

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
Provider/President/Owner, Wellness Partners Hawaii, Inc.



DATE: 2/12/2019

HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Representative Chris Lee, Vice Chair Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, Chair Representative Roy Takumi, Vice Chair Representative Linda Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, 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 457-2-7, 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. 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 revolutionize 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.hawaii-center-for-nursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017-Hawaii-State-Nursing-Workforce-Supply-Report-Final-2-2.pdf>

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.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Bradley Kuo, M.Ed, MSN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CARN-AP
President of the Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses
Provider/President/Owner, Wellness Partners Hawaii, Inc.

Advance Practice

Stacy Kracher, PMHNP-BC, APRNRx, CSAC

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2/11/2019

HB 658 RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Representative Chris Lee, Vice Chair Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, Chair Representative Roy Takumi, Vice Chair Representative Linda Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, 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

Advance Practice
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HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 8:25:08 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
and
House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing: February 12, 2019, 2:00 PM
Room 329

By Members of



American Nurses Association
in Hawaii

HB658, HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Roy Takumi, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, Chair Chris Lee, and Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura, members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB658, HD1, Relating to Health.

We are members of the American Nurses Association (ANA) in Hawaii, who are registered professional nurses practicing in this state. ANA is the national professional organization of registered nurses that sets the professional standards of nursing practice in this nation and represents nursing interests on a national basis through its association of 48 member states.

This amended bill would allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to be included within certain rules adopted by the Department of Health. The definition of “Medical Director” is clarified to allow both physicians and APRNs to apply for those positions, broadening the pool of highly qualified applicants. The definition of “Medical Staff” is also clarified to allow the inclusion of APRNs and other licensed, direct care providers, as is the current practice in many institutions and agencies in our state. This is appropriate as APRNs meet all the requirements to act in both capacities and have been doing so in similar situations throughout the healthcare system to date.

We respectfully request that HB658-HD1 pass out of this committee. Thank you for your continued support for measures that address the need for Department of Health rules to be updated to reflect current practice in delivering safe and effective healthcare in our community.

Contact information:

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Honolulu Hawaii USA 96825

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 8:22:58 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 8:56:04 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Allen Novak, A.P.R.N.

(808) 934-9071

122 Haili Street

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Representative Chris Lee, Vice Chair Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, Chair Representative Roy Takumi, Vice Chair Representative Linda Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, 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 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

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:47:13 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelsey ennila	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am familiar with the education and training requirements of NP's and agree that this will benefit all the Americans who are in need of healthcare services in that it will make access to care much easier and prevent long waiting times for the people seeking care.

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 10:38:42 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Junko Ennila	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe this will allow for greater access to quality medical care and support it 100%.

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 11:04:51 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Nakatani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:12:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I firmly support a greater degree of autonomy for all APRN's.

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:39:19 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kal Peterman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 2:18:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

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658, Relating to Health.

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very hard to close the healthcare access gap in many ways. As defined in section 457-2-7,

APRNs have been afforded the opportunity to work as independent providers, operating at the

full scope of their education and training. APRNs, including myself, 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. 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. I have, in fact been a Medical Director of Freedom Recovery Services in the past.

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

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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.

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4. Shortage per island: Hawaii Island = 41%, Maui and Kauai County = 33%, Oahu = 17%
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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. I strongly urge you to pass this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your enduring support of patients' access to health care and the

empowerment of APRNs to ensure the quality and availability of that care through their leadership and management of healthcare systems.

With Warmest Aloha, Wailua Brandman APRN FAANP, Ke`ena Mauiola Nele Paia, LLC, 615 Piikoi Street, Suite 1406, Honolulu, HI 96814 (808) 593-7703

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 11:49:23 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Baumstark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I work on the island of **Molokai** and am in support of APRNs being Medical Directors.

I am 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 457-2-7, 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. 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.

HB-658-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 5:46:42 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynda A Hirakami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Lynda A Hirakami

15-3014 Pahoia Village Rd Pahoia HI 96778 (808) 339-7076

HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Representative Chris Lee, Vice Chair Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, Chair Representative Roy Takumi, Vice Chair Representative Linda Ichiyama, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB 658, Relating to Health.

I am a Doctor of Nursing Practice APRN in Pahoia. In this role I serve to help relieve the health care service gap in underserved East Hawaii. I am in strong support of HB 658.

Organizations which hire Medical Directors must have the opportunity to select the best qualified person for the job 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.

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Thank you for your consideration to pass HB658 in committee.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Lynda A Hirakami , DNP APRN, Rx

Private solo practice, Pahoehoe, Hawaii