

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 05 2018

RE: H.B. No. 2578
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2018
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
to which was referred H.B. No. 2578, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish biennial requirements of forty credit hours in specified continuing medical education programs for renewal of a physician assistant license; and
- (2) Authorize the Hawaii Medical Board to conduct random document audits to enforce compliance with the continuing medical education requirements.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Medical Board, Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants, American Academy of Physician Assistants, and eighteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that under the Hawaii Medical Board's existing administrative rules, physician assistants must maintain certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants to be eligible for licensure renewal. However, this requirement is no longer standard amongst regulatory



boards that certify or license physician assistants. Your Committee further finds that while many physician assistants choose to maintain their National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants certification, Hawaii is one of only seventeen states that tie physician assistant license renewal to the passage of a recertification examination.

Your Committee notes that in the majority of states and the District of Columbia, physician assistants must instead complete a specified amount of continuing medical education, while decisions related to recertification are made at the practice level. This measure therefore brings the license renewal requirements of physician assistants into parity with those of Hawaii-licensed physicians and requires physician assistants to submit proof of forty hours of specified continuing medical education as a condition of their biennial renewal.

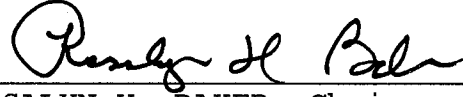
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the continuing education compliance requirements shall begin with the renewal for the physician assistant licensing biennium commencing February 1, 2020, and every biennial licensing renewal thereafter;
- (2) Clarifying that the continuing education requirements for physician assistants can be met via a Category 1 continuing medical education program accredited by the American Academy of Physician Assistants;
- (3) Changing its effective date to upon approval; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2578, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2578, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health,




ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
CPH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2578 HD2	CPH	3/22/18		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)				✓
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
ESPERO, Will				✓
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				✓
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	✓			
TOTAL	4			3
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes