

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB658
RELATING TO MEDICAL EDUCATION.**

REP. JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

LATE

Hearing Date: January 31, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** HB658 requires the department to include Advanced Practice
3 Registered Nurses (APRN) within the scope of administrative rules for purposes of providing
4 patient care services within a public or private hospital.

5 However, this measure lacks a descriptive preamble or Purpose and Findings section which
6 makes the intent ambiguous. As a result the value of this bill and analysis of potential
7 unintended consequences are difficult to determine. DOH recommends this measure be deferred
8 unless clarification is provided.

9 Hawaii Administrative Rules 11-94-4 authorizes hospitals to designate physicians, dentists,
10 podiatrists and other individuals licensed by the state, who are permitted by law and who have
11 been authorized by the governing body to provide patient care services within the facility.
12 APRNs are authorized by chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide patient care services
13 that includes but is not limited to advanced assessment; telehealth; and the diagnosis,
14 prescription, selection, and administration of therapeutic measures including over the counter
15 drugs, legend drugs, and controlled substances within the advanced practice registered nurse's
16 role and specialty-appropriate education and certification.

17 With regard to governing body and bylaws, the department defers to individual facilities and
18 health systems to determine their own criteria for medical staff, including medical directors. In

1 the case of the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH), the practice is for a psychiatrist specifically to fill
2 the role of medical director due to the unique nature of HSH's patients and operational
3 considerations other hospitals do not share.

4 **Offered Amendments:** Amend underscored wording from "shall" to "may" on Page 3, Line 7
5 and Page 4, Line 10.

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Stacy Kracher, PMHNP-BC, APRNRx, CSAC

Advance Practice

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Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB 658, Relating to Health.

Date: 1/28/2019

HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

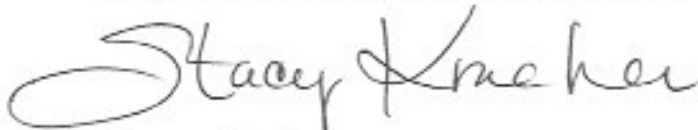
I am in **support** of this measure because:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Kracher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

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HB-658

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:31:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Rebecca Ross	Positive Perspectives, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I, Dr. Rebecca Ross, PhD, APRN, PMHNP-BC, support HB658. As a former professor who trained Nurse Practitioners at the doctoral level, I can attest to the rigorous program requirements that are involved. In addition to holding licensure for our specialty, Nurse Practitioners receive instruction in Leadership, Management and Business Administration. If one was to compare the standard curriculum of Nurse Practitioner students to Medical students, one would see that Nurse Practitioners are better trained in these areas than most medical students. Again, I support HB 659 which would allow Nurse Practitioners to be Medical Directors.

Respectfully,

Dr. Rebecca Ross



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DATE: 1/30/2019

HB 658: RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB 658, Relating to Health.

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 and accreditation of healthcare providers. Some 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 make recommendations about prescribing practices for all licensed prescribing practitioners based on evidence-based practices.

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.

Bradley Kuo, M.Ed, MSN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CARN-AP
Provider/President/Owner

"Mental Healthcare, Anywhere"

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Hearing: January 31, 2019, 9:30 AM

LATE

By Members of



American Nurses Association
in Hawaii

HB 658 RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB 658, Relating to Health.

We are members of the American Nurses Association in Hawaii, who are registered professional nurses practicing in this state.

This bill would require that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) be included within certain rules adopted by the Department of Health. It clarifies the definition of “Medical Director” to include both physicians and APRNs and “Medical Staff” to include both along with other licensed, direct health care providers. 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 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.

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HB-658

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:40:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments: