

HB2578 HD 2

Measure Title: RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

Report Title: Physician Assistants; Continuing Education Requirements; Random Audits

Description: Establishes bi-annual requirement of 40 credit hours in specified continuing medical education programs for renewal of physician assistant license. Authorizes the Hawaii Medical Board to conduct random document audits to enforce compliance. (HB2578 HD2)

Companion: [SB3074](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s): HASHEM

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session 2018

Thursday, March 22, 2018
9:15 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2578, H.D. 2, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 testify in support of H.B. 2578, H.D. 2, Relating to Physician Assistants.

H.B. 2578, H.D. 2 requires a physician assistant to furnish proof of completion of continuing education ("CE") as required by the Board prior to each license renewal; and prohibits the Board from requiring certification from the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants ("NCCPA") as a condition of licensure renewal.

This measure brings the license renewal requirements of physician assistants to parity with those of physicians licensed in the State. Should this measure become law, physician assistants would be required to submit proof of forty (40) hours of specified CE as a condition of their biennial¹ renewal. This measure also allows the Board to conduct a random audit.

For the Committee's information, the Board's current administrative rules require that, for a physician assistant to be eligible for renewal, the physician assistant must maintain certification by the NCCPA. See, Hawaii Administrative Rules §16-85-48. The Board recognizes that this requirement is no longer the norm amongst regulatory boards that certify or license physician assistants. As the Committee may be aware:

- 20 states require physician assistants to obtain CE only for renewal;
 - 15 states require physician assistants to obtain NCCPA certification only for renewal;
 - 7 states require physician assistants to obtain CME or NCCPA certification for renewal;
- and

¹ Standing Committee Report No. 1080-18, page 2, number (2) references "bi-annual" renewal. Physician assistants renew their certificates "biennially" (every two years), and not "bi-annually" (twice a year).

- 4 states require physician assistants to obtain CME and NCCPA certification for renewal if the physician assistant prescribes controlled substances.

Given the above information, the Board recognizes the importance of physician assistants in providing health care. Accordingly, the Board supports bringing their renewal requirements to parity with those of other professions regulated by the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2578, H.D. 2.

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 6:23:28 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rocco Laudadio Jr	Testifying for Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants	Support	No

Comments:

19 MAR 2018

Re: HB2578 HD2

Madame Chair and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) and the more than 300 physician assistants (PAs) providing care to Hawaii's residents, we would like to express our full support for HB 2578 HD2, relating to PA license renewal in Hawaii.

Through meaningful collaboration and communication HB2578 HD2 has also gained the support of the Hawaii Board of Medicine, Hawaii Medical Association (HMA), and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), as per their written and oral submissions.

HAPA also supports the BOME's and AAPA's written suggestion that the bill be amended to require 40 credits of continuing education, consistent with the requirements for physicians in State of Hawaii.

We appreciate you scheduling and hearing HB2578 HD2 and appreciate your continued support and all that you do for our State and the patients we care for.

Respectfully,

Rocco Laudadio, DHSc., PA-C

President, Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants



March 20, 2018

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SUPPORT HB 2578 to Improve Physician Assistant Licensure Renewal Requirements

Dear Chairwoman Baker:

The American Academy of PAs (AAPA) is the national professional organization for physician assistants (PAs) representing more than 123,000 PAs practicing across all medical and surgical specialties. In addition, AAPA has an affiliate structure with over 100 PA constituent organizations, which include state chapters, federal service chapters, specialty organizations, caucuses, and special interest groups.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health committee regarding HB 2578. AAPA supports allowing PAs in Hawaii to renew their license to practice upon the completion of a specified number of continuing education hours and prohibiting the Hawaii Medical Board from requiring PAs to be certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as a condition of license renewal. AAPA supports further clarifying that 40 credits of CME are required for renewal and that AAPA approved CME is acceptable to satisfy the requirement.

PAs are healthcare professionals who practice and prescribe medication in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the majority of U.S. territories, and the uniformed services. PAs practice in all medical settings and specialties, and the typical PA diagnoses and treats illnesses, orders and interprets diagnostic tests, and develops and manages treatment plans for their patients, among other medical duties. PA graduate educational programs last an average of 27 months or three academic years and award a Master's degree, with PA students completing at least 2,000 hours of clinical rotations in outpatient settings and hospitals prior to graduation. All PAs must take and pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE), administered by NCCPA, prior to beginning practice in any state.

PAs who wish to maintain NCCPA certification must pass a recertifying exam every six or ten years. While many PAs choose to maintain their NCCPA certification, only 17 states (including Hawaii) *require* PAs to do so in order to remain licensed. This means PAs in these states are the only healthcare professionals for which their license renewal is tied to the passage of a recertification exam¹.

¹ See Table 1

In the majority of states, along with the District of Columbia, PAs must instead complete a specified amount of CME, and decisions related to certification are made at the practice level. This process for renewal is consistent with several peer-reviewed studies which have shown no relationship between taking a recertification exam and better quality of patient care.^{2,3,4,5,6} In fact, federal programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, do not require that PAs maintain certification after passage of the initial certifying exam in order to participate in the programs. The PA profession is supported by substantial documentation of the quality and safety of the care PAs provide.⁷

AAPA strongly feels that requirements for maintenance of certification should not be mandated within state law. The unusual nature of such a requirement is evidenced by the lack of any such requirement for other healthcare providers and the lack of such a requirement in over half of the states.

Revising the law to ensure PAs are not required to maintain current certification as a condition of license renewal and instead requiring the completion of continuing education would bring Hawaii's licensure renewal process in line with the majority of states as well as federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

Sincerely,



Keisha Pitts, JD
Director, Constituent Organization Outreach & Advocacy

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2016) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Anesthesiologist Assistants, and Physician Assistants. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Medicare-Information-for-APRNs-AAs-PAs-Booklet-ICN-901623.pdf>

³ Scoles, P.V.; Hawkins, R.E.; LaDuca, A. Assessment of Clinical Skills in Medical Practice. *J. Contin Educ Health Prof.* 2003 Summer; 23(3): 182-90.

⁴ Epstein R.M. Assessment in medical education. *N Engl J Med.* 2007 Jan 25;356(4): 387-96.

⁵ Hayes, J.; Jackson, J.L.; McNutt, G.M.; et al. Association Between Physician Time-Unlimited vs Time-Limited Internal Medicine Board Certification and Ambulatory Patient Care Quality. *JAMA* 2014; 312(22): 2358-2363

⁶ Gray, B.M.; Vandergrift, J.L.; Mary M. Johnston, M.M.; et al. Association Between Imposition of a Maintenance of Certification Requirement and Ambulatory Care-Sensitive Hospitalizations and Health Care Costs. *JAMA* 2014; 312(22): 2348-2357.

⁷ Articles and Reports on the PA Profession, Selected Topics. https://www.aapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Bibliography_on_the_PA_Profession-8_1_17.pdf



Table 1

Overview of Licensing and Certification Requirements for Selected Healthcare Professions

Only PAs are required by their certifying organization to pass a recertification exam on a periodic basis in order to satisfy state *maintenance of license* requirements.

Profession	License and Maintenance of License Requirements				Certification and Maintenance of Certification Requirements			
	Licensure Exam Required	Residency Required for Initial Licensure	Certification Required for Initial Licensure	Maintenance of License Requirement	Certifying/ Recertifying Organizations	Type of Certification Available	Initial Certification Exam	Recertification Requirements Set by Recertification Organization
PA	Yes	No	Yes	17 states ¹ : NCCPA Recertification (Test & CME) 2 states ² : NCCPA Recertification required for Rx Authority 27 states/DC: CME	NCCPA	General	License Exam	Test & CME
NP	Yes	No	Yes (except CA & NY)	CPD ³ & Practice Hours or CPD & Test (if practice hours not completed)	ANCC AANPCP	Specialty	License Exam	CPD & Practice Hours or CPD & Test (if practice hours not completed)
Pharmacist	Yes	No	No	CE	BPS	Specialty	Specialty Exam	Exam or CPD
Physicians	Yes	1 yr: 32 states 2 yrs: 16 states 3 yrs: 3 states	No	CME	Multiple; Varies by Specialty	Specialty	Varies by Specialty	Varies by specialty; test and/or CME

¹ Only PAs licensed by the NV Osteopathic Board must be recertified by NCCPA in order to maintain their license.

² PAs licensed in MN must be recertified by NCCPA in order to retain any prescribing authority; those licensed in OR must be recertified by NCCPA in order to retain their Schedule II prescribing authority.

³ CPD is Continuing Professional Development, which may consist of continuing education, precepting, speaking, research and writing.

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:37:52 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LISA HA	Testifying for HAPA	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senate Members,

On behalf of the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) and the more than 300 physician assistants (PAs) providing care to Hawaii's residents, we would like to express our support for HB 2578, relating to PA license renewal. We appreciate your sponsorship of this PA positive bill and your support of improving PA practice in Hawaii.

This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) credits, and will prohibit the Hawaii Medical Board from requiring PAs to maintain current certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as a condition of license renewal. This bill is consistent with the renewal process used in 31 states and the District of Columbia and the license renewal requirements for Hawaii physicians.

The current version of the bill does not specify the number of continuing education credits that will be required for license renewal and defers to the Hawaii Medical Board to set the number. We request the bill be amended to specify the number of credits that will be required. We concur with the Hawaii Medical Board's written suggestion that the bill be amended to require 40 credits of continuing education, consistent with the requirements for physicians.

Proposed amendment to HB 2578 Page 6, Lines 4-11 add the following:

- ***(j) A physician assistant shall meet the category 1 or 1A continuing medical education requirements by obtaining forty credits in a category 1 or 1A continuing medical education program accredited or approved by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association, American Academy of Physician Assistants, or in another approved category 1 or 1A continuing medical education. To determine compliance,***

the board may conduct a random audit of 5 percent of licensees. A physician assistant selected for audit shall be notified by the board. Within sixty days of notification, the physician assistant shall provide the board documentation to verify compliance with the category 1 or category 1A continuing medical education requirements.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and hope that you will amend the bill to specify that the completion of 40 CME credits is required for license renewal. If passed, HB 2578 would bring Hawaii's license renewal process in line with the majority of other states.

Regards,

Lisa Ha, PA-C

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:46:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bixby Ho	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chair Baker, Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

My name is Bixby Ho and I am speaking as a private citizen.

I am in support of HB 2578 Relating to Physician Assistants.

Physician Assistants are always the most underlooked personnel in a hospital setting yet they do just as much if not just as more than that of Physicians themselves.

This bill as written would allow Physician Assistants to continue practicing unabated by allowing license renewal by meeting continuing education requirements only.

I encourage the passage of this bill oh and please someone amend the bill to reflect Section 5 of this bill to take effect on July 1, 2018.

Mahalo.

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 5:37:50 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Ancona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Madame Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Frank Ancona. I am a clinical drug researcher in California and am writing in support of HB 2578 HD2.

My Uncle has been a practicing Physician's Assistant in HI for over 20 years and during a conversation he had with me last week he expressed to me his distress over the current testing requirements for PAs in HI.

Being in the healthcare industry myself for 25 years, it seems the requirement to pass an annual test to maintain a license is quite extreme. PAs ought to take their certifying exam upon graduation and then maintain their certificate through CME (Continuing medical education courses) like other medical professionals such as nurses and physicians.

The ability to pass an exam is not indicative of one's ability to practice medicine (especially someone who has been practicing for the greater portion of their life like in the case of my Uncle).

My Uncle has informed me that there is a shortage of healthcare practitioners in Hawaii. Invalidating the licenses of PAs who do not pass the exam threatens to worsen the state's health disparity by putting those PAs out of practice.

I ask that you pass HB 2578 HD2. Confiscation of PA medical licenses for failing an exam is quite unfair and discriminatory for this particular medical profession, and is a direct threat to the treatment and well-being of the people of Hawaii

Thank you for your time.

Frank D. Ancona

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:49:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia C DiMartino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Madame Chair and Committed Members,

I support HB2578 HD2.

Mrs. DiMartino

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:05:34 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Di Martio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Madam Chair and Committee Members,

I support HB2578 HD2

Thank you.

Anne DiMartino

RE: HB2578 HD 2

RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

CME and maintenance of Board Certification

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Honorable Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Jill Tokuda and Committee members:

I am currently a NCCPA certified physician assistant (PA) who previously served as past president and legislative liaison for the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) for many years. I do not currently represent HAPA but have many years of legislative experience regarding PA practice in Hawaii.

I am submitting testimony in support of HB2578 HD 2.

The inclusion of the CME requirements as recommended by the Hawaii Medical Board and included in HD 2 is vital to the Bill.

Maintenance of Board certification should not be tied to licensure. PAs practicing in specialties who are extremely capable of delivering care in their specialty should not be required to take a recertification exam designed for primary care practitioners in order to maintain licensure. That is the type of exam currently required by the NCCPA.

Recurring CME is the standard for license renewal for MDs in virtually all states and should be the same for PAs.

Passage of the Bill in its current version will insure that many talented medical providers are not exempted from licensure.

Fielding Mercer, PA-C

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 11:36:00 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Bracalento	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) and the more than 300 physician assistants (PAs) providing care to Hawaii's residents, we would like to express our support for HB 2578, relating to PA license renewal. We appreciate your sponsorship of this PA positive bill and your support of improving PA practice in Hawaii.

This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) credits, and will prohibit the Hawaii Medical Board from requiring PAs to maintain current certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as a condition of license renewal. This bill is consistent with the renewal process used in 31 states and the District of Columbia and the license renewal requirements for Hawaii physicians.

The current version of the bill does not specify the number of continuing education credits that will be required for license renewal and defers to the Hawaii Medical Board to set the number. **We request the bill be amended to specify the number of credits that will be required.** We concur with the Hawaii Medical Board's written suggestion that the bill be amended to require 40 credits of continuing education, consistent with the requirements for physicians.

Proposed amendment to HB 2578 Page 6, Lines 4-11 add the following:

- ***(j) A physician assistant shall meet the category 1 or 1A continuing medical education requirements by obtaining forty credits in a category 1 or 1A continuing medical education program accredited or approved by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association, American Academy of Physician Assistants, or in another approved category 1 or 1A continuing medical education. To determine compliance,***

the board may conduct a random audit of 5 percent of licensees. A physician assistant selected for audit shall be notified by the board. Within sixty days of notification, the physician assistant shall provide the board documentation to verify compliance with the category 1 or category 1A continuing medical education requirements.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and hope that you will **amend the bill to specify that the completion of 40 CME credits is required for license renewal**. If passed, HB 2578 would bring Hawaii's license renewal process in line with the majority of other states.

Regards,

Joseph M. Bracalento PA-C

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:19:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Alfrey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Baker:

On behalf of the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) and the more than 300 physician assistants (PAs) providing care to Hawaii's residents, I would like to express my support for HB 2578, relating to PA license renewal in Hawaii. To not have this addressed would be a set back for advancement of Hawaii health providers.

Many of us have taken the boards repeatedly. I, myself, have taken the boards 5 times and just won't do it again. I finished at the very TOP of all USA Physician Assistants during the last written exams. I do not need to keep proving myself to be a capable provider. I went to GW Medical School's Physician Assistant program and completed a residency in surgery in NYC. This bill addresses prohibiting the Hawaii Medical Board from requiring certification from the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants (an outside organization) as a condition for licensure renewal. It does require being able to furnish proof of completion of continuing education which I believe to be appropriate.

The last hearing in the house made recommendations to amend the language and get rid of the present required certification from the National commission of PAs. The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA, the national organization in Washington, DC) has been instrumental in making these changes occur. Last I knew approximately half of the US states have made the change.. We being in a state where there is health care provider shortage would benefit from this change as taking the exams over and over and over again deters one from wanting to practice. This re-exam process is NOT needed. No other profession (including our Nurse Practitioner colleagues) has to take a repeat re-certification exam in order to deem competency. Continuing medical education (CME) is the only thing necessary to keep one's license active.

Personally, I have hung up my hat at the age of 67 this month. I was the first PA at Queen's Medical Center, working Trauma. I am NOT going to take the boards again. I would like to go back to work as a PA perhaps part-time. But until the State of Hawaii makes the recommendations of the National American Academy of Physician Assistants I will not be able to function as a PA provider.

Through meaningful collaboration and communication H.B. 2578 has also gained the support of the Hawaii Board of Medical Examiners (BOME), Hawaii Medical Association (HMA), and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), as per their written and oral submissions.

HAPA also supports the BOME's and AAPA's written suggestion that the bill be amended to require 40 credits of continuing education, consistent with the requirements for physicians in State of Hawaii.

We appreciate you scheduling and hearing this H.B. and appreciate your continued support and all that you do for our State and the patients we care for.

Respectfully,

Larry Alfrey, PA-C Emeritus

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 11:08:43 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Yeoh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

With the increasing aging population and shortage of medical professionals in this state, we cannot afford to lose any more qualified medical support. Physician assistants will be the future of our care. I urge you to pass this bill.

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 12:51:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Santo Di Martino	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,
Thank you for the opportunity to speak to your committee this morning. My name is Santo Di Martino. I have been a PA for 41 years and have been in family practice in Hawaii for 31 years.

I strongly support HB 2578 which will allow for the renewal of PA licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing education hours and explicitly states that PAs shall not be required to maintain certification for license renewal.

PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principle healthcare professional. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

Currently, PAs in all states are required to pass an initial certifying exam to obtain a PA license. However, a little over a dozen states- 18 to be exact- Hawaii included, also require PAs to maintain certification to renew a license- a distinction that oddly applies only to PAs. PAs are the only profession required to pass a recertification exam on a periodic basis in order to satisfy state maintenance of license requirements- it is not required for advance practice nurses or for physicians.

In order to maintain certification, PAs are allowed four attempts at passing the recertification exam during 10 year period. In the event that a PA in Hawaii fails to pass the exam, they are unable to renew their license – regardless of the quality of care they have historically provided to patients or their current capacity to provide excellent care to patients.

This type of requirement is outdated as unnecessary, as evidenced by the lack of such a requirement for physicians and advance practice nurses. The burdensome and unnecessary nature of this requirement further supported by the fact that 31 states and the District of Columbia do not require PAs to maintain certification for license renewal.

This means PAs in the 18 states requiring current certification are the only medical professionals who risk losing their livelihoods based on the passage or failure of an exam regardless of years of experience or quality of care provided to their patients. It also means that these states risk losing talented, experienced healthcare providers simply because they do not wish to take the time away from practice or they do not see the benefit of sitting for a generalist medical exam again when they may have fewer than ten years of practice ahead of them.

Many PAs choose to keep up with their certification either to remain competitive in the job market or in some cases, because their employer requires current certification. I'm not speaking against maintenance of certification as an option, appropriately determined by individual PAs or at the practice level not mandated by law.

However, a PA should not be ineligible for licensure as a PA in Hawaii, although they are competent to provide care and have completed continuing education courses, just like their colleagues in other states. A PA with the exact same qualifications would be allowed to practice in 31 states which do not have a requirement for current certification for license renewal.

This can certainly serve as a disincentive for PAs to practice in Hawaii when they can relocate to a state with modernized PA practice laws. PAs are licensed to practice with the inherent understanding that PAs will maintain current knowledge. In fact, PAs in all states must meet rigorous continuing medical education (CME) requirements to remain licensed.

As Hawaii faces a physician shortage, and the hopes of bringing a PA program to the state to increase the number of healthcare providers available to meet the needs of patients, I hope that you will agree that Hawaii should join as the 32nd state to allow PAs to renew licensure without a requirement for current NCCPA certification.

There is no evidence that requiring MOC for licensure renewal has any impact on the quality of care provided. In fact, federal programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, do not require that PAs maintain certification after passage of the initial certifying exam in order to participate in the programs.

The PA profession has ample documentation of the quality and safety of the care it provides which you can find on the American Academy of PAs website at www.aapa.org or I am happy to provide you with direct link to the information.

As a longtime Hawaii PA, I appreciate your support of this great bill. Thank you for your time.

I am in support of HB2578 HD-2 as written. We request the effective date to be changed upon approval.

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 10:35:52 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Kelley Withy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda and Committee Members,

I support the PA requirements being on par with the physician requirements for continuing education for relicensure. It seems fair and equitable and will not discourage PAs from coming to Hawaii where we certainly need more.

Mahalo for your consideration and your hard work in all health matters!

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 12:21:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Domizio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Many physicians in active practice are not "Board Certified". NCCPA's certification is required of PAs upon graduation from their accredited programs. Having to continue that NCCPA certification at the state level is redundant. Requiring 40 hours of approved CME every 2 years is in line with the national norm for PA regulation, and is consistent with the regulation of physician practice in Hawaii.

I urge you to pass HB 2578 HD2.

Dan Domizio PA-C Emeritus

Pahoa, HI

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 12:58:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David H Messer III, PA-C	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 3:01:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David A. Goldfarb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In the interest of conserving the knowledge of our long-serving physician assistants in Hawai'i, I support HB2578 HD2.

David A. Goldfarb

Rosalyn Baker, Chair Commerce.
Consumer and Health Committee
State Senate
Hawaii State Capital, Room 229
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Madam Rosalyn Baker,

My name is Vincent Tenorio. I am a physician assistant and am writing in support of HB 2578H.D.2

Mandating the passage of recertification exam by the Hawaii Medical Board is detrimental and devastating to the physician assistant, his family and the physician assistant practice in Hawaii. This law prohibits and penalizes the PAs who do not pass the recertification exam.

The ability to pass the recertification exam is not indicative of physician assistant's ability to provide safe, competent and effective medicine.

Physician assistants are the only class of clinical providers required to pass recertification exams to maintain licensure. Currently, AAPA along with other Constituents Organizations in each state, are actively working to remove the laws with this burdensome tether. PA practice, in 32 other states, are not negatively impacted by the lack of re-testing.


Physicians and nurse practitioners are not mandated to re-test and have effectively proven that the tether testing is irrelevant to providing, safe and competent care and that medical knowledge can be gained effectively through continued medical education.

Invalidation of the license of PAs who do not pass the exam, threatens and also worsen the state's disparity by putting PAs out of practice and decrease health care providers. Hawaii is also short of primary health care providers. Passage of this bill will also encourage PAs to remain in practice in Hawaii.

I support HB2578 ,HD2., as written and request to be effective date to be changed upon approval.

I ask that you Pass HB 2578 H.D.2. Confiscation of the PA medical license for failing the exam is erroneous, unjust, and direct threat to the treatment and well-being of the people in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time.


Vincent Tenorio

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 3:20:49 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BODHI M ANDERSON	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

As a PA (physician assistant) practicing in Hilo, I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578. I support this bill allowing PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, and prohibiting the Hawaii Medical Board from requiring PAs to maintain current certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) as a condition of license renewal. This is consistent with the renewal process used in 31 states and the District of Columbia and the license renewal requirements for Hawaii physicians.**

PAs are healthcare practitioners who receive a graduate-level degree after an approximately 27-month program of study. The typical PA student receives more than 2,000 hours of supervised, hands-on clinical care experience before graduation, and all new PAs must take and pass an initial national certifying exam. The more than 300 PAs in Hawaii diagnose illnesses, develop and manage treatment plans and prescribe medications in every medical setting and specialty.

Only seventeen states (including Hawaii) require PAs to maintain NCCPA certification, which requires passage of a recertification exam every six or ten years, as a condition of license renewal. While preparation for this exam requires PAs to take significant amounts of time away from practice, there is no evidence that requiring maintenance of certification has a positive impact on patient care. While other healthcare practitioners may be subject to their own maintenance of certification requirements, in these 17 states, PAs are the only healthcare profession for which license renewal is tied to the passage of a recertification exam rather than completion of CME.

PAs are known to provide safe, quality healthcare to their patients. The majority of states, as well as federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid, do not require PAs to maintain certification. Instead, the decision to require current certification is left to individual PAs and their employers. I urge Hawaii to do the same by passing H.B. 2578.

Sincerely,

Bodhi Anderson, PA-C, Hilo

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 1:59:52 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Kawahara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 2578

A test should not be indicative of how well a physician assistant (PA) provides care. Not passing the currently required Physician Assistant National Recertifying Exam (PANRE) test every ten (10) years in order to be continue to be a PA in Hawaii should not trump the many years of experience a PA has. If we continue to make this test a requirement we will lose many very good experienced PAs to another state that does not require taking this test to continue to be a PA. Currently many states do not require this test. Why do we keep this requirement when it hurts the people of Hawaii by losing these valuable experienced PAs? We are already short-staffed in medical care in Hawaii. Let's not lose good experienced PAs to another state and please let's vote HB 2578 in.

Again I support HB 2578

HB-2578-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 8:27:20 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marc	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello.

My name is Marc Morifuji, PA-C and have been practicing medicine in Hawaii since 1995 (23 years). I am IN SUPPORT of house bill 2578 as it relates to Certified Physician Assistants (PA-C's) in Hawaii. I feel that PA's in specialty like myself who work in orthopedics have a lot of time, effort and money involved in studying for the recertification exam every 10 years. The test does not apply to specialty PA's like myself and a CME requirement would be sufficient. It would bring our state up to par with the majority of other states in the country. I feel that it would also help solve our healthcare shortage in the state as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important bill

Respectfully,

Marc Morifuji, PA-C