to physician orders and thus PA orders which are covered as extensions of and under supervision by the physician. APRN's have the greatest respect for our PA colleagues and support their orders being honored and followed! Mahalo for your consideration and support to clarify the appropriate location for this authority. I strongly supports this bill as written. Respectfully, Lenora Lorenzo DNP, APRN, FAANP, American Association of Nurse Practitioners Hawaii State Representative and HAPN Treasurer

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 8:17 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** alnovak@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2255 on Feb 3, 2016 08:30AM

**HB2255**

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 3, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allen Novak	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the House Committee on Health. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2255. This bill will place the authority of Physician Assistants in the appropriate location in the Hawaii statutes. PAs are not Licensed Independent Providers in Hawaii. PAs authority to write orders does not belong in the Nurse Practice Act; RNs and LPNs statutorily follow physician orders, and PA orders are extensions of and under supervision by the physician. Thank you for helping to clarify this confusing situation. I strongly supports this bill as written. Allen Novak, APRN, Hilo, Hawaii

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Date: February 2, 2016

To: Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti , *Chair, Committee on Health*  
Honorable Representative Richard P. Creagan, *Vice Chair*

Hearing:

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2016,

Time: 8:30 AM

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

RE: *HB 2255 Relating to Physician Assistants*

I support *HB 2255*, which allows registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to administer orders given by a physician assistant. By current statute HRS 453, physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for physical and speech therapies. I would like to suggest an amendment to HRS 453-5.5, Physician Assistant ; authority to sign documents by adding "Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care"

Occupational therapy practitioners provide services to inpatients and outpatients who suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations and other neurological and/or orthopedic related conditions. They optimize each patient's ability to perform life skills at home, at school, at work and in the community.

By adding occupational therapy to HRS 453-5.5, a consumer can receive comprehensive rehabilitation services from one referral source. Under current law, the consumer must see his/her physician for orders for occupational therapy services. It will save the consumer time and money, when he/she is able to receive orders for occupational, physical and speech therapy services from one referral source. Below is an excerpt from HRS 453-5.5, with prescribing authority for physical and speech therapy services highlighted.

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.** Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents:

- (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program;
- (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients;
- (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care;
- (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation;
- (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care;
- (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only;
- (7) Admissions applications for foster homes;
- (8) Dietary consultations forms; and
- (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission.

I request your support to add occupational therapy to amend HB 2255 by including occupational therapy. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. If any questions, I may be reached at 544-3336 or [vtully@rehabhospital.org](mailto:vtully@rehabhospital.org)

Sincerely,



Virginia Tully, MBA, OTR