

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2130**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2445
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2445
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to expand the
authorized scope of practice for physician assistants.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Hawaii
Medical Board, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, The Queen's Health
Systems, Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants, Occupational
Therapy Association of Hawaii, and thirty individuals. Your
Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from
one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure
from the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Your Committee finds that the State faces a critical
physician shortage, which has resulted in an increase in physician
assistant practice throughout the State. Despite the increase in
the number of physician assistants, Hawaii has some of the most
restrictive physician assistant practice laws in the country, and
physician assistants are unable to perform services within their
training and education due to these restrictive laws. This
measure ensures greater access to health care for Hawaii
residents, especially those who reside on the neighbor islands



where the need is greatest, by expanding physician assistants' authorized scope of practice.

Your Committee acknowledges the testimony of the Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants, which noted that under existing law, physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both physical and speech therapies but not for occupational therapy. Authorizing physician assistants to sign occupational therapy orders ensures that patient access to occupational therapy is timely.

Therefore, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding a provision that authorizes physician assistants to sign occupational therapy orders and plans of care;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2445, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2445, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



JARRETT KEOHOKALO, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes
 Committee on Health
 HTH**

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2449	Committee Referral: HTH, CPN	Date: 2-2-2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (VC)	✓			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Rosalyn H. Baker</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes