

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)

Bradley Kuo, M.Ed, MSN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CARN-AP

President of the Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses



DATE: 2/24/2019

HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Representative Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Representative Ty Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** for HB 658, Relating to Health.

We are in **strong support** of this measure because APRNs in the State of Hawaii have worked very hard to close the healthcare access gap in many ways. As defined in section 457-2, APRNs have been afforded the opportunity to work as independent providers, operating at the full scope of their education and training. APRNs have been able to open their own practices to be able to meet the needs of the residents of Hawaii. Many have opened practices in the most underserved areas of our state. When reviewing this measure with financial considerations in mind, this bill could save the state money with regard to the current costs our physician colleagues are able to command. Due to the current definition, there are some APRN leaders who may not consider this as an option. When a program or community clinic is able to utilize an APRN in this role, more money could potentially go to our patients and other programs to serve our communities.

With current statistics, our MD/DO colleagues are not able to fill these gaps in care at this time. APRNs in private practice are held to the same standards, certification, and licensure of our healthcare provider colleagues. Due to various contract requirements, programs are required to have oversight by a "Medical Director." APRNs in private practice and in leadership roles in the private and public sector are fulfilling that role and should not be required to contract for or otherwise pay for a role that is already being fulfilled by the APRN.

Previous law (HB912) "the legislature finds that advance practice registered nurses are primary care providers who may practice to the full scope of practice allowed" and "similar to those offered by physicians and other health care providers". With this law, access to care has increased and we have been able to better meet the needs in our communities. APRNs have provided improved access to safe, timely, quality health care.

APRNs guide in the provision of prevention and diagnostic care by developing healthcare policies and procedures, acting as members on governing boards, overseeing, supervising, and making recommendations about prescribing practices for all licensed prescribing practitioners based on evidence-based practices.

Rarely discussed: APRNs are quietly and diligently addressing the healthcare needs in the State of Hawaii with the continued shortage and reduction of our physician colleagues. Addressing these needs and finding solutions is part of our core values and it is the core of our training. From our historical leaders of nursing Florence Nightingale who developed core tenants of nursing, to Mary Breckinridge who revolutionized rural healthcare for women and children, to Dorothea Dix who changed the way mental healthcare was delivered, to Clara Barton who founded the American Red Cross, and many more - these nurses were leaders and researchers, formal or informal, who improved the care and lives of those who they touched both physically and those touched as a result of their teaching of others.

In Hawaii, we have many nurses who are working hard to provide vision and insight into the healthcare of their communities. We have leaders among us to whom many of us are grateful of their hard work and dedication to expanding access to care through laws regarding APRNs. We have nurses who are CEOs of area hospitals. We have nurses who are presidents and vice presidents of several major healthcare organizations. We have nurses who are guiding the community clinic care and shaping programs who reach out to those most in need. We have nurses opening up their own practices in their community and across the state because they see the significant gaps in healthcare. They see the needs that must be managed for the health and safety of their communities.

From the most recent Hawaii State Center for Nursing workforce data, in 2017:

1. Hawaii has removed most state regulatory barriers to APRN full scope of practice, some facilities continue to adopt policy that does not permit APRNs to practice to full scope of education and training.
2. The number of APRN licenses has grown considerably from 2005 (535) to 2017 (1,092).
3. Of the APRNs surveyed, 92% of them plan to be in the workforce for 5 years or more.
4. Of the APRNs surveyed, 90% are working in some capacity requiring their APRN license.

Reference:

<http://www.hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017-Hawaii-State-Nursing-Workforce-Supply-Report-Final-2-2.pdf>

From the most recent “2018 Workforce reports for 2019 Legislature” produced by the Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center:

1. From 2017- 2018, the State of Hawaii lost 51 full-time equivalent doctors.
2. The current number of physicians statewide is 2,927, about 797 doctors short of what’s needed across all specialties.
3. Projections for 2020 appear to be stagnant with no net gain.
4. Shortage per island: Hawaii Island = 41%, Maui and Kauai County = 33%, Oahu = 17%
5. Possible reason, cost of living is too high, and reimbursement is too low. These issues are not in our control.

Reference:

<http://www.ahec.hawaii.edu/workforce/>

We have RNs and APRNs all over our state who are taking up the mantle of leadership. APRNs are a unique group of people who can also support the vision of their organization and the care of their patients with their advanced skills and training. We have a proven track record of good care and improved outcomes across the nation. We continue to see the gaps in healthcare, and we meet these needs head on.

There are national accrediting bodies that require the title of Medical Director to be filled in order to secure and maintain accreditation. APRNs have been able to demonstrate positive leadership and excellent diagnosis, treatment, and care for our communities. In the State of Hawaii, the definition of Medical Director is found and stated only within the State Department of Health Administrative Rules. The State Department of Health is the authority regarding the

health and safety of residents and visitors in the State of Hawaii. Due to these factors, the need for this change must start here.

The State of Hawaii has already provided our communities with increased access to care by empowering APRNs to work to our full scope and education. By passing this bill, APRNs will continue to support our communities to our fullest extent possible.

Thank you for your consideration to pass HB658 in committee.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Bradley Kuo, M.Ed, MSN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CARN-AP
President of the Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:23:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meng-Ling Erik Kuo	Wellness Partners Hawaii Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

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2/24/2019

HB 658 RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Syliva Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB 658, Relating to Health.

HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

I am in **support** of this measure because:

1. Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), as defined in section 457-2-7, are afforded the opportunity to work independently in the State of Hawaii. This opportunity has led to an increase in APRNs being able to open and run private independent practices across the islands. APRNs in private practice are held to the same governing and accreditation standards as physicians or other providers in health care. In order to meet those standards private practices and programs are required to have oversight by a "Medical Director." APRNs in private practice and in leadership roles in the private and public sector are fulfilling that role and should not be required to contract for or otherwise pay for a role that is already being fulfilled by the APRN.
2. Per HB NO. 912 Per Section 1, under Chapter 457 "the legislature finds that advance practice registered nurses are primary care providers who may practice to the full scope of practice allowed" and "similar to those offered by physicians and other health care providers. The legislature additionally found that removing barriers to practice for advance practice registered nurses would result in improved access to safe, timely, quality health care.
3. In addition, Advance Practice Registered Nurses guide in the provision of prevention and diagnostic care by developing healthcare policies and procedures, acting as members on governing boards, overseeing, supervising

and make recommendations about prescribing practices for all licensed prescribing practitioners based on best practices.

4. Hawaii has already made great strides to empower the Advance practice Registered Nurse to work to their full potential and scope of practice. By passing this measure Advance Practices Registered Nurses can be acknowledged for their commitment and dedication to the health and wellness of the people of Hawaii

Thank you for your consideration to pass HB658 in committee.

Stacy Kracher PMHNP-BC, APRNRx, CSAC

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HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:21:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I stand in support of my colleague Bradley Kuo's exquisitely laid out testimony on this bill, and urge you to pass this bill out of committee, unamended. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill. I have served as a Medical Director at the former Freedom Recovery Services, and currently own my own clinic providing primary mental health care. I have served in leadership roles both locally and nationally. I know APRNs are qualified as Medical Directors and should be supported as such in state law.

Mahalo for all you do for Hawaii's people.

Wailua Brandman APRN FAANP

Keena Mauiola Nele Paia, LLC

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:22:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy Thornett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Esteemed Finance Committee,

I endorse the statements made by my colleagues regarding the ethics, scope of practice, capability, and benefit related to APRNs practicing at the full extent of their training, education, and experience. These NP leaders have offered thoughtful, well-researched, and clear testimony supporting the value of APRNs for Hawaii's communities. For my testimony, I wish to respectfully submit some of my first-hand experience working in a rural, underserved community as both a nursing educator and clinician.

Although I was born and raised on O'ahu, like many Hawaii residents, I moved to Hawaii Island for both the "old Hawaii" culture, the rural lifestyle, and the more affordable cost of housing. I have lived here for approximately 15 years and now call this community my home. During this time, I have worked in various roles in the healthcare system, including as a nursing educator. I have seen first-hand the critical shortage of healthcare providers on Hawaii Island and the impact this shortage has on the health and well-being of our community. I have also observed how the growth of this community is rapidly outpacing the infrastructure and public resources available to support individuals and families, resulting in poor access to care and preventable illness, crisis, and suffering.

Like many APRNs, I pursued my advanced training and education in the community where I live, compelled to be part of the healthcare solution. As I continue to work, learn, and grown in my role as a healthcare provider, I also see how difficult it is to recruit qualified and invested healthcare professionals to lead the stressed and overwhelmed healthcare organizations serving our vulnerable rural population. APRNs who have been part of the healthcare access solution in Hawaii's underserved communities, are now well-positioned to be part of the solution for the shortage of qualified providers to lead healthcare organizations. As part of the DNP education, APRNs are trained in not only the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of disease, but also in population health, quality improvement, leadership, and evidence-based practice. We have been challenged by our academic programs to consider our patients' health from both a systems and population perspective. I would respectfully propose that this type of comprehensive approach to human health makes APRNs valuable assets to the communities they serve, as both providers and leaders. For these

reasons, and many others, I strongly support HB 658, Relating to Health, which is now before you for consideration.

Respectfully and sincerely submitted,

Tracy Thornett, DNP, APRN

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:28:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Allen Novak, A.P.R.N.

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HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Representative Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Representative Ty Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB 658, Relating to Health.

As an APRN in Hilo who helps relieve the health care service gap in underserved East Hawaii, I am in strong support of this measure.

Organizations which hire Medical Directors must have the opportunity to select the best qualified person for the job which their budget can afford, and not be constricted to a limited pool of physician candidates.

APRNs have been afforded the opportunity to work as independent providers, operating at the full scope of their education and training, as defined in section 457-2-7. APRNs have been able to open their own practices to meet the needs of the residents of Hawaii, many in the most underserved areas of our state. Our MD/DO colleagues are not able to fill these gaps at this time. APRNs in private practice are held to the same standards of certification and licensure as our physician colleagues.

Previous law (HB912) “the legislature finds that advance practice registered nurses are primary care providers who may practice to the full scope of practice allowed” and “similar to those offered by physicians and other health care providers”. With this law, access to care has increased and we have been able to better meet the needs in our communities. APRNs have provided improved access to safe, timely, quality health care. APRNs guide in the provision of prevention and diagnostic care by developing healthcare policies and procedures, acting as members on governing boards, overseeing, supervising, and making recommendations about prescribing practices for all licensed prescribing practitioners based on evidence-based practices.

Due to various contract requirements, programs are required to have oversight by a “Medical Director.” APRNs in private practice and in leadership roles in the private and public sector are fulfilling that role, and organizations should not be required to contract for or otherwise pay for a role that is already being fulfilled by the APRN. We have nurses who are CEOs of area hospitals. We have nurses who are presidents and vice presidents of several major healthcare organizations. We have nurses who are guiding the community clinic care and shaping programs who reach out to those most in need. The definition of Medical Director is found and stated only within the State Department of Health Administrative Rules.

Thank you for your consideration to pass HB658 in committee.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Allen Novak, APRN, Rx

Private solo practice, Hilo, Hawaii

Kristina Noelani Jenkins
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To: House Committee on Finance
Attn: Chair Sylvia Luke and Vice Chair Ty Cullen

Re: Strong Support of HB 658

Date: February 25, 2019

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** for **HB658 HD1** which authorizes that advanced practice registered nurses be included within certain rules adopted by the Department of Health.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in the State of Hawai'i work extremely hard to meet the growing healthcare needs of our residents. Under previous law HB912, "the legislature finds that advance practice registered nurses are primary care providers who may practice to the full scope of practice allowed" and "similar to those offered by physicians and other health care providers". With this law, access to care has increased and we have been able to better meet the needs in our communities. APRNs have provided improved access to safe, timely, quality health care.

Nurses throughout Hawaii have demonstrated the qualities, dedication, education and training to take on increasing leadership roles. As a patient, I am grateful to all of the healthcare providers who serve in our state, and I think that APRNs especially have the unique perspective to support the vision of their organization and the care of their patients with their advanced skills and training. We continue to see gaps in healthcare, and we meet these needs head on.

Please pass HB658 to support Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to continue to support our communities to our fullest extent possible.

Regards, Kristina Jenkins
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822