



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Health
and
House Committee on Intrastate Commerce
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 935, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Mizuno, Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Daria A. Loy-Goto, and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO). RICO offers enforcement-related comments concerning section 15, page 38, line 5 of the bill.

While RICO appreciates the intent of section 15 in strengthening the enforcement of physician licensing laws, it has concerns about the vagueness and overbreadth of that section. In particular, section 15 uses certain terms without clarifying what conduct those terms are meant to encompass: "abandoning" on page 39, line 20; "immoral conduct" on page 40, line 1; "sexual contact" on page 40, line 3; "secret method" on page 40, line 12; and "exploits" on page 41, line 1. This vagueness will make it difficult to enforce these provisions. Additionally, this measure appears to address conduct that does not directly relate to the practice of medicine. Examples include subsections:

Testimony of DCCA

H.B.935

Page 2 of 2

(a)(17), concerning acceptance of payments from clinical or biotechnical laboratories; (a)(26), concerning failure to furnish information legally required; (a)(28) concerning making or filing false reports or records; and the term “medical practitioner.”

Further clarification as to the scope of and terms in section 15 would not only benefit the public but also provide licensees with adequate notice of the type of conduct governed by these provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Health
and
House Committee on Intrastate Commerce**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 935, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Mizuno, Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ahlani K. Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board has not had an opportunity to thoroughly review and discuss this bill but will do so at its publicly noticed meeting on February 14, 2019.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) clarify the scope of practice of physician assistants in the State; (2) amend the Board to include two physician assistants and clarify the powers of the Board; and (3) make conforming amendments as to scope and practice of physician assistants in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Joseph M. Bracalento PA-C
The Queen's Medical Center

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Joseph Bracalento. I am a physician assistant at The Queen's Medical Center in Trauma Surgery and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Joseph M. Bracalento, PA-C

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: LeAnna S Paul PA-C
Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is LeAnna Paul I am a physician assistant at Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services in Oahu and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules. I myself struggled to convince my current employer to hire me because of these restrictions.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician shortage that our islands struggle with.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.



HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:40:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betty Stewart	University of Washington	Support	No

Comments:

The University of Washington plans to bring the first Physician Assistant program to the Island of Hawaii in 2020. We fully support this measure that will open up access to healthcare by allowing Physician Assistants to practice to the full measure of their training and expertise. PA's are part of the solution to Hawaii's workforce shortage and this measure will allow future PA's educated and trained in the state to care for the people of Hawaii without unnecessary state regulatory burden.

It is a change to PA practice law that is LONG overdue.

Thank you,

Betty L. Stewart PA-C

Clinical Coordinator

University of Washington

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:40:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Au	Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Jonathon Berliner, Executive Director
Gregory House Programs
200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite A310
Honolulu, HI 96817

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT OF HB935

My name is Jonathon Berliner and I'm writing as executive director of Gregory House Programs, a Hawaii nonprofit provider of housing and homelessness prevention and support services for persons and families living with HIV/AIDS, serving members of our community who often times is underserved and lacks a voice for their needs. On behalf of Gregory House Programs and the many individuals and families we serve throughout Hawai'i, I strongly support HB935, because this bill will modernize **physician assistant** practice laws here in Hawai'i.

The many individuals and families we serve at Gregory House Programs rely on a myriad of medical care specialties. Hawaii has a serious shortage of medical physicians, particularly medical specialty care such as oncology, infectious disease, primary care specialists, and many other medical care specialties. **Physicians Assistants (PA)** play an extremely vital role in the delivery of quality optimum primary medical care, and they help increase positive medical health outcomes, and reduce the cost of care.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical care providers that provide quality, optimum, and affordable healthcare and work in a myriad of medical specialties. However, due to the limitations in the Hawaii law or state statute, there are significant challenges that prevent making the most use of PA's in Hawaii. PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. PAs help to bring down the cost of care and at the same time elevate quality of care.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. This will also help to alleviate the state's current physician shortage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Berliner
Executive Director

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs.

<https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs are an affordable option for the state's current physician shortage.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Christopher Rehrer PA-C
Windward Urgent Care

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Chris Rehrer I am a physician assistant at Windward Urgent Care in Kaneohe, Hawaii and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Aloha,

Chris Rehrer PA-C

To: Chair John M. Mizuno Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Christina Starks, MPA, PA-C
Physician Assistant - Honolulu
President, Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Christina Starks, I am a physician assistant in Honolulu and President of the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants. I am in strong support of HB935 as it will modernize physician assistant practice laws in our State which will increase utilization of our profession and thus increase patient access to healthcare.

As you are aware, Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties and settings, including the specialties lacking in our State. However, it is difficult to be PA in Hawaii and it is difficult to employ a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to Hawaii law in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. PAs are not included in many sections; the definition of the practice of medicine, telehealth, pain management guidelines, duty to report wounds. The authority to sign documents is very limited. As an example, a PA could first assist in a knee replacement surgery, provide post-operative care, prescribe pain meds, but cannot prescribe a knee brace. Updating these things would help day-to-day PA practice.

In addition, rather than the physician or hospital employer establishing the collaborative relationship with the PA employee, the laws states it will establish the degree of supervision required by the physician when a PA performs a service within the practice of medicine. Furthermore, a physician who does not supervise a PA's services at the degree required shall be deemed to have engaged in professional misconduct. This does not promote an environment for individualized medicine and often stops physicians and hospitals from hiring qualified PAs.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. PAs have proven to be safe and effective healthcare providers. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physicians needed in Hawaii.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level. We want to be a part of the solution to the healthcare shortage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.



February 4, 2019

Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
Members, Committee on Health
Hawaii House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: Urge Support of House Bill 935 to Modernize and Improve Physician Assistant Practice

Dear Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

On behalf of the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) and especially our members in Hawaii, thank you for this opportunity to comment on House Bill 935 that aims to modernize several important aspects of physician assistant (PA) practice in Hawaii. AAPA is the national professional organization for physician assistants (PAs) that advocates on behalf of the profession and patient care provided by physician-PA teams. AAPA represents a profession of more than 131,000 PAs across all medical and surgical specialties and has extensive experience with state regulation of PA practice.

Summary

AAPA respectfully urges the committee to **SUPPORT House Bill 935** as introduced.

Primary care shortage

Many patients in Hawaii experience the negative effects of having fewer options for their care, due to an increasingly pressing health professional shortage. This problem is especially acute in Hawaii, where it has been noted that there is a shortage of approximately 800 physicians across all specialties.^{1 2} The Robert Graham Center projects that Hawaii will need a 27 percent increase in primary care physicians by 2030 in order to provide patients with the current level of care³. This shortage is largely due to Hawaii's growing and aging population and rising costs of insured patients.

Removing practice barriers

PAs are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medication, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty. The profession is projected to increase 37 percent from 2016 to 2026⁴ – and that influx of PAs can help to fill the gaps in Hawaii's healthcare workforce.

¹ (Hawaii News Now, 2018)

² (Modern Healthcare, September, 18, 2018)

³ (Robert Graham Center, p. 1)

⁴ (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018)

Hawaii has an opportunity to improve patient access to care by removing restrictions that have outlived their usefulness. Current requirements make it difficult for PAs and physicians to work together efficiently – which leads to decreased access to care.

Proposed changes to PA laws

Under this proposal, PAs will still collaborate with physicians and other healthcare providers as indicated by the patient’s condition and the standard of care. The physician-PA partnership is described as “collaborative” rather than “supervisory” to better reflect current practice. Under collaboration, a PA may provide medical service that the PA is prepared by education and experience and are competent to perform as determined at the practice setting. Two PAs will be added to the Hawaii Medical Board. PAs will be responsible for their own acts.

Committee urged to support legislation

Both AAPA and the Hawaii Academy of PAs (HAPA) believe that these modernizations will improve patient access to care and the delivery of healthcare by PAs and physicians on patient-care teams. *AAPA joins the Hawaii Academy of PAs in urging committee support of House Bill 935.*

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at kpitts@aapa.org or 571-319-4357.

Best regards,



Keisha L. Pitts, JD
Director, State Advocacy
American Academy of PAs

C: Christina Starks, PA-C, President, Hawaii Academy of PAs

Works Cited

- | | |
|---|--|
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HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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To:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTRASTATE COMMERCE

Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair

Rep. Dale T. Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Date: February 5, 2019

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Room 329

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Jerry Van Meter, MD, President

Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Re: HB 935 – Relating to Health

Position: OPPOSITION WITH CONCERNS

On behalf of Hawaii's physician and student members, the HMA is expressing concerns regarding HB 935 and the changes that would occur under its implementation.

The concerns of the HMA revolve around the logistics of the relationship between Physician Assistants and Physicians under the "Optimal Team Practice." The level of independence given to Physician Assistants under HB 935 allows for discretionary decision making without input from a physician. This is no different than any other independent non-physician provider.

In that the concept of the Optimal Team Practice is one that has not been discussed and vetted between Physicians and Physician Assistants, and our common regulatory agency the Medical Board of Hawaii, passage of HB 935 at this time would be premature.

As for the inclusion of two Physician Assistant members on the Hawaii Medical Board, we would defer the decision to the Board.

The Hawaii Medical Association urges deferral of HB 935 at this time, allowing discussion of this issue between parties. Thank you for allowing testimony on this issue.

HMA OFFICERS

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



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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HMA OFFICERS

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

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Specialist

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable John H. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Intrastate Commerce
The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Chair
The Honorable Dale T. Kobayashi, Vice Chair

February 5, 2019
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329



LATE

Re: HB935, Relating to Health

Chair Mizuno, Chair Ohno, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB935, which clarifies the scope and practice of physician assistants in the State. Among other things, the bill redefines the physician assistant's scope of practice so that the scope is determined at the practice level.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i offers the following COMMENTS HB935.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i believes that physicians assistants should be permitted to practice at the top of their training, education and experience. We support the intent of HB935 to allow greater flexibility in their scope of their practice to be determined at the practice level.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i appreciates of the contributions made by certified physician assistants and has a great deal of confidence in the quality of health care they provide within the Kaiser Permanente system. Our physician-owned Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group (HPMG) – Hawai'i's largest multispecialty medical group – employs over 550 physicians and licensed medical providers, including over 50 physician assistants. Within the Kaiser Permanente system, physician assistants practice along with physicians and other medical professionals in a collaborative effort to provide high quality patient care in a variety of specialties and settings – including Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Orthopedics, Cardiology, Oncology, Nephrology, Occupational Medicine, Vascular, General and Cardiothoracic Surgery, Infectious Disease, Radiology, Urology and Otolaryngology (ears, nose and throat).

We believe that legislative change regarding physician assistants practice will follow the examples of other states where greater utility of physician assistants as part of the medical practice team is

permitted. We further believe this to be an important part of Hawai‘i’s efforts to address a continued and growing physician shortage in a way that provides safe quality care to more people throughout the State.

The current regulations addressing physician assistants restrict their ability to practice at the top of their training. As such, Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i believe the legislature should consider addressing the following areas of chapter 453, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, relating to physician assistants’ scope of practice:

- Providing more autonomy for physician assistants. Areas which are particularly restrictive under the current law include requiring physicians are required to review 100% of physician assistants’ charts (one of the most restrictive standards in the country) and restrictions on which forms and documents can be signed by physician assistants.
- Providing flexibility to define physician assistants’ scope of practice at the medical group level. The current regulations for physician assistants were based on a solo practice physician model, when the reality of practice has evolved increasingly to a group practice (either single or multi-specialty) and hospital or clinic-based practice. Physician assistants allowed to work under supervision or collaborative arrangements established at the medical group, clinic or hospital level, with flexibility in defining scope of practice and the details of physician oversight.
- Making changes to liability coverage arrangements to reflect increased autonomy of physician assistants. With increased autonomy for physician assistants, the balance of liability coverage between physicians and physician assistants should be adjusted to reflect the changes in physician assistants scope of practice.

We do recognize that further discussions may be needed with other stakeholders regarding this bill and would support being part of a collaborative effort to improve utilization of physician assistants to improve the delivery of care within Hawai‘i’s health care system.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:30:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Kei Batangan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Eric Kei Batangan PA-C

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Kei Eric Batangan I am a physician assistant in Washington State and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Growing up in Hawaii my dream was to become a PA and serve my community on Oahu. However, after going through Physician Assistant training in Washington and completing clinical rotations in Hawaii, I noticed a difference in PA utilization and scope of practice between the two states with Hawaii being more restrictive. These factors truly discouraged my pursuit to serve the community I love and ultimately swayed my decision to practice in Washington State. I believe that HB935 will strengthen the PA profession in Hawaii, so that future PAs and current locally grown PAs, such as myself, can remain in Hawaii and take care of the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Scott A. Denny, MSPA, PA-C
Medical Director HIV Services
Medical Director Transgender Services
Kaiser Permanente Hawaii

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Scott Denny. I am a practicing, licensed physician assistant (PA) in Hawaii and I strongly support HB935.

I am the Medical Director for HIV Services at Kaiser Permanente in Hawaii. I am certified by the American Academy of HIV Medicine as an HIV Specialist. I am the *only* HIV Specialist at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii. Roughly 20% of ALL people living with HIV/AIDS in the entire state are under my direct medical care.

I am also Medical Director for Transgender Services at Kaiser Permanente. I manage the largest panel of transgender individuals in the state.

In total, roughly 1000 individuals in Hawaii are under my direct medical care as a PA. No other medical providers (MD/DO/PA/NP) within my medical group are as skilled or experienced with providing the type of complex medical care required for these populations.

As the sole medical provider for these vulnerable individuals, I am continuously challenged with Hawaii's restrictive PA scope of practice laws and administrative rules. I am unable to sign simple forms such as a bus pass application or sign disability paperwork for my patient who is dying of AIDS. My physician collaborators are burdened with reviewing 100% of my charts, even though it is I who is the expert in my specialties. It is simply counterintuitive to what the original (and antiquated) PA practice laws were designed to achieve.

HB935 will modernize PA practice laws in Hawaii and allow me to provide optimal medical for my patients.

Notably, Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, **Infectious Disease (my specialty)**, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

PAs are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is challenging to practice or optimally utilize a PA in Hawaii.

As PAs, we do not have our own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs due to the State laws and administrative rules.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Finally, since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. PAs are an affordable option for Hawaii's current physician shortage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Denny, MSPA, AAHIVS, PA-C
Medical Director HIV Services
Medical Director Transgender Services
Kaiser Permanente Hawaii
Moanalua Medical Center
3288 Moanalua Drive
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 432-7263
Scott.a.denny@kp.org

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:05:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam Province	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii will benefit greatly from having more PA's to help those in need.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:31:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Larry Alfrey PA-C Emeritus

Retired from Queen's Medical Center, December 2017

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Larry Alfrey, I am a retired physician assistant from The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu and I strongly support HB935. This bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws in our state.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare.

1. PAs receive a graduate-level degree after an approximately 27-month intense program of study. Many PA programs are affiliated with a medical school and obtain their education along side a medical student. 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. The majority of states, as well as federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid, do not require PAs to maintain certification. However, like other non-physician occupations (including a Nurse Practitioner, Physical and Occupational Therapists, etc), they earn required CMEs (continuing medical education) to keep their licenses active.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since the first PA class of 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured. The #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for physician shortages.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden

and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

Larry Alfrey

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:54:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
evan taxin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: xxx PA-C
xxx Clinic/Hospital

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is ____ I am a physician assistant at ____ in ____ and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:45:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Joshua R. Johnson, PA-C

Ali'i Health Center, Kailua-Kona, HI

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Joshua R. Johnson, PA-C. I am a physician assistant at Ali'i Health Center in Kailua-Kona and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:59:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christianna Hall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

While I'm still "new" to living on Oahu (over four years now), I can say I still have frustrations when trying to be seen by a doctor. It took me over 15 doctors offices to become established as a patient with a primary care physician. 15! Each time I called they let me know they were not able to accept new patients. The one doctor who could see me - and still "does" has a wait of over a month to be seen. So if I'm sick or ill (it happens, it's life) when I call I have to wait to be seen for a sinus infection, acute pain, etc. when I've discussed the wait with my doctor he lets me know his frustration as well. He has a full schedule, too many patients, can't spend the time with patients that he feels he needs to address all of our concerns, etc. he needs help! By allowing more PA's to assist the doctors it allows us to be seen in a better timeline. My endocrinologist has two PA's and has said to me it's been his lifeline! We can be seen, we can have our calls returned, we can be cared for as we as patients should/need to be. Please approve this bill to help the doctors care for us, to help the patients be seen and receive the care they need and deserve. Thank you for your time.

RELATING TO HEALTH

HLT/IAC on Tuesday, 02-05-19 8:30AM in House conference room 329.

Dear Committee Chairs and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of HB 935.

I urge you to pass this important legislation.

Passage of this bill will improve access to health care providers, improve rural health care delivery and remove many governmental barriers to PA medical practice. HRS 453 with regard to physician assistants has not been revised or modernized in the 32 years that I have been practicing medicine in the state of Hawaii. The health care environment has changed considerably in those 32 years and it is time to make changes that will positively impact patients, access to health care and physician assistant practice in the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for your consideration of passage of this important bill.

Fielding Mercer, PA-C

Previous president and legislative liaison to the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:33:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rhonda perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 3:38:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Comitte Chair and members!

Thank you for allowing me to testify in strong support of HB935.

If passed, this bill will improve access to health care across the Hawaiian Islands. PAs have been providing health services in Hawaii since 1972, but it was not until the early/mid 1990s that new practice legislation took the first giant steps in opening up PA practice in this state. As a member of the group who wrote that legislation, I was well aware of its shortcomings though it did move PA practice forward to be more in line with national practice standards. However, it has badly needed to evolve for the last twenty years.

HB935 enables that evolution and with those changes makes PA practice rules in Hawaii among the best in the nation. With those overdue improvements, PAs will be co-equal members of the health care team that will bring more robust health services to the people of Hawaii.

I urge you to pass this legislation for all the people of this fine state.

Dan Domizio, MPH, PA-C Emeritus, former President of HAPA, former director of Health Programs, Puna Community Medical Center.

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce



From: Christopher Paul Rogers, PA-C, APA, RCIS
CPT, US Army

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Christopher Paul Rogers. I am an aeromedical physician assistant in the US Army stationed at Schofield Barracks and applying for permanent residents in Hawai'i after retirement. I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

As a military PA-C and APA I have worked in collaborative relationships with physicians to provide care in all settings from the most austere with battle trauma to volunteer medical care at women and children's shelters to clinic settings. These professional relationships provide increased access to care without degrading the quality of care. By allowing medical professionals to provide care at the top of their training without unnecessary administrative contracts or obligations remains crucial in pending access to care to the whole population of Hawai'i and our tourists.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and

physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:45:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Torsten Durkan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Torsten Durkan PA-S

Dominican University of California MSPAS program

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Torsten Durkan I am a physician assistant student at Dominican University in San Rafael, California. I was born and raised in Haiku, Maui and am in my last year of schooling to become a Physicain Assistant. I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws in Hawaii. Too often to I hear PA's

that I am learning from that Hawaii is far behind the mainland in its governing legislature for this great and much needed profession. As I intend to one day practice in Hawaii, this bill will help me in my future profession and will incentivize other students and PA's to practice in hawaii, filling the void left by a lack of other medical providers.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

-Torsten Durkan

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:38:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaiden Kelly	Kipuka o ke Ola	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Kaiden Kelly, MS, PA-C

Kipuka o ke Ola Native Hawaiian Rural Health Center

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Kaiden Kelly I am a Native Hawaiian physician assistant at Kipuka o ke Ola Native Hawaiian Rural Health Center in Kamuela and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, Mental Health, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age, along with our increasing population the demand for healthcare providers will increase exponentially.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii with the current licensure laws in place. As healthcare practitioners of the medical model, we undergo over 2,000 hours of didactic medical training alongside our physician counterparts, as well as over 2,000 hours of clinical rotations before graduation and licensure as a PA. We must register and pass the Physician Assistant National Certification Exam (PANCE) before initial licensure, as well as complete Continuing Medical Education credits to maintain our licensure in any jurisdiction of the United States.

To compare, our Nurse Practitioner colleagues are only required to complete 500 hours of clinical rotations, 1,500 hours of didactic training, and pass their respective national exam before obtaining licensure in the state of Hawaii. To renew their license, they are only required to complete 30 hours of continuing medical education with 8 of those hours focusing on pharmacotherapy. The quality of care provided by Nurse Practitioners are on par with that delivered by their Physician Assistant and Physician counterparts.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

Kaiden G. Kelly, MS, PA-C

Physician Assistant (License AMD-785)

Kipuka o ke Ola Native Hawaiian Rural Health Center

64-1035 Mamalahoa Hwy. Ste. F

Kamuela, HI 96743

(808) 885 - 5900 phone

(808) 885 - 6900 fax

kelly.koko@hawaiiantel.biz

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:19:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antonio Giannelli PA-C	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Antonio Peter Giannelli MSA, PA-C, DFAAPA

Distinguished Fellow, American Academy of Physician Assistants

President, Society of Physician Assistants in Rheumatology

PO Box 492

Dimondale, MI 48821

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Antonio Peter Giannelli, a Physician Assistant practicing clinical and research Rheumatology in Lansing Michigan. I stand in strong support of HB 935.

I've been a Physician Assistant for 42 years. In addition to my clinical practice I am also Associate Professor at Western Michigan University and Clinical Instructor at Michigan State University, working with both student Physician Assistants and as an educator of Physician residents who come through our Rheumatology practice. I've had the privilege of witnessing the birth of the Physician Assistant profession and the honor of helping to it to achieve the status it now enjoys within the national medical community. My years of clinical experience and the diversity of my professional career allows me to speak as witness to the evolution of the Physician Assistant profession, which now stands on the threshold of expansion in the wonderful State of Hawaii. I stand in support, and in hopeful expectation, that this will indeed be the case.

I have the privilege of working in the State of Michigan, which stands as the most progressive state for Physician Assistants in the country. Just a few short years ago, Michigan acknowledged the critical professional role that the Physician Assistant plays as part of a medical team, delivering high-quality healthcare in many different medical disciplines and specialties. Physician Assistants practicing in the State of Michigan no longer require a supervising physician, per Public Act 379. Upon graduation from an accredited Physician Assistant university-based program, all PAs must sit and pass the National Certifying exam administered by the NCCPA. Having achieved this status, the PA is licensed by the State and falls under the purview of the state's Physician medical review board. The Physician Assistant then enters into a "Practice Agreement" with their employer and together agree upon the scope of duties and practice the employer would like the Physician Assistant to perform. In many cases the Physician is the employer. The Physician Assistant then becomes part of a team made up of Physicians, other Physician Assistants and various healthcare professionals, working to provide high-quality care to the citizens of the State of Michigan.

Speaking on behalf of the specialty of Rheumatology, a specialty which deals with complicated autoimmune diseases and a variety of arthritic conditions, I'm able to see firsthand, throughout the country, the valuable role Physician Assistants play in delivering this type of care. I have no doubt that this is duplicated in all other medical specialties (i.e., Orthopedics, Neurology, Oncology), as well as Primary Care, throughout the country. Rheumatology demand for care, as with some other specialties, will reach crisis status within the next five years, as determined by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), in that five years from now the demand for Rheumatologic care will far exceed the number of rheumatologists able to provide that care. The American College of Rheumatology estimates the shortage of rheumatologists to be at least 1000 physicians. The ACR is currently in the process of recruiting and training Physician Assistants to work in close collaborative relationships with rheumatologists to help fill this need. As it pertains to the State of Hawaii, I am personally aware of at least one critical rheumatologic condition that plagues your state, that being the painful and

crippling condition of gout, with the significant deformities created when this is left unchecked. I'm also aware of the woeful shortage of rheumatologists needed to fill the gap in your state, some having to fly from island to island just to provide a modicum of relief to many patients in need. Physician Assistants stand ready to stand in the gap in your state to work side-by-side with the Physician profession in satisfying this need.

The Physician Assistant profession, since it's incursion, has not sought to work in an independent fashion, totally understanding their role and scope of practice within the medical community, and have always worked in a collaborative way with all Physicians who appreciate the value of what Physician Assistants bring to their practices. Physician Assistants are trained by Physicians, governed in each state by the Physician-run medical board, and work in close relationship with Physicians. This has been the hallmark of our profession and will continue to be so.

HB 935 modernizes the now antiquated HRS 453 in clarifying the scope and practice of PAs within the State of Hawaii to be more comparable at the national level. It will allow them the freedom to work in a collaborative team configuration with Physicians without the antiquated, restrictive burdens placed on them, often leading to their inability to become employed in a myriad of medical settings. The Physician Assistant is now one of the fastest growing professions and most sought-after medical careers by some of our brightest and most responsible young people.

Thank you for allowing me to pontificate on the value of the Physician Assistant profession. I stand ready to applaud the passing of HB 935 and look forward to the enhanced future that the citizens of the State of Hawaii will enjoy regarding the meeting of their healthcare needs.



HB-935

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 4:33:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:26:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Cheng	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: xxx PA-C

xxx Clinic/Hospital

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Jacqueline Cheng and I am a physician assistant at Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Cheng PA-C

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:49:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susanna Cheng	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: â€‹Chair John M. Mizuno

â€‹Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

â€‹Member of the Committee on Health

â€‹Chair Takashi Ohno

â€‹Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

â€‹Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Susanna Cheng, PA-C

â€‹The Emergency Group, The Queen's Medical Center

Re:â€‹HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

â€‹February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Susanna Cheng. I am a physician assistant at The Emergency Group, The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that are needed in Hawaii.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:10:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Swensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Jonathon Berliner
1561 Kanunu St APT 1507
Honolulu, HI 96814

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT OF HB935

My name is Jonathon Berliner and I'm writing as a community member and more specifically as a person (patient) who has been dealing with some major and serious medical challenges that include AIDS and cancer, with many ancillary medical problems as a result of the aforementioned medical conditions. I strongly support HB935, because this bill will modernize **physician assistant** practice laws here in Hawai'i.

Hawaii has a serious shortage of medical physicians, particularly medical specialty care such as oncology, infectious disease, primary care specialists, and many other medical care specialties. **Physicians Assistants (PA)** play an extremely vital role in the delivery of quality optimum primary medical care and they help increase positive medical health outcomes.

I was diagnosed with AIDS some years ago, and some 14 years ago diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. The past 7-8 years, I have received radiation and six different chemo regimens with many different side-effects. I receive comprehensive and quality care thanks to the **PA's**. PA's are the most important component of my medical care team. It is thanks to the PA's I see that I am able to be a productive member of society.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical care providers that provide quality, optimum, and affordable healthcare and work in a myriad of medical specialties. However, due to the limitations in the Hawaii law or state statute, there are significant challenges that prevent making the most use of PA's in Hawaii. PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. PAs help to bring down the cost of care and at the same time elevate quality of care.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. This will also help to alleviate the state's current physician shortage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Berliner

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Patricia Achay, PA-C, MSPA
Dr. Monica Scheel Dermatology

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Patricia Achay I am a physician assistant at Dr. Monica Scheel Dermatology in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:30:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brian panganiban	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Physician Assistant practice modernization in the state of Hawaii. With these proposed changes, Physician Assistants will be given the ability to provide better access to care to those in medical need in our state especially with a wide spread physician shortage.

I personally have practiced in the active US Army on the battlefield, and in multiple mainland states with already modernized PA laws. With my first hand experience, I have seen what these proposed changes can do to provide better access to medical care especially for the underserved.

Please support HB935. It is time to modernize Physician Assistant practice in Hawaii.

Respectfully,

Brian Panganiban, D.Sc, MPAS, PA-C

Captain, US Army (retired)

Trauma Surgery Physician Assistant

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:59:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Elliott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Kathleen Elliott, PA-C

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha, my name is Kathleen Elliott. I have been a physician assistant in Honolulu since 1988 and I strongly support HB935. This bill will update and improve physician assistant practice laws, and consequently health access. PA laws in Hawai'i have not been updated for decades and do not represent the current status of physician assistants. We are highly trained medical practitioners who have trained alongside medical students and medical residents to become skilled health care providers. Our current laws hinder our ability to practice medicine as we have been trained, and as PAs do nationwide.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you and aloha, Kathleen Elliott PA-C, Honolulu

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:20:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Jones, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT

As a physician in Hawai'i since 1988, I have worked with many PAs, physician assistants, and feel confident they can do their jobs as health care providers better if they were allowed more freedom in their role and if we were not so hampered by the current Hawai'i laws in being their "supervising physicians". They work collaboratively with physicians and need to be able to practice the excellent skills they have been trained to perform.

Please pass this bill. Sincerely, David R Jones, MD

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 10:45:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Heitzinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Jamie Heitzinger PA-C

Queens Hospital

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Jamie Heitzinger I am a physician assistant at Queens Hospital in the emergency department and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 11:19:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Palacios	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Christopher Palacios, PA-C

Aloha Kona Urgent Care

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Christopher Palacios. I am a physician assistant at Aloha Kona Urgent Care in Kailua-Kona, HI and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

As clinicians who evaluate, diagnose and treat patients, physician assistants play a vital role in medical field today. We are instrumental in granting healthcare access to areas in short supply of medical providers, such as Hawaii. Unfortunately, our state has the most ancient PA laws in the nation. It is time to do the residents and medical professionals of Hawaii a service by updating these laws to national standards. Supporting HB935 is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Date: February 3, 2019

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Claire L. Yoshida
Community Member / Voter

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Claire L. Yoshida. I am a community member, citizen and voter in the State of Hawaii. I have been the beneficiary of services from Physician Assistants and I strongly support HB935 because this bill will modernize Physician Assistant practice laws.

I believe that Physician Assistants need to be able to practice medicine to the fullest extent of their training and experience. Empowering Physician Assistants is one of the solutions to the growing shortage of doctors in our state. Physician Assistants work with doctors to provide quality medical services to their patients. More Physician Assistants with greater latitude to practice to the fullest extent of their training and experience will increase the quality of medical services to all the people in the State of Hawaii.

I believe it is important to pass HB935 so that Physician Assistants and their doctors / medical organizations can make decisions at the local level regarding how Physician Assistants will support doctors and their medical organizations. One example of the dated law is that doctors have to review and sign all charts written by Physician Assistants. My understanding, from doctors that I have talked to, is that this is cumbersome and not necessary.

Recently, I have had two total knee replacements. The surgeon did an excellent job and she was supported by several Physician Assistants. I saw a total of four Physician Assistants prior to and after my surgeries. The Physician Assistants were very knowledgeable and took the time to explain what my surgery would entail, what to expect pre-op and post-op. Having Physician Assistants assist the doctor allowed her more time to focus on doing the surgeries needed for her patients.

Physician Assistants are highly trained medical personnel that act as extensions to the doctor. I support HB 935 because it is a housekeeping bill which cleans up the language in the existing law and makes it possible for Physician Assistants to be even more effective in serving the medical needs for the people in the State of Hawaii.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:47:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Craft	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Lynn Craft, MS, PA-C

Straub Hospital

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Lynn Craft I am a physician assistant at Straub Hospital in Cardiovascular Surgery. I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. The specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs can be an affordable option for the 797 physician that

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

Lynn Craft, MS, PA-C

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:21:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Franklin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Natalie Franklin and I am a nurse practitioner at The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu, HI. I strongly support HB935 as modernization of physician assistant practice laws is greatly needed. The surgical advanced practice provider group I work with is composed of both physician assistants and nurse practitioners. Although we perform the same job and have the same patient care responsibilities, physician assistants have less autonomy and more practice limitations than nurse practitioners. PAs require more physician oversight which takes time away from the attending physician's other responsibilities.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:15:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Katahara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Patrick Katahara. I am a physician assistant at Queens Medical Center in Punchbowl and Ewa Beach. I strongly support HB 935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws. This will make a great im[pact in reducing the effects of the physican shortage and improve Hawaii's overall healthcare.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:22:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a physician assistant that has practiced in other states such as New York I feel that Hawaii let's needs desperate modernization of PA laws. Not only will this help PAs practice to the beat of their abilities but will help to address the shortage of health care providers in the state.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:02:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donald Traller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Donald Traller PA_C_____ I am a physician assistant at _Kauai Medical Clinic___ in _the field of diabetes care_ and I strongly support HB 935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:29:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Benjamin Taylor I am a physician assistant at TRIPLER Army Medical Center in Honolulu and I strongly support HB 935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi
Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Jill S Williams, MSHS, CTH, PA-C
HPMG Kaiser Kailua Clinic

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Jill Williams. I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente in Family Practice and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs are an affordable option for the state's current physician shortage.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely, Jill S Williams, MSHS, CTH, PA-C

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:54:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Duncan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Gary Duncan. I have been a PA-C since 1996. I have been working here in Hilo Hawaii for the past 4 years. Coming from a long career in Michigan I have observed that physician assistants have been underutilized in Hawaii in comparison. The underserved communities of hawaii could so much benefit from increasing the role and limiting the restrictions of physician assistants. HB 935 is a good start.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:45:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenda Ford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB935 is vitally necessary as it expands the scope of practice of physician assistants (PAs) allowing maximization of medical skills, allows use of the most modern medical technologies, reduces the amount of time for doctors to review and consult with PAs, reduces liability of doctors collaborating with PAs, provides medical access during this time of physician shortages, provides the potential for more PAs in rural areas which have even higher physician shortages, follows the national trend of increasing the PA's scope of practice, and does not cost the State of Hawaii any money. HB935 may encourage more physicians to mentor or use PAs which will help the physician's business as well as the entire population of Hawaii.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:46:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence Ford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We have a lack of physicians in our state. Especially in rural areas, health care is not up to acceptable standards in respect to number of doctors per population. Allowing Physican's Assistants to help provide many procedures will result in better medical care within our state.

Thank you for helping the public receive better health care.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:08:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chuck Flaherty	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Mizuno and Ohno and members of the Committee on Health and Committee on Interstate Commerce,

I am testifying in support of House Bill 935.

There is a critical shortage of physicians on the island of Hawai'i and, from conversations I've had with people around the state, on the other islands of the state of Hawai'i as well.

This physician shortage makes it difficult to have timely access to medical care, which often leads to delays in treatment and less than optimal health outcomes.

Physician assistants are able to do many of tasks and procedures that would otherwise be required of a physician. This allows physicians to not only see more patients, but to allow for a pre-determination of whether a patient needs to have more or less time with physician.

Mahalo,

Charles Flaherty

P O Box 922

Captain Cook HI 96704

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:49:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josh KELLER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Josh Keller I am a physician assistant at Tripler in Urology and I strongly support HB 935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:08:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:42:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Abby Gardner	Hawaii PA Association	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Member of the Committee on Health

Chair Takashi Ohno

Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

Members of the Committee on Intrastate Commerce

From: Abby Gardner PA-C

Kaiser Clinic/Hospital

Re: HB935, Relating to Health, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

February 5, 2019 at 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Abby Gardner I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente in dermatology and I strongly support HB935, this bill will modernize physician assistant practice laws.

Hawaii has a physician shortage of 797 physicians. Specialties most affected statewide include Primary Care, Infectious Disease, Colorectal Surgery, Neurosurgery, Rheumatology, and Endocrinology. 17.8% of Hawaii's residents are 65 years old and older and their healthcare needs will increase with age.

Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained and skilled medical providers that provide quality and affordable healthcare. PAs work in many medical specialties including all of the aforementioned. However, it is difficult to be or to use a PA in Hawaii.

PAs do not have their own statute in Hawaii. PAs were first added to HRS 453 in the 1970s. As it pertains to PAs, HRS 453 Medicine and Surgery in its current status is antiquated, restrictive, and creates an administrative burden for physicians and medical facilities to utilize PAs. Often, physicians or hospitals will not hire qualified PAs simply due to the State laws and administrative rules.

Since its creation in 1967, the PA profession has grown and matured by leaps and bounds to now the #3 job overall in the US and #1 in Healthcare according to 2019 U.S. News 100 Best Jobs. <https://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs> PAs are an affordable option for the state's current physician shortage.

HB935 modernizes HRS 453 to clarify the scope and practice of PAs to what is comparable on a national level. It continues to allow PAs to collaborate with, consult with, and refer to physicians and other members of healthcare team as indicated by patient's condition and standard of care. It will allow the manner of collaboration between physician assistant and physician to be determined at the practice level with a practice agreement rather than State level. This will relieve the administrative burden and allow further utilization of PAs and increase access to care. PAs are not seeking independent practice – we seek to strengthen our collaborative relationships and individualize it at the practice level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB935.

Sincerely,

Abby Gardner, PA-C

LATE

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 8:30 AM
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

House Committee on Intrastate Commerce

To: Representative Takashi Ono, Chair
Representative Dale Kobayashi, Vice Chair

From: Kenneth Robbins, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Hawaii Pacific Health

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 935
Relating to Health**

My name is Kenneth Robbins, MD. I am the Chief Medical Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of HB 935 which clarifies the scope and practice of physician assistants. **We also offer an amendment.**

The 2018 Annual Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Report indicates that the current physician shortage has increased from 769 in 2017 to 797 in 2018. In the case of primary care physicians, the shortage is calculated to be 263 physicians. This shortfall is projected to worsen with the increased demand for health care from an aging population and the retirement of an aging physician population creating access issues on Oahu and the neighbor islands.

Hawai'i Pacific Health is a proponent of team based care and openly recruits physician assistants to work in collaboration with our physicians. Utilization of physician assistants provides a viable option to managing both the growing physician shortage and the growing medical demands of the State's aging population. Physician assistants are skilled health care providers trained to take medical histories, perform physical examinations, order and interpret laboratory tests, diagnose illness, develop and manage

treatment plans, prescribe medications, and assist in surgery. Thus, they offer an effective and efficient method of delivering healthcare to our community.

While it appears to be assumed in the measure, we request clarifying language to make it explicit that a collaborative agreement must exist between the physician assistant and a licensed physician.

We respectfully request the following amendment to Section 3, subparagraph (c) on page 13 at line 20:

(c) A physician practice or facility [~~may~~] **shall** establish terms of an agreement of collaboration to define the manner and degree of collaboration that is appropriate in rendering patient care at the practice level or facility level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 4:28:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Santo Di Martino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-935

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:26:51 AM
Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elisa Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: