

**SB-2445**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:42:24 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bryan Mick (DCAB)	Testifying for DCAB	Comments	Yes

Comments:

DCAB does not have a position on SB 2445, but is available to answer questions.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)

February 2, 2022

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

Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2022  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Place: Via Videoconference

From: Anne Perreira-Eustaquio, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.B. 2445 RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

This measure seeks to broaden the scope and practice of physician assistants by amending multiple chapters of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) including Chapter 392, HRS, the Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) law. The proposal will allow physician assistants to provide care to and certify the disabilities of individuals for TDI purposes.

DLIR supports this measure.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

Sections 392-26(a) and 392-26(c), HRS, specify that an individual must be under the care of and have the individual's disability certified by a person duly licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, chiropractic, osteopathy, or naturopathic medicine, or an advanced practice registered nurse.

**III. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL**

DLIR supports the intent of the measure to assist with the critical physician shortage by allowing Physician Assistants to certify an employee's disability after receiving treatment.

**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. 2445, 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 expand the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants.

The Board supports this measure as it broadens physician assistants' scope of practice to provide a wide range of services, which would benefit the citizens of Hawaii. 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 2445, Related to Physician Assistants**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2445, which modernizes the practice of physician assistants.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 2445.**

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 medicine 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 to our members. 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 collaborate with physicians and other medical professionals to provide high quality patient care in a variety of specialties and settings, including: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Orthopedics, Cardiology, Oncology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Emergency medicine, Nephrology, Occupational Medicine, Vascular, General and Cardiothoracic Surgery, Infectious Disease, Radiology, Urology and Otolaryngology (ears, nose and throat).

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports SB 2445 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 the 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 increased physician assistant presence throughout the islands, they remain unable to practice at the top of their training and education due to Hawai'i restrictive practice laws. As such, physician



assistants are restricted from being able to adequately meet the healthcare needs for our populations.

SB 2445 builds on the Legislature's previous successes modernizing physician assistants' practice in Hawai'i. SB 2445 will allow physician assistants, like Advanced Practice Nurses (APRNs), to sign temporary disability insurance forms, disability parking permits, Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms, and other administrative forms that are time sensitive and critical for patients' quality of life but, are often delayed by the physician shortage.

Physician assistants are skilled health care providers and authorized by the Affordable Care Act, along with physicians and APRNs, to provide primary care. They receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum which typically includes rotations in family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine and psychiatry. In practice, physician assistants routinely take medical histories, perform physical examinations, order and interpret laboratory tests, diagnose illnesses, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and assist in surgery. With their skills and training, physician assistants play a critical role on our care delivery teams and are represented in every medical specialty within our medical group. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i continues to focus on recruiting physician assistants because physician assistants possess a skillset and training that allows them to be able to pivot quickly and supply care when and where it is needed most. This has been invaluable during the pandemic when we rely heavily on our physician assistants' unique adaptability to provide care in an ever-changing landscape.

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



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 2, 2022

Re: Support for SB 2445: Relating to Physician Assistants

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The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 2445, which would expand the scope of practice for physician assistants. We appreciate the intent of this measure to help bring parity with APRN in scope of practice, supervision, and streamlining of record review process. They continue to play an increasingly important role in expanding physician care – especially on neighbor islands and in rural healthcare settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



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 2445, Related to Physician Assistants**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2445, which serves to modernize scope of practice for physician assistants in the state of Hawai'i.

**Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 2445 WITH AMMENDMENTS**

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 2445 will allow physician assistants, like Advanced Practice Nurses (APRNs), to sign temporary disability insurance forms, disability parking permits, Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms, and other administrative forms that are time sensitive and critical for patients' quality of life but, are often delayed by the physician shortage. Like 2019, we expect this change will continue to prioritize patient care while significantly decreasing physician administrative burden.



To ensure continuity of care delivery for patients requiring occupational therapy rehabilitation, **HAPA respectfully requests that SB 2455 be amended to include physician assistant authority to sign orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.**

Currently under HRS 453-5.5, physician assistants can sign orders and plans of care for both physical and speech therapies, but arbitrarily, not for occupational therapy. Allowing physician assistants the ability to sign occupational therapy orders ensures that patient access to occupational therapy is timely.

Proposed amendment would add line number (10) to HRS 453-5.5 and read as:

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.** Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents:

- (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program;
- (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients;
- (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care;
- (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation;
- (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care;
- (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only;
- (7) Admissions applications for foster homes;
- (8) Dietary consultations forms; ~~and~~
- (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission; and
- (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

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

Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Hawaii Hand Rehabilitation Services. We support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hawaii Hand Rehabilitation Services, work closely with Physician Assistants. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Hawaii Hand Rehabilitation services and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10:

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for

Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 593-2830.

Sincerely,

  
Katie Kauper

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT.

I am an occupational therapist employed at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC (HHRS). I support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician Assistants are authorized to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed throughout the State of Hawaii in various settings, such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools, etc.

At HHRS, occupational therapists work closely with Physician Assistants from All Access Ortho, which are orthopedic urgent care facilities. These urgent care facilities provide immediate and specialized care for mild to moderate bone and joint injuries. Referrals from All Access Ortho are often time sensitive. Therefore, it is important for Physician Assistants to have the ability to order necessary care, including occupational therapy services. Delaying medically necessary care may delay and negatively impact healing. At HHRS, we specialize in hand injuries. Improper healing of one's hands greatly impact one's ability to fulfill school and job duties, essential self-care, and valued leisure and social activities.

On behalf of the OT practitioners at HHRS and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary

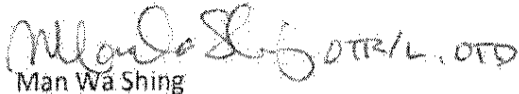
consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. Currently, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a Physician Assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience delay in receiving medically necessary services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, due to the lack of authorization under HRS 453-5.5., referrals with order for Occupational Therapy are send back for physician signature or be re-written by primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access Occupational Therapy services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe Occupational Therapy services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary, they reference the individual states statutes.

I request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Man Wa Shing", with "OTR/L, OTR" written below it.

Man Wa Shing

Occupational Therapist

Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC

1401 S. Beretania Street, Suite 730

Honolulu, HI 96814

(808) 593-2830



February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

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On behalf of the OT practitioners at HHR, and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

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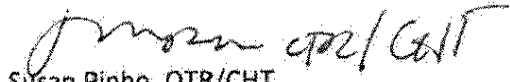
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Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

I request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 808-677-4263.

Sincerely,



Susan Pinho, OTR/CHT

Registered Occupational Therapist, Certified Hand therapist

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

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Sincerely,

*Kelli Higuchi - OTR, CHT*  
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February 1, 2022

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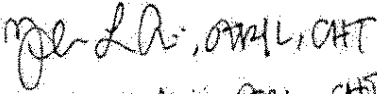
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Sincerely,

  
Zenalia Aarii APRN, CPT

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

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At Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC, we work closely with Physician Assistants in upper extremity rehabilitation. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

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By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities,

Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 593-2830.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lily Yang', written over a horizontal line.

Lily Yang, OTR/L



February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants.

IN SUPPORT WITH SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

I am an occupational therapy practitioner and am employed at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services. I support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services we work closely with Physician Assistants. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

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I request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 808-593-2830.

Sincerely,

**Bryson Calma, OTD, OTR/L**  
(Electronically Signed 02/01/2022 @ 7:04am)

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

I am an occupational therapy practitioners employed at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services. I support the intent of SB 2445 -- Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, outpatient clinics, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services we work closely with Physician Assistants who regularly recommend that their patients with hand/upper extremity injuries receive care from our clinic. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, and our professional state association, The Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:  
by inserting after Section 9  
Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

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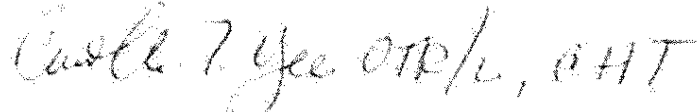
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I respectfully request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 808-593-2830.

Sincerely,



Carol A. T. Yee, OTR/L, CHT

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

I am an occupational therapy practitioner and function as both practitioner and co-owner of Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC. We support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools, outpatient clinics to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC, we work closely with Physician Assistants who often recommend their patients to receive our specialized services (custom orthosis fabrication and hand/upper extremity rehabilitation). On behalf of the OT practitioners at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9  
Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

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We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 593-2830.

Sincerely,

*Sheri Azama, OTD, OTR/L, CHT*  
Sheri Azama, OTD, OTR/L, CHT  
Managing Member

February 1, 2022.

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

I am an occupational therapist and function as both practitioner and co-owner of Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC. I am in support of the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in varied healthcare settings including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient clinics, mental health agencies and schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC, we work closely with Physician Assistants who are often the first source of contact with an individual that has sustained a traumatic injury. They are able to screen and care for patients appropriate to their level of licensed intervention. As an OT that specializes in the care of individuals with upper extremity conditions at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC as well as our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

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By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source and thereby reduce the redundancy that occurs to receive services. These services may at times impact an individual's health and/or recovery.

At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral for Occupational Therapy--as orders from a physician assistant is not recognized under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. This inevitably results in unnecessary delay in receiving services. With the added burden that COVID has created in our healthcare system, recognizing OT as a service that Physician Assistants can prescribe allows for streamlined access to services. Interestingly, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services but the Medicare fiduciary reference the individual states statutes.

In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask MD's to either co-sign orders or request additional orders be re-written by the primary physician which can tax them unnecessarily. In the interest of consumers access to medically necessary services, I am requesting your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 593-2830

Sincerely,

Tammy Momohara, OTR/L CHT

(Electronically Signed 02/02/2022)



February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

I am an occupational therapist employed at Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC. I am in support of the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in varied healthcare settings including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient clinics, mental health agencies and schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC, we work closely with Physician Assistants who are often the first source of contact with an individual that has sustained a traumatic injury. They are able to screen and care for patients appropriate to their level of licensed intervention. As an OT that specializes in the care of individuals with upper extremity conditions at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC as well as our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

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If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 593-2830

Sincerely,

Rachelle Lam, OTR/L

(Electronically Signed 02/02/2022)

February 1, 2022.

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

I am an occupational therapy practitioner and employed at Hawaii Hand and Therapy. I support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Hawaii Hand and Therapy, I work closely with Physician Assistants. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Hawaii Hand and Therapy and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10.

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I request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at 808-593-2830.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Christensen



February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

I am an Occupational Therapy practitioner employed at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC (HHRS). I support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At HHRS, I work closely with Physician Assistants from All Access Ortho, which are orthopedic urgent care facilities. These urgent care facilities provide immediate and specialized care for mild to moderate bone and joint injuries. Referrals from All Access Ortho are often time sensitive. Therefore, it is important for Physician Assistants to have the ability to order necessary care, including occupational therapy services. Delaying medically necessary care may delay and negatively impact healing. At HHRS, I specialize in hand injuries. Improper healing of one's hands greatly impact one's ability to fulfill school and job duties, essential self-care, and valued leisure and social activities.

At HHRS, I work closely with Physician Assistants in the All Access Ortho and physician offices with offices in and out of the building. At HHRS and my professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10.

#### **CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

##### **§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

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I request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC at (808)-593-2830.

Sincerely,



Christina Lindop, MSOT, OTR/L  
Occupational Therapist  
Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services, LLC  
1401 S. Beretania Street, Suite 730  
Honolulu, HI 96814

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

IN SUPPORT with SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

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At Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation, we work closely with Physician Assistants rehabilitation upper extremity injuries. On behalf of the OT practitioners at HHRS and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, I support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

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**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

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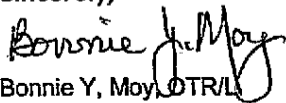
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We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at 808 598-2830

Sincerely,



Bonnie Y. Moy, OTR/L  
Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services  
Occupational Therapist  
Hand Therapist



February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Kuakini Medical Center. We support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Kuakini Medical Center, we work closely with Physician Assistants. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Kuakini Medical Center and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

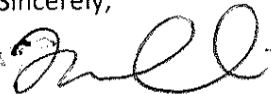
By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational

Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808)547-9128.

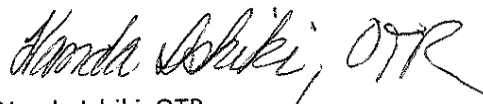
Sincerely,



LesliAnn Kikuchi, Manager, Kuakini Rehabilitation Services



Stephanie Clements, OTR



Wanda Ishiki, OTR

January 31, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 - Relating to Physician Assistants

On behalf of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii (OTAH) we support the intent of

SB 2445 - Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

We have discussed our suggested amendment with the Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) and they are in agreement. OTAH would like to suggest an amendment to this bill by inserting after Section 9 Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

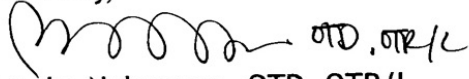
**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brooke Nakamura', followed by the text 'OTD, OTR/L'.

Brooke Nakamura, OTD, OTR/L  
Doctorate of Occupational Therapy  
President, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii  
(808)542-1882

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Pali Momi Medical Center. We support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

On behalf of the OT practitioners at Pali Momi Medical Center and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

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prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at 808-485-4269.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Nakanishi, OTR  
Manager, Rehabilitation Services  
Pali Momi Medical Center

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

**SUPPORT with suggested amendment**

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Straub Medical Center. We support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At Straub, we work closely with Physician Assistants in orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery and general surgery to name a few. On behalf of the OT practitioners at Straub Medical Center and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:  
by inserting after Section 9  
Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for

Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 522-4602.

Sincerely,

Avis Sakata, OTR/L  
Occupational Therapy Lead

Additional OT staff in agreement with testimony

Whitney Reigh Asao, OTD

Ashley Cadavona, OTR

Brian Coyle, COTA

Farrah Dimagiba, OTR

Lisa Hall, OTR

Casey Imelio, OTR

Wendy Kondo, OTR

Andrea Muraoka, OTR

Bernice Oishi, COTA

Vandana Pal, OTR

Melissa Pang, OTR

Tisha Taba, OTR

Katie Watanabe, OTR

Dale Yasumoto, OTR



February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at Wilcox Medical Center (WMC) support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At WMC, we work closely with Physician Assistants in Bone and Joint Center. On behalf of the OT practitioners at WMC and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows: by inserting after Section 9  
Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 245-1494

Sincerely,

Isao Kitaguchi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isao Kitaguchi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**SB-2445**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:23:20 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-2445**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:54:01 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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.



February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

We are occupational therapy practitioners and are employed at The Queens Medical Center. We support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

At The Queens Medical Center, we work closely with Physician Assistants in our rehabilitation efforts with varied diagnoses' including but not limited to, trauma patients, neurological patients, general medical surgical, orthopedic patients, and psychiatric care for adults and senior adults as inpatient and outpatient service providers. On behalf of the OT practitioners at The Queens Medical Center and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9,  
Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer will receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we need to ask the primary physician to co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational Therapy, consumers will access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10 will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 691-4277. Mahalo for your time!

Sincerely,

Pamela Anderson, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, Licensed (COTA/L)

on behalf of our inpatient Occupational Therapists' and Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants.

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

FROM: Alissa Hino

Re: **SB 2445, 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 2445** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice law 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



February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

We are occupational/physical/speech language pathology therapy practitioners and are employed on Oahu. We support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatient clients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

We work closely with Physician Assistants in outpatient therapy services. On behalf of the OT practitioners on Oahu and the professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

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Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached 808-392-2077

Sincerely,

Kari-lynn, OTR/L (Kari-lynn Whitaker)

Keri Rivera, PT (Keri Rivera)

Jeremy Angaran, PT (Jeremy Angaran)

Chris Otsuki, PT, OTR (Chris Otsuki)

Corinne Nakasugi, PT (Corinne Nakasugi)

Kyle Sato, DPT (KYLE SATO)

**SB-2445**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:29:11 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 2445, 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 2445** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice law 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 2445** 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-2445**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:49:57 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 2445, 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 2445** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice law 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 PA-C



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

FROM: Erin Fowler

Re: **SB 2445, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**  
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm  
Via videoconference

**POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT**

---

My name is Erin Fowler and I am a physician assistant at Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center and I **strongly support SB 2445** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice law 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-2445**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:40:21 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John Waite	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings, and thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony for this important piece of legislation.

My name is John Waite and I am a physician assistant practicing in urgent care at Kaiser Hawaii on Oahu. I **strongly support** SB 2445, as it updates the legal scope of practice for physician assistants and allows us to practice in a way that is more consistent with our education and training.

Furthermore, this will allow better access to health for our communities and permit us the opportunity to continue providing optimal care for our Hawaiian communities.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

John M. Waite, MPAP, PA-C

**SB-2445**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:49:47 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 2445, 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 2445** as this bill updates Hawai`i physician assistant scope of practice law 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

**LATE**

February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker

Hearing: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

RE: SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants

We are occupational, physical, and speech therapy practitioners and are on the island of O’ahu. We support the intent of SB 2445 – Relating to Physician Assistants which expands the authorized scope of practice for physician assistants. Currently under HRS 453-5.5, Physician assistants are able to sign orders and plans of care for both Physical and Speech therapies, however, not for Occupational Therapy. Occupational Therapy practitioners provide services to both inpatient and outpatients who have sustained a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations, hand & upper extremity conditions. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, mental health agencies, schools to name a few throughout Hawaii.

We work closely with Physician Assistants in outpatient therapy services. On behalf of the OT practitioners on O’ahu and our professional state association, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, we support the intent of the suggested amendment to this bill. The suggested amendment is as follows:

by inserting after Section 9

Section 10.

**CHAPTER 453 MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents.**

§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign documents. Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid, and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to sign the following documents: (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the parents of a child applicant for aid from the temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients; (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care; (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial fibrillation; (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care; (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate care only; (7) Admissions applications for foster homes; (8) Dietary consultations forms; and (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility admission and (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care.

By adding this amendment with inclusion of occupational therapy, the consumer can receive complete orders from one referral source. At the present time, the consumer needs to see his/her physician to obtain a referral to Occupational Therapy as orders from a physician assistant is not covered under current regulation under HRS 453-5.5. Thus, the consumer, will experience a delay in receiving services. In some of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, Physician Assistants work alongside the primary physicians and have been writing orders for Occupational Therapy services. However, we have needed to ask that the MD's co-sign orders or additional orders need to be re-written by the primary physician. By adding Occupational

Therapy, this would allow our consumers to access OT services in a timely manner and when prescribed by the Physician Assistant. Furthermore, Medicare allows Physician Assistants to prescribe OT services, but depending on the Medicare fiduciary they reference the individual states statutes.

We request your support to amend SB 2445 by Amending §453-5.5 Physician assistant, and adding section 10) which will allow Physician Assistants to sign Occupational Therapy orders and sign plans of care.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at (808) 691-3876

Sincerely,

Nicole Cardillo, OTR



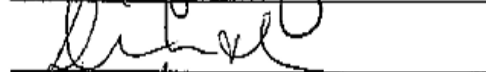
Alissa Arakaki, PT



Vanessa Gueco-Freitas, SLP



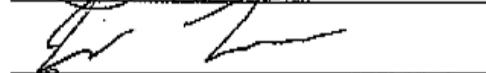
Diane Morton, MPT



David Kurihara, DPT



Jordan Fukumoto, DPT



Jessica Ho, DPT



Carrie Yap, DPT



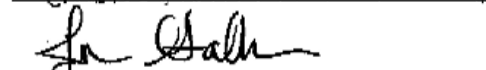
Norma Pershing, OTR



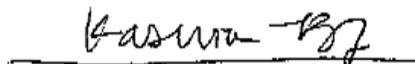
Christa Flesman, SLP



Jamie Gallardo, RPT



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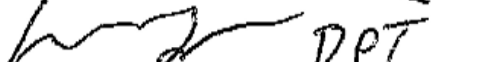
Kari Ikeda, OTK



Landon Lina, PTA



Aaron Yang



Tiana Borja



Jessica Markov



Jane Espiritu



La Arlyn Mariano



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

**LATE**

FROM: Kristen Kichline PA-C

Re: **SB 2445, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**  
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm  
Via videoconference

**POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT**

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My name is Kristen Kichline I am a physician assistant at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children and I **strongly support SB 2445** 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 2445, RELATING TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**  
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 1:00pm  
Via videoconference



**POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT**

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My name is Alia Mulcahy I am a physician assistant at HPMG and I **strongly support SB 2445** as this bill updates Hawai'i physician assistant scope of practice law 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