

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, February 7, 2018  
10:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2578, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, 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 on this measure, which is a companion to S.B. 3074. For the Committee's information, the Board has not had an opportunity to review this measure, but will do so at its scheduled meeting on February 8, 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2578.

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 11:52:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Santo Di Martino		Support	Yes

Comments:

Good morning Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Santo Di Martino. I am a Physician Assistant of 41 years and am writing in support of HB2578.

It is unjust that PAs can lose their license for failing an exam, a form of penalization not present in other healthcare occupations. Only 18 states require continual recertification exams. PAs ought to take their certifying exam once (upon graduation), and then maintain their certification through CME (Continuing Medical Education) courses.

Using test results as a measure of PA competence is erroneous. Electronic and paper-based evaluations are not indicative of the quality of service and ability of the servicer. The ability to pass an exam is not indicative of one's ability to practice medicine. This is especially true for someone who has been practicing for the greater portion of their life.

Finally, there is a shortage of healthcare practitioners in Hawai'i. 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 you to pass HB2578. Confiscation of PA medical licenses for failing an exam is unjust, erroneous, and is a direct threat to the treatment and well-being of the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time.



**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

TO:  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE: Wed., February 7, 2018  
TIME: 10:30am  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association  
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director  
Lauren Zirbel, Government and Community Relations

**Re: HB 2578**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Chairs & Committee Members:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the Hawaii Medical Association, we are writing regarding our ongoing commitment to reform of the health care system.

The HMA supports this bill. There is currently a large amount of dissatisfaction with the Boards and the exam content, process and cost. Our national organization is engaging in negotiation and reformation in the certification process. The waiving of the license requirement for re-certification would be appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**HMA OFFICERS**

President – William Wong, Jr., MD    President-Elect – Jerry Van Meter, MD    Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD  
Immediate Past President – Bernard Robinson, MD    Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD  
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:54:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:30:24 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Corinne Ancona-Young		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because I feel that maintaining board certification should not prohibit a PA from practicing medicine. Being board certified does not guarantee that a health care provider is more qualified than a non board certified provider.

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 7:55:11 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Lambert		Support	No

Comments:

Because of the shortage of Physician Assistants in Hawaii and the possibility of them losing their certification, I support this bill. Once passing the original certification to become a Physician Assistant, periodic continuing education is all that should be required to maintain certification.

**LATE**

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:58:42 AM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear 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.

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. 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**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:51:57 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elisa Chong	Straub & Tripler	Support	No

Comments:

I am a long time Hawaii Resident born and raised in Hilo, educated and trained as a Physician Assistant on the Mainland and returned back to Hawaii to raise my family and work as a PA. I have worked over 30 years as a PA in the State of Hawaii and have seen many changes in Legislation and our practice partnership with the Physicians. I have had to take the Recertification exam 5 times in my career and have passed each time on my first try. I have spent over \$1,500 over the years and lost 5 work days to take an exam that essentially told me that I had enough knowledge to continue to work.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 2578 to rid the Physician Assistants in this State of this unnecessary financial and time consuming test that does not add any additional skills or knowledge. Nurse Practitioners, our fellow Health Care Workers, have never required retesting. My training as a PA, even 30 years ago, required that we be treated clinically the same as Medical Students. I spent 12 months doing over 2,000 hours of hands on Medical Clinic and Hospital care of patients. I have maintained over 100 hours of Continuing Medical Education over the years I have worked as a PA.

I urge you to pass this Bil.

Thank you!

**LATE**

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 1:37:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Alfrey	The Queens Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a retired PA (physician assistant) practicing in Honolulu, I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578**. This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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.

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,

Larry Alfrey, PA-C Emeritus



**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 1:45:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Kichline	Kapiolani medical specialists	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a PA (physician assistant) practicing at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578**. This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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.

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,

Kristen Kichline PA-C

Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a PA (physician assistant) practicing in Hawaii, I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578**. This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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.

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. No less do PAs do the aforementioned, we accomplish the needs of Hawaii with extremely archaic laws further hindering our ability to practice---especially to those that need us most.

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,

Sidney M. Jackler MPA, PA-C (Honolulu, HI)

**LATE**

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 2:58:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Yuen		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a PA (physician assistant) practicing in (Honolulu, Hawaii ), I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578**. This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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.

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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,

Stephen Yuen PA-C

Honolulu



**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 3:11:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Torsten Durkan		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Born and raised on Maui, I have seen the need for advanced practitioners in the islands. As a current PA student at Dominican University in California it is my goal to return to my home after my studies and provide the people of Hawaii with the care they desperately need. Most other states have this legislation in action and it will help our state in hiring and recruiting prospects to care for our underserved communities. This bill will drastically affect my future profession and I ask you to please vote in support of HB 2578!

Mahalo,

-Torsten Durkan

**LATE**

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 3:28:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Hamaguchi		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a PA (physician assistant) practicing in Honolulu, I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578**. This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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.

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,

Joel Hamaguchi, PA-C

Honolulu, HI

**LATE**

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 3:43:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a PA (physician assistant) practicing in Hilo, I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578**. This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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.

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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, MSPAS, PA-C

Hilo, Hawaii

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:12:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David H Messer III, PA-C		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 1:36:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fielding Mercer		Support	Yes

Comments:

I am currently a physician assistant (PA) who was previously 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 PAs in Hawaii.

I support the legislation, WITH AMENDMENTS. The bill should be amended to include specific CME recommendations. Currently, the NCCPA requires 50 hours of *AMA PRA* category 1 and 50 hours of category 2 CME hours every 2 years for maintenance of certification. This is similar to, but slightly above Hawaii M.D. CME requirement which are 100 hours, 40 of which must be *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>™</sup> every two year licensing period

It is important to include the CME requirement in the Bill because HAR rules changes take a minimum of 10 months to be implemented and often much longer.

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 which is the type of exam required by the NCCPA. Recurring CME is the standard for licensure renewal for MDs in virtually all states and should be the same for PAs.. Maintenance of board certification is not tied to licensure in any state.

I would recommend passage of HB2578 with amendments as described above.

Fielding Mercer PA-C, past president and past legislative liaison for HAPA.



February 6, 2018

Honorable John H. Mizuno, Chairman  
Committee on Health & Human Services  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 439  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **SUPPORT HB 2578** Regarding Physician Assistant Licensure Renewal Requirements

Dear Chairman Mizuno:

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 Health and Human Services committee in SUPPORT of HB 2578. This legislation allows PAs in Hawaii to renew their license to practice upon the completion of a specified number of continuing education hours. The bill also prohibits 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 this legislation, and we urge the House Committee on Health and Human Services to support it, as well.**

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 exam<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

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.

The license renewal requirements proposed by H.B. 2578 would bring Hawaii's licensure renewal process in line with the majority of states as well as federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid. We urge the Committee to support this good bill.

Sincerely,



Keisha Pitts, JD  
Director, Constituent Organization Outreach & Advocacy

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<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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](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 <sup>1</sup> : NCCPA Recertification (Test & CME) 2 states <sup>2</sup> : NCCPA Recertification required for Rx Authority 27 states/DC: CME	NCCPA	General	License Exam	Test & CME
NP	Yes	No	Yes (except CA & NY)	CPD <sup>3</sup> & 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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:18:16 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
marc	Maui Medical group	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Marc Morifuji, PA-C. I was born and raised here on Oahu, and a proud graduate of Pearl City High School class of 1984. I have been a practicing certified physician assistant for 23 years now, having worked for my first 2 years in Hilo, 20 years on Maui and as of last year 2017 moved back home here on Oahu where I practice orthopedics at Kaiser Moanalua. I wanted to voice my support for this bill regarding Physician assistants in Hawaii. I worked my first 10 years in Family practice/urgent care, and the last 13 years in orthopedics. The national recertification exam tests us on internal medicine, much of it being cardiology and primary care. These topics do not apply to many of us here because we are in specialties like orthopedics. To lift the burden of the recertification exam would save a lot of cost and stress to us. It would also likely help with the shortage of healthcare here in Hawaii (especially the outer islands) if other PA's in the country would be attracted to the thought of not having this timely and costly exam which is now every ten years and moving and practicing here in the Aloha state.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration on this matter,

Aloha,

Marc Morifuji, PA-C,

past president Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA)

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:25:15 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cristen Aona		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a PA (physician assistant) practicing in Moanalua, Oahu, I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578**. This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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.

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,

Cristen RK Aona / Kapolei Hawaii



**LATE**

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:00:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Morris		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a PA (physician assistant) practicing at The Queen's Medical Center, I **urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578**. This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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.

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,

Dan Morris, Kaneohe, HI



**LATE**

**HB-2578**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:27:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/7/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Mendonsa		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

As a Physician Assistant (PA), licensed and currently practicing in Hawaii, **I urge your SUPPORT for H.B. 2578.** This bill will allow PAs to renew licensure upon the completion of a state-specified number of continuing medical education (CME) hours, 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. I strongly feel that licensing requirements should be determined at the state level and not by a national entity.

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. I received my Masters degree for PA practice at the University of Washington. The program consisted of 29 months of study, half of which was hands-on clinical experience in a variety of settings; hospitals and clinics, both rural and urban and spanned a variety of specialties.

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. I plan on maintaining my national certification for as long as I continue to practice medicine. This is my personal decision, but I do not feel that my state license to practice should be reliant on such a certification. Furthermore, I understand that in states that have passed such a bill as this, the state medical board may require that specific, geographically-relevant



continuing medical education is covered for their practitioners. This is especially important for somewhere as unique as Hawaii.

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,

Jessica SB Mendonsa, MCHS, PA-C, MICT

Keaau, Big Island and Kihei, Maui