

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to streamline the records review process for physician assistants by including review of physician assistants' prescriptions for controlled substances.

The Board supports this bill as it alleviates the overly burdensome administrative requirement of having a supervising physician review all medical records that contain written orders or prescriptions for controlled substances. The Board recognizes the important role physician assistants have in healthcare and believes this bill is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

February 2, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: SB 2442, Related to Physician Assistants

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2442, which streamlines the records review process for physician assistants by including review of physician assistants' prescriptions for controlled substances.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 2442.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is Hawai'i's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 265,000 members. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i believes that physician assistants should be permitted to practice at the top of their training, education and experience. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i appreciates the contributions made by licensed 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 650 physicians and licensed medical providers, including over 80 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, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Orthopedics, Cardiology, Oncology, Nephrology, Occupational Medicine, Vascular, General and Cardiothoracic Surgery, Infectious Disease, Radiology, Urology and Otolaryngology (ears, nose and throat).

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports SB 2442 because it removes barriers for the practice of physician assistants and ensures greater access to health care for Hawai'i residents, especially those who reside on the neighbor islands where need is greatest. As of 2021, Maui and the island of Hawai'i each needed to increase their number of care providers by a staggering 40%, Kauai by 26%, and Oahu by 15%. Yet since 2016 the number of physician assistants has increased by 105% on the island of Hawai'i, 114% on Kauai, and 35% Maui. Despite their increasing numbers, physician assistants are still not able to meet patients' care needs- not because they are not available, not because they do not have the appropriate training, but because Hawai'i has some of

the most restrictive physician assistant practice laws in the country. SB 2442 removes some of those restrictions and brings Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice into better alignment with national practices and practicing to the top of their scope.

SB 2442 builds on the Legislature's previous successes modernizing physician assistants' practice in Hawai'i. In 2019, the Legislature passed Act 181, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2019, modernizing physician assistant chart reviews by supervising physicians, which has successfully lowered the administrative burdens on supervisory physicians without compromising patient care. SB 2442 expands the review structure established in 2019 to include physician assistant prescribed controlled substances. Just as in 2019, we expect this change will continue to prioritize patient care while significantly decreasing supervising physicians' administrative burden.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.



To: Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Place: Via Videoconference
Re: SB 2442, Related to Physician Assistants

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2442, which streamlines the records review process for physician assistants by including review of physician assistants' prescriptions for controlled substances.

Hawai`i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 2442

HAPA is the Hawai`i state chapter of The American Academy of Physician Assistants. According to the 2021 annual report on findings from the Hawai`i physician workforce assessment report, Hawai`i has an unmet need for 732 full time physicians across the state with neighbor island counties facing the most severe shortages.

Paradoxically, physician assistant practice in Hawai`i has grown by 36% over the past five years. This is most noticeable on some of the neighbor islands, where physician assistant presence has grown over 100%.

Notably, physician assistants are one of the three health care professionals (along with physicians and nurse practitioners) authorized by the Affordable Care Act to serve as primary care provider (PCP).

Physician assistants already play an integral role in filling our well-known provider shortage gaps in Hawai`i, but state restrictions on physician assistant practice, some of the toughest in the nation, limit physician assistants from practicing medicine to their highest ability.

HAPA appreciates the Legislature's passage of Act 181, Session Laws of Hawai`i 2019, which was a monumental bill that modernized physician assistant chart review by collaborating physicians. This has successfully lowered administrative burden for physicians, without compromising patient care. SB 2442 expands the review structure established in 2019 to include physician assistant prescribed controlled substances. Like 2019, we expect this change will continue to prioritize patient care while significantly decreasing physician administrative burden.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Hawai`i Academy of Physician Assistants

SB-2442

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:55:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bernard Sr Robinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Even though I am a licensed physician and member of the Hawaii Medical Association, my testimony is submitted as a private citizen. I have served on the Hawaii Board of Medical Examiners when physician assistants and nurse practitioners first applied for prescription writing privileges. I also hired and trained the first few Hawaii neurosurgical physician assistants beginning in 1984. In those days, there was considerable resistance to the use of any physician extenders. We had physician shortages then that raised comparable practical concerns relative to the limited access of Hawaii citizens to high quality care. Back then, it was clear physician extenders were quite helpful but they could not be used to replace physicians. As a physician extender friendly professional, I know that it is a mistake for Hawaii, the healthcare state, to adopt the false narrative that we can address physician shortages in our state by trying to replace MDs with physician extenders. Legislative efforts can facilitate looking for real solutions to real problems, but legislators cannot improve the physician shortage problem by extending the scope of practice of non-physicians. That is at best an attractive sounding myth. Legislators can find out what makes primary care and specialist physicians choose to leave Hawaii for practice opportunities elsewhere. Legislators can potentially use such knowledge to eliminate MD disincentives and increase MD incentives favorable to MDs coming and / or staying to live and work in Hawaii. I have never met a patient who wanted to be treated by the least trained MD on the team, let alone a non-physician. The scope of training of any MD or DO compared to any physician extender is basically incomparable. The least trained MD after completing college and medical school, spends years in a primary care or specialty training residency program before becoming employable as a licensed - certified practicing physician. Making it legally possible for non-physicians to do traditional physician required work would, in my opinion, expose the state of Hawaii to civil liability for malpractice. I strongly oppose this bill as well meaning but counter productive to the goal of pursuing a healthcare infrastructure for our state that pursues acceptable high quality and sustainable healthcare. Quick fixes as proposed by this and similar bills are basically ill advised and highly likely to make matters worse than they already are.

Sincerely submitted,

Bernard Robinson, M.D.

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: Alissa Hino

Re: **SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm
Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Alissa Hino and I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alissa Hino

SB-2442

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:14:22 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eric Hayman, PA-C	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to support this important build. As background, my state license number is AMD-155 and state DEA number is A00001 and I have been practicing vascular surgery at Kaiser since 1999, graduating with a master's degree from Yale University School of Medicine in 1994.

For the past 20 years I have made weekly day-trips from Oahu to Maui to see and follow vascular patients. In our practice, our patients tend to be the sickest with multiple medical problems requiring multiple surgical interventions. What I have witnessed in this time is the slow diminution of primary care availability to our patient population. What has suffered specifically is appropriate risk factor management such as diabetic control, hypertension control, obesity and the resulting maladies such as heart attack, stroke, blood vessel disease aneurysm etc..

As results of provider shortage as well as COVID-19 patients are now being managed by telephone which means there not being examined properly. Many times there are language issues, or cognitive issues with elderly patients where it is difficult to care for them properly at a distance. An example of this shortage is my experience.

I officially retired in July 2021 but have been call back to service both at Moanalua Medical center and vascular surgery clinic on Maui because of the large number of vascular consults and patient backlog.

In my experienced opinion, anything State government can do to increase access to appropriate patient care will benefit the people of Hawaii, particularly the outer islands. Physician Assistants have proven to be competent, professional, caring and most importantly available to provide appropriate care.

I strongly support this bill.

Eric Hayman, PA-C

SB-2442

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:28:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charina Toilolo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

and Committee Members

FROM: Charina Toilolo

Re: SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm

Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Charina Toilolo. I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente Koolau Medical Office and I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charina Toilolo

Aloha

Thank you for your service to the people of Hawaii. My name is Chenoa Diehm. I am a 20+ year Physician Assistant in Hawaii at Kaiser Permanente. I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Best to you,
Chenoa Diehm

SB-2442

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:45:05 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mikala Pino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

and Committee Members

FROM: _Mikala Pino_PA-C_

Re: SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm

Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Mikala Pino. I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente and I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai`i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mikala Pino

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: Rachel Withers, PA-C

Re: **SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm
Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Rachel Withers I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente, and I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rachel Withers, PA-C

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: Erin Fowler

Re: **SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm
Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Erin Fowler I am a physician assistant at Kaiser's Moanalua Medical Center and I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Erin Fowler PA-C, MMS

SB-2442

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:36:05 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Waite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is John Waite and I am a physician assistant in urgent care at Kaiser Permanente. I would like to express that I **strongly support** SB2442, as this bill updates the physician assistant scope of practice in Hawai'i to be more consistent with our education and training.

More importantly, approving this bill will allow physician assistants to provide optimal care to our patients and provide better access to health for our Hawaiian communities.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

John M. Waite, MPAP, PA-C

SB-2442

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:47:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kathryn Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

and Committee Members

FROM: Kathryn Brown MMS, PA-C

Re: SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm

Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Kathryn Brown. I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente Urgent Care and I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice to be

consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathryn Brown MMS, PA-C

SB-2442

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:57:42 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/2/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Timothy R. Smith, PA-C	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: Timothy R. Smith, PA-C

Re: SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm
Via videoconference

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Timothy R. Smith, PA-C. I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center Oncology Department. I strongly support SB 2442 as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This bill will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Timothy R. Smith, PA-C

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: Kristen Kichline PA-C

Re: **SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm
Via videoconference



POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Kristen Kichline I am a physician assistant at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children and I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai'i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristen Kichline PA-C

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

FROM: Alia Mulcahy, PA-C

Re: **SB 2442, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm
Via videoconference



POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

My name is Alia Mulcahy I am a physician assistant at Kaiser HPMG and I **strongly support SB 2442** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice to be consistent with our education and training. This will allow physician assistants the ability to provide optimal care for our Hawai`i communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alia Mulcahy, PA-C