

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
and
House Committee on Legislative Management
Wednesday, March 29, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.C.R. 100, REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS
REGARDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE
REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

Chair Nakashima, Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing (Board). The Board offers comments on this measure as it pertains to advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and defers to the Hawaii Medical Board regarding physician assistants (PA).

The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to request that the Auditor conduct an analysis of the APRN's and PA's scope of practice to clearly distinguish the scope of practice of these professions to better complement the work of physicians.

This measure requests that the Auditor analyze whether the scope of practice for APRNs and PAs should be expanded in certain areas of medical care including:

- (1) School-based health services;
- (2) Medical care for minors related to human immunodeficiency virus;
- (3) Abortion care;
- (4) The records review process for prescriptions of controlled substances;
- (5) Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments waived tests; and
- (6) Medical aid in dying

For the Committee's information, the scope of practice for APRNs is established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 457 and Hawaii Administrative Rules chapter 16-89, and other statutes, which already include these practices under the APRNs scope of practice.

To re-evaluate the practices and possibly remove them would be taking a step backward, adversely affecting the provision of health care for residents of this State. There is no substantive evidence that APRNs and PAs are not currently providing safe care for their patients based on the education and training.

For the Committee's information, similar resolutions were introduced during the 2021 and 2022 Legislative Sessions:

- H.R. 100, H.D.1 (2021) Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct an Analysis of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants.
- H.R. 99 (2021) Requesting the Convening of a Working Group to Determine the Gaps in Access to Health Care and the Potential Role Advanced Practice Registered Nurses May Play in Addressing These Gaps.
- H.C.R. 123, H.D. 1, S.D. 2 (2021) Requesting the University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene to Conduct an Analysis of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.
- H.R. 139, H.D. 1 (2022) Requesting the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to Conduct an Analysis Regarding the Scopes of Practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants.

To the Board's knowledge, no analysis was conducted by the Legislative Reference Bureau or the University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. Although not required to do so, the Hawaii State Center for Nursing (Center) held three meetings responding to these resolutions. The Board defers to the Center for further information regarding these meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
and
House Committee on Legislative Management
Wednesday, March 29, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.C.R. 100, REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF
ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.**

Chair Nakashima, Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this resolution and limits its comments to the practice for physician assistants.

The purposes of this resolution are to request that the Auditor: (1) conduct an analysis regarding the scope of practice for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants; (2) analyze whether each scope of practice should be expanded in certain areas of medical care and services, including: (a) school-based health services; (b) medical care for minors related to human immunodeficiency virus; (c) abortion care; (d) the records review process for prescriptions of controlled substances; (e) Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments waived tests; and (f) medical aid in dying; (3) include in the analysis a comparison to other jurisdictions and whether those jurisdictions allow similar expanded scopes of practice; and (4) submit a report of the findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024.

The Board appreciates the intent of this measure, but finds it unnecessary as physician assistants may provide many of the services outlined in this measure, provided they are authorized to do so by their Hawaii-licensed supervising physician. For the Committee's information, a physician assistants scope of practice is set forth in Hawaii Administrative Rules section 16-85-49.1, while not delineated, a physician assistant, may perform all practice-related activities as established in writing by the employer. Medical services rendered by physician assistants may include, but are not

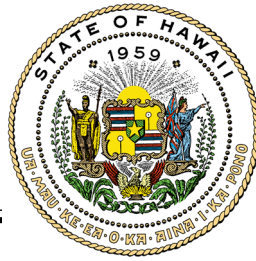
Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

H.C.R. 100

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limited, to ordering, interpreting, or performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, formulating a diagnosis, developing and implementing a treatment plan, assisting in surgery, and making appropriate referrals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

**H.C.R. NO. 100 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS
REGARDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE
REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

**H.R. NO. 107 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS
REGARDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE
REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

The Office of the Auditor offers comments on H.C.R. No. 100 and H.R. No. 107, which request the Auditor conduct an analysis regarding the scope of practice for advance practice registered nurses and physician assistants. In addition, the resolution requests the Auditor to analyze whether the scope of practice should be expanded in areas of medical care and services, including: (1) school-based health services, (2) medical care for minors related to human immunodeficiency virus, (3) abortion care, (4) the records review process for prescription of controlled substances, (5) clinical laboratory improvement amendments waived tests, and (6) medical aid in dying.

The Office of the Auditor conducts evaluations and analyses of new regulatory measures being considered for enactment pursuant to Section 26H-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). For analyses conducted in accordance with Section 26H, HRS, the office is required to identify the probable effects of a regulatory measure and assess if the regulation is consistent with policies set forth in Section 26H-2, HRS. We note the policy we use to assess regulatory measures does not determine scope of practice but analyzes the effect of a proposed regulation on the health, safety, or welfare of consumers.

The Office of the Auditor does not have the expertise to determine the scope of practice or an expansion of the scope of practice for advance practice registered nurses and physician assistants. We believe the Hawai'i Medical Board and the Board of Nursing have the expertise and are the appropriate regulating bodies to analyze and determine scope of practice of these professions.

Thank you for considering our testimony related to H.C.R. No. 100 and H.R. No. 107.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
and
Committee on Legislative Management
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 329 and via Videoconference
by
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

Comments on H.C.R. 100 / H.R. 107

Chairs Nakashima and Nakamura, Vice Chairs Sayama and Morikawa, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.C.R. 100 / H.R. 107 with comments.

This resolution finds that there is a physician shortage and that advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and physician assistants (PA) are vital health care professionals who are capable of filling in some of the gaps in access to health care in the state. In addition, the resolution finds that there have been various measures in the past related to APRN and PA practice and that there is a need to clearly distinguish the scope of practice of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants and determine the appropriate scope of practice for each of these professions in the state to better complement the work of physicians.

Through Act 46, SLH 2014, Hawai'i became the 8th state in the nation to adopt the national best practices for APRN regulation, the APRN Consensus Model. Under the APRN Consensus Model, all APRNs need to maintain national certification. To assist in clarifying the currently established APRN scope of practice as defined by Chapter 457 the Nurse Practice Act, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing produced two guidance documents and worked collaboratively with the Hawai'i Board of Nursing and the Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses on a third. These guidance documents are:

- [How to Start Practicing as an APRN](#) (March 2023)
- [The Four APRN Roles](#) (July 2022, Updated March 2023)
- [Hawai'i APRN Scope of Practice Decision Making Flowchart](#) (12/2022, with BON and HAPN)

In response to the resolution put forward last year, HR 139, SLH 2022, as well as a similar resolution, HR 99, SLH 2021, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing launched the **Healthcare Provider Barriers to Practice Law Review Task Group**.

This task group, which is a group of interprofessional healthcare providers including APRNs, PAs, physicians, pharmacists, and psychologists and includes the board of

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development, promotes a diverse workforce, and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

nursing, is reviewing healthcare-related Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) as compared to each profession's own scope of practice as established in state law (i.e. practice acts) to assess and recommend if HRS amendments are needed in order to improve access to care. Secondly, this group will develop a communication plan about what the scopes of practice are for each profession and how the removal of certain barriers may improve access to healthcare, statewide (examples may include case studies, citation of literature/research findings, etc). The intended outcome is to recommend statute revision to align healthcare-related HRS with established scope of practice for recognized healthcare providers in Hawai'i. The intended effect of these statute changes is to improve access to healthcare provided by highly trained, qualified and safe licensed healthcare professionals for Hawai'i residents.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing believes that between improving understanding of the established scope of practice as defined in Chapter 457, which aligns with the national standard for APRN regulation, and improving the alignment of laws outside of the nurse practice act to ensure that the whole regulatory and legal environment as it relates to healthcare, there will be improvements in access to healthcare in this state. The work of the Task Group is supporting the work needed to identify laws outside of the practice acts that interfere with a profession's ability to practice to their established scope, and therefore impede access to care by those professionals. Therefore, the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing feels the scope of practice review is underway.

Thank you for your consideration of the considerable work efforts Hawai'i State Center for Nursing has achieved or is leading.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is that through collaborative partnerships, the Center provides accurate nursing workforce data for planning, disseminates nursing knowledge to support excellence in practice and leadership development, promotes a diverse workforce, and advocates for sound health policy to serve the changing health care needs of the people of Hawai'i.

How to Start Practicing as an APRN in Hawai'i



National Certification

Through Act 46, SLH 2014, Hawai'i became the 8th state in the nation to adopt the national best practices for APRN regulation, the APRN Consensus Model. Whether you are an NP, CNM, CRNA or CNS, all APRNs need to maintain national certification. You can also add on certifications, but be sure to always keep a primary certification in good standing. See the [Four APRN Roles](#) and [APRN Consensus Model](#) for more information.



Licenses

All APRNs need an RN and APRN license issued by the [Hawaii Board of Nursing \(BON\)](#). If you plan to prescribe, ensure you select "prescriptive authority" on your application.



National Provider Identifier (NPI)

The NPI is a unique identifier that is used for insurance credentialing and other purposes. Every APRN needs one.



Hawaii Narcotics Enforcement Division (NED) & Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

All APRNs who prescribe need an oral code from NED. You need to email NED to request an oral code to call in prescriptions in Hawaii. APRNs who prescribe controlled substances also need to register with the [DEA](#) and Hawaii NED. You may need to register and use the Hawaii Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (HI-PDMP), visit [NED](#) for more information.



Liability Insurance

Protecting yourself is an important part of practice. Ensure you are covered by your employer or purchase a plan yourself.

The Four APRN Roles

What is an APRN? - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

Scope of Practice includes:

- Assess, diagnose, develop a care plan, refer for care, and patient management
- May bill for services
- May provide primary, acute, or critical care depending on specialty certification

APRNs all have:

- Master's or Doctorate in Nursing with APRN emphasis
- National Certification in APRN specialty
- Registered Nurse (RN) and APRN license

APRNs may have:

- Prescriptive Authority
- Qualifications to educate future APRNs



Nurse Practitioner (NP)

Patient populations include:

- Adult-Gerontology
- Advanced Oncology
- Emergency
- Family
- Neonatal
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Across the Lifespan
- Women's Health



Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

Patient populations include:

- Advanced Oncology
- Adult-Gerontology
- Adult Psychiatric-Mental Health
- Child-Adolescent Psychiatric-Mental Health
- Pediatrics



Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)

Focuses on women's reproductive health and the pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, and neonatal periods



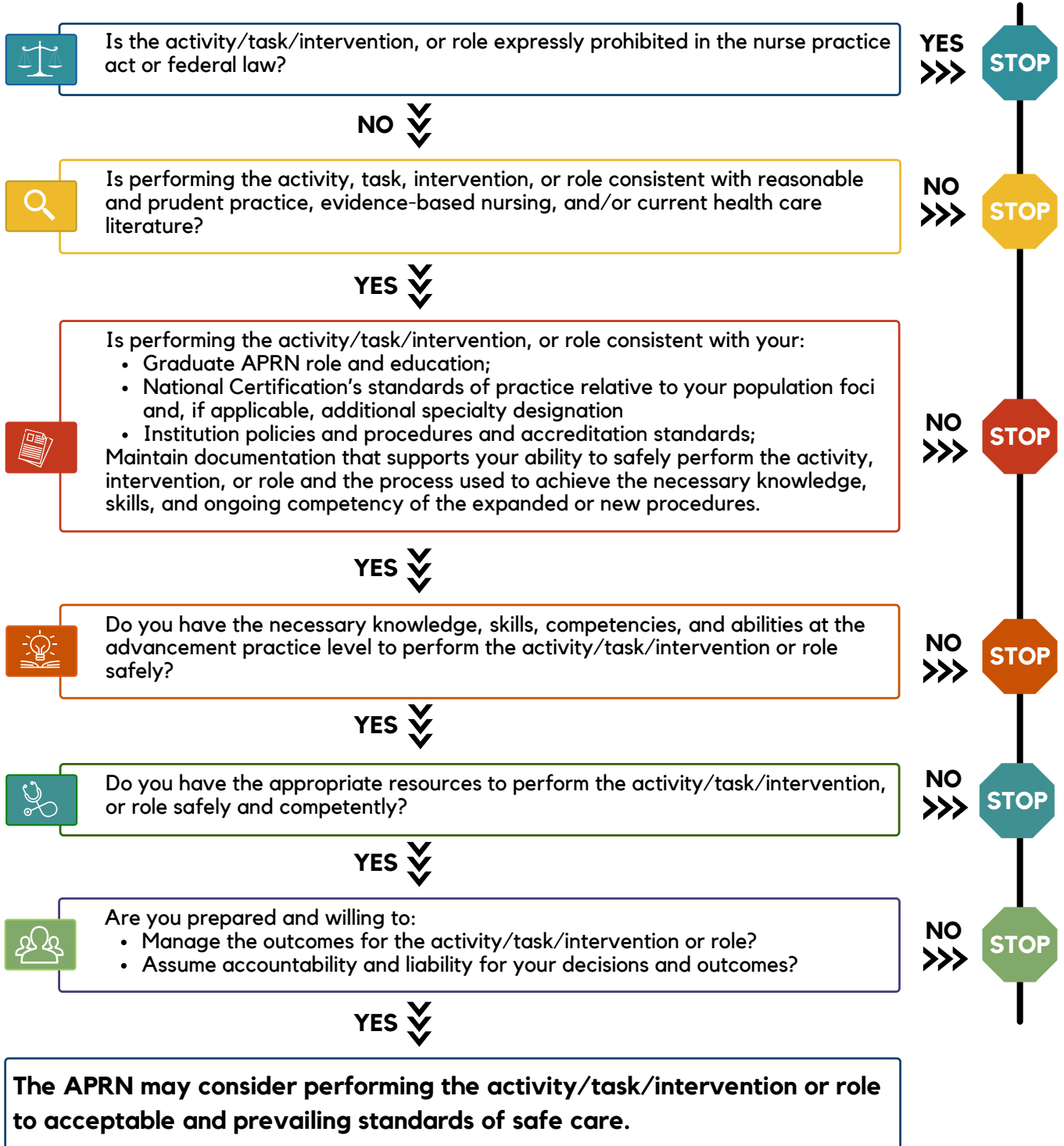
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)

Provides anesthesia, perioperative care and acute and chronic pain management across the lifespan.

Hawai'i APRN Scope of Practice

Decision Making Flow Chart

Identify, describe, or clarify the activity/task/intervention, or role under consideration.



Hawaii State Board of Nursing

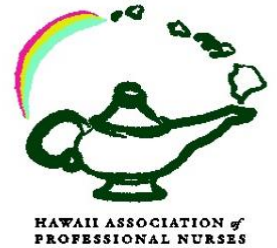


Resources:

Hawai'i Board of Nursing <http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/nursing/>
 Nursing laws and rules: http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/nursing/statute_rules/
 *NCSBN Consensus Model <https://www.ncsbn.org/aprn-consensus.htm>
 *Hawai'i aligned it's laws and rules to the APRN Consensus model in 2014.

Please be advised that this decision-making framework or algorithm is being provided as a guidance when the need arises to determine the APRN's scope of practice. The decision-making framework was developed in accordance with Chapters HRS 457 and HAR 89 and is not intended to address the appropriateness of the use of specific procedures in any particular work setting or to grant permission to implement specific procedures in any particular work setting.

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



To: The Honorable Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce; Representative Nadine Nakamura, Chair of the House Committee on Legislative Management

From: Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)

Subject: HCR100/HR107 - REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS REGARDING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Hearing: March 29, 2023 at 2pm

Aloha Representative Nakashima, Chair; Representative Sayama, Vice Chair; and Representative Nakamura, Chair; Representative Morikawa, Vice Chair; and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HCR100/HR107, which requests the state auditor to conduct an analysis for the scope of practice of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants. HAPN is in **OPPOSITION** of this resolution. HAPN has always been an advocate of improved access to care, and we believe that a review of this nature should be conducted with individuals with expertise in this area.

HAPN recognizes the House's desire to create an omnibus legislative effort to complete this review in the past several years. With the previous year's resolution effort, there were appropriate stakeholders named in the resolution to review these issues. At this time, HAPN is working with a multidisciplinary group of providers, organized by the Hawaii State Center for Nursing, to include APRNs, PAs, physicians, psychologists, and pharmacists to review the Hawaii Revised Statutes. At this time we have reviewed 71 of 503 HRS that mention "physician" or "doctor" within the statute. This is a long process and this is exactly what these resolutions are asking for. We are meeting monthly and we are doing the work.

Last session the state auditor stated in their testimony that this review was "beyond our expertise" and stated "...the boards that regulate physicians and nurses, and the Legislative Reference Bureau may be better equipped to do the study". The opposition (mostly by APRNs) submitted in testimony echoed these statements - the auditor does not have the expertise in this area and it should be up to the boards for APRNs (Nursing) and PAs (Medical) to assist in this review.

Hawaii's APRNs do not compliment the work of physicians, we assess the needs of our communities and respond by doing what we can to meet those needs. Physicians are leaving their practices in Hawaii. Several reasons include retirement and Hawaii's inability to retain or recruit replacement physicians. Hawaii's APRNs have been, and are still, meeting this significant healthcare need. We have become innovative in finding ways to assess our communities and meet this need head on while continuing to provide excellent care for our patients. At a time when the Covid pandemic has made healthcare needs greater than ever, it was APRNs who stepped up and stepped in. APRNs took care of those who lost their private

health insurance because of the pandemic and had to use Quest. Hawaii has improved access to care in many circumstances; however, work still needs to be done to improve access further and ensure continued access to patient care, especially in rural areas¹.

Hawaii's APRNs continue to align with the national standard of APRN scope of practice with legislation enacted in 2009. Our scope of practice is already clearly defined. We continue to abide by these national standards today. These laws and rules provide clear guidance and structure that enables APRNs to provide patient care pursuant to education, national certification, and additional training that the APRN completes to ensure continued competency and lifelong learning. Hawaii is a full-practice authority state and APRN scope of practice is clearly delineated in [HRS 457](#) as: "The scope of an advanced practice registered nurse includes but is not limited to advanced assessment and the diagnosis, prescription, selection, and administration of therapeutic measures including over the counter drugs, legend drugs, and controlled substances within the advanced practice registered nurse's role and specialty-appropriate education and certification." The Hawaii Board of Nursing published a document called "Hawaii APRN Scope of Practice, an algorithm to help organizations, legislators, and APRNs to better understand how to determine appropriate scope of practice.

<https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/files/2022/12/APRN-Decision-Making-Flow-Chart-2.pdf>

It is difficult to compare the practices of APRNs throughout our country as there are many differences in APRN scope throughout. All states in comparison would need to have an established full practice authority and, even then, these laws or rules may differ. Currently, 53% of states authorize full practice authority for APRNs². The National Council of State Legislators has a validated comparison across the nation, and across professions, which is often referred to. This resource is located at ScopeofPracticePolicy.org and ". . .provides policymakers with information on laws that govern the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dental hygienists and dental therapists across the country." This website also tracks scope of practice bills in all 50 states.

Community organizations and those who can identify a healthcare need have asked the State Legislature to step in to review these barriers to examine the possibility of APRNs to fill these needs. Statutes continue to remain that refer to "physician specific" language that may have been in place before APRNs were granted full practice authority.

HAPN's mission, to be the voice of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Hawaii, has been the guiding force that propelled us to spearhead the advancement of patients' access to healthcare as well as supporting the recognition of the scope of practice for APRNs in Hawaii which led us to full practice authority. We have played an important role to improve the physical and mental health of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the perspective of HAPN with your committee. Thank you for your enduring support of the nursing profession in the Aloha State.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jeremy Creekmore, APRN
HAPN President

Dr. Bradley Kuo, APRN
HAPN Legislative Committee, Chair
HAPN Past President

1. Schorn MN, Myers C, Barroso J, et al. Results of a National Survey: Ongoing Barriers to APRN Practice in the United States. Policy, Politics, & Nursing Practice. February 2022. doi:10.1177/15271544221076524

2. American Association of Nurse Practitioners. "State Practice Environment." American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Accessed March 22, 2022. <https://www.aanp.org/advocacy/state/state-practice-environment>.

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Legislative Management

HEARING: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 2:00 PM

PLACE: Room 329 and via Videoconference

Comments on H.C.R 100/H.R.107

By Hawai'i – American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA)



Chairs Nakashima and Nakamura, Vice Chairs Sayama and Morikawa, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on H.C.R. 100 / H.R. 107 with comments that support the use of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing's (HSCN) present Practice Law Review Task Group work in lieu of the state auditor conducting a scope of practice analysis.

The Hawai'i- American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA), speaks for over 17,000 Registered Nurses (RNs) in Hawai'i who care for patients every day in our state. We support the nursing profession through the American Nurses Association professional standards of practice and empower Hawai'i RNs to advocate for the improvement of the healthcare systems where we live and work.

H.C.R 100/H.R 107 is requesting the state auditor conduct an analysis regarding the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs). The Hawai'i-ANA is advocating that in lieu of a auditor analysis, that the present work of the Hawaii HSCN Healthcare Provider Task Group," The Healthcare Provider Barriers to Practice Law Review Task Group" analysis be used to guide recommendations for future statute revisions to remove present scope of practice barriers for APRNs and PAs.

The HSCN has put forth unprecedented work in response to the physician shortage and the need for advanced practice nurses (APRNs) to fill many of the gaps in access to health care . For example, to assist in clarifying the currently established APRN scope of practice as defined by Chapter 457, the Nurse Practice Act, the HSCN produced two guidance documents and worked collaboratively with the Hawaii Board of Nursing and the Hawaii Association of professional Nurses on a third document to accelerate APRN practice rapidly to fill in Hawaii's healthcare needs.

In response to last year's HR139, SLH 2022 as well as resolution HR99, SLH 2021, the HSCN launched the aforementioned Healthcare Providers Barriers to Practice Law Review Task Group. The task group, which is a group of interprofessional healthcare providers including APRNs, PAs, physicians, pharmacists, and psychologists and includes the board of nursing, is reviewing healthcare-related Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) as compared to each profession's own scope of practice as established in state law (i.e. practice acts) to assess and recommend if HRS amendments are needed in order to improve access to care. Secondly, this group will develop a communication plan about what the scopes of practice are for each profession and how the

removal of certain barriers may improve access to healthcare, statewide (examples may include case studies, citation of literature/research findings, etc). The intended outcome is to recommend statute revision to align healthcare-related HRS with established scope of practice for recognized healthcare providers in Hawai'i. The intended effect of these statute changes is to improve access to healthcare provided by highly trained, qualified and safe licensed healthcare professionals for Hawai'i residents.

Hawai'i-ANA respectfully requests you use the present scope of practice review already underway by the HSCN as this will prevent duplication of efforts and establish the intended resolution outcomes in the same time frame if not sooner, since this work is already underway. Hawaii ANA believes the work of the HSCN task force will provide the much needed information that identifies laws outside of the practice acts that interfere with the professions' ability to practice their established scope to ultimately reduce gaps and poor access to healthcare.

Hawai'i-ANA. thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i, in ensuring access to high-quality health care by our state's interprofessional healthcare team.

Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:

President: Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch, DNP, CCHN, FAAN, president@hawaii-ana.org

Executive Director: Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN, FNP-BC executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org

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TO: Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and
Committee on Legislative Management

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

And

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 329 & Videoconference State Capitol

Re: Comments on HCR100/HR107

Dear Chairs Nakashima, Nakamura and Vice Chairs Sayama, Morikawa, and Committee Members, thank you for this opportunity to testify on HCR100/HR107.

This resolution finds that there is a physician shortage and that advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and physician assistants (PA) are vital health care professionals who, capable of filling in gaps in access to health care in the state. In addition, this resolution finds that there have been various measures in the past related to APRN and PA practice and that there is a need to clearly distinguish the scope of practice of APRNs and PAs to determine the appropriate scope of practice for each of these professions in the state, to better complement the work of physicians.

HAPA is the Hawai'i state chapter of The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). HAPA is committed to advocating on behalf of Hawai'i PAs as invaluable members of healthcare delivery teams, advancing the PA profession in the state of Hawai'i, and ensuring access to high-quality health care for our Hawai'i communities.



The PA profession was created by physicians in the 1960s to relieve the healthcare provider shortage that the U.S. was enduring at the time. PAs continue to play a vital role on healthcare delivery teams and help to fulfill unmet healthcare needs throughout our island communities.

PAs are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PA training programs typically require thousands of hours of prior clinical care experience before matriculation is even considered. PAs are highly skilled clinicians who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and perform medical interventions and procedures. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty. PAs are authorized by the Affordable Care Act, along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care provider (PCP) for their patients.

The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is the sole national certifying organization for PAs in the United States. To maintain board certification, PAs must recertify every ten years by passing a national certification exam that evaluates comprehensive medical knowledge and clinical reasoning. PAs must also complete 100 hours of continuing medical education (CME) every two years to maintain national certification.

In Hawai'i, PAs are regulated by the Hawai'i Medical Board in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 453. PAs are required to maintain current state licensure to practice in Hawai'i.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, national expected job growth for the PA profession in the U.S. is 31% in the next ten years. However, **according to the Hawai'i Professional Vocational & Licensing division, licensed PAs practicing in Hawai'i has grown by an astounding 66% over the past five years. Despite this notable professional growth, Hawai'i still maintains a low number of PAs in the healthcare workforce with only 0.3% of the over 148,000 certified PAs in the nation licensed in Hawai'i.**



HAPA appreciates the Hawai'i Medical Board's support and the legislature's passage of SB1406 SD1 HD2 (HSCR 1602) (Act 181) in 2019, which authorized physicians or physicians' groups who supervise PAs to develop practice-specific requirements for medical record review, as well as HB1575 HD2 SD2 (Act 293) in 2022, which streamlined the chart review process for PA-issued controlled substances and authorized PAs to sign certain health-related documents, including, but not limited to Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and disability forms. However, despite these successes, PA scope or practice remains unnecessarily restricted in Hawai'i, when compared to other states in the union. As a result, PAs are reluctant to join the healthcare workforce in our state, where their much-needed skills and training can support caring for our communities. Now that Hawai'i has a satellite-based PA training program in Kona and will soon have the locally derived Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) PA training program, it's imperative that we align PA scope of practice in Hawai'i with national standards, to ensure retention of our PAs.

In response to the resolution put forward last year, HR139, SLH2022, as well as similar resolution, HR99, SLH2021, **HAPA began collaborating with the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing on the Healthcare Provider Barriers to Practice Law Review Task Group.**

The work of the Task Group involves identifying barriers that interfere with a profession's ability to practice to their established scope, and therefore impede access to care by those professionals.

This task group, which is a group of interprofessional healthcare providers including APRNs, PAs, physicians, pharmacists, and psychologists and includes the board of nursing, is reviewing healthcare-related Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) as compared to each profession's own scope of practice as established in state law (i.e. practice acts) to assess and recommend if HRS amendments are needed in order to improve access to care. Secondly, this group will develop a communication plan about what the scopes of practice are for each profession and how the removal of certain barriers may improve access to healthcare, statewide (examples may include case studies, citation of literature/research findings, etc). The intended outcome is to recommend statute revision to align



healthcare-related HRS with established scope of practice for recognized healthcare providers in Hawai'i. The intended effect of these statute changes is to improve access to healthcare provided by highly trained, qualified, and safe licensed healthcare professionals for Hawai'i residents.

HAPA is committed to the work being performed by the Task Group and acknowledges that an APRN and PA scope of practice review is currently underway. Furthermore, HAPA believes that a thorough understanding of the PA profession in Hawai'i is much needed, and that a review of PA scope of practice in other jurisdictions will prove revealing.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Denny, MSPA, PA-C
Legislative Liaison
Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA)

HCR-100

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 12:47:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Novak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Re: HCR 100 / HR 107

I wish to state that HCR 100 and HR 107 as written are not appropriate as the Auditor does not have the expertise to make judgments on clinical practice. The State agency which is in a position to assess and judge clinical practice is the Board of Nursing.

Unless these bills are amended to change the responsible agency from Auditor to Board of Nursing, these bills should not pass.

Allen Novak

HCR-100

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 9:23:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives.

At the last session, the state auditor stated it was beyond their expertise to review the scope of practice for APRNs and PAs. They also stated regulatory boards such as the board of nursing and board of Medicine to review scopes of practice for APRNs and PAs. As a Registered Nurse since 1992 and an APRN since 2011, I oppose having the state auditor review the scope of practice for APRNs and PAs. An office that does not have expertise in the area of APRN and PA scope of practice should not be completing the review. As an APRN, I see this as an attempt to place restrictions on my scope of practice. APRNs have had Full Practice Authority for many years and restrictions to our scope of practice will limit access to care for the people of Hawaii who already have access issues due to shortages in the healthcare workforce. I ask that you reconsider who should be completing this review.

Mahalo for your time.

HCR-100

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:45:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Boland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state auditor lacks the expertises to review highly technical APRN scope of practice. The Hawaii Board of Nursing is the mandated agency to regulate such scope based on national trends and local nursing expertise.