

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 – 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room #016

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair, HTH Committee
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, HTH Committee

From: Kenneth Zeri, RN, MS
President & CPO
Hospice Hawaii

Re: Testimony to HOLD SB 790 Relating to POLST

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 790 relating to Providers Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments. Hospice Hawaii has been at the core working group to establish our POLST laws since the beginning of the movement. Indeed, Hawaii was one of the first 10 states to create POLST, and last year we were able to expand POLST to include the signature of Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN).

When we were considering expanding to include APRN, we also carefully looked at adding Physician Assistants, and at that time, we felt that Hawaii did not need to add PA's to its POLST.

Nationally we see a mixed set of decisions in various states. In a very quick sampling of those states with whom I am familiar because of my national POLST work we more frequently see the combination of MD & APRN. However, some states just have a MD signing and some states have MD, APRN and PA. I believe this varies depending upon the scope of practice allowed to the PA, which, of course, is set state by state.

Additionally, when Kokua Mau attempted to reach out to PA groups last year to discuss this, we could not find a consensus or even a single professional body who engaged in the conversation. And lastly, when the physicians in our core group looked closely at the Hawaii PA scope of practice, we note that the PA cannot work independently of a physician. Because we believe that the POLST document is the end result of careful conversations for goals of care, this was better left to the MD and APRN.

However, we do not know who has requested this bill or if there is a stronger argument for adding PA into the signatory authorization.

Therefore, we would request that this bill be held in committee at this time, allowing the core POLST work group to further understand this specific request.

Thank you for considering our recommendation. I may be reached at the Hospice Hawaii office: 924-9255.



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February 4, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Re: SB 790 – Relating to Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 790, which increases access to physician orders for life-sustaining treatment (POLST).

It has long been HMSA's mission to improve the health and well-being of our members, and for all the people of Hawaii. We acknowledge the importance of communication between patients and health care providers.

Last year, Act 154 (HB 2052) authorized advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to complete a POLST directly with patients and families. As with APRNs, allowing physician assistants to have similar authority to complete POLST forms will be highly beneficial for individuals, especially those living in rural areas or the neighbor-islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 790. Increasing access to POLST will improve the health and well-being for all the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Mark K. Oto
Director
Government Relations

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB790 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 7:27:22 PM

SB790

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senator Green, Chair, and Senator Wakai, Vice Chair, and Honorable members of the Senate Health Committee. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB790. PAs should be allowed to sign these orders as an extension of their supervising physician. Mahalo for your consideration and for all you do for the health and safety of the citizens of this great state. Warmest Aloha, Wailua Brandman APRN FAANP Ke`ena Mauiola Nele Paia, LLC 615 Piikoi Street, Suite 511 Honolulu, HI 96814 wailua@aya.yale.edu 808-255-4442

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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