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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Section 453-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3           "**§453-5.5 Physician assistant; authority to sign**  
4 **documents.** Any physician assistant who holds a current, valid,  
5 and permanent license to practice medicine pursuant to this  
6 chapter, and who is under the supervision of a licensed  
7 physician or osteopathic physician, shall have the authority to  
8 sign the following documents:

- 9           (1) Certification of psychiatric medical condition of the  
10           parents of a child applicant for aid from the  
11           temporary assistance for needy families program;
- 12           (2) Evaluation forms for Hansen's disease patients;
- 13           (3) Orders for physical therapy and plans of care;
- 14           (4) Pharmacist orders to assist in monitoring and  
15           management of anticoagulation anemia and atrial  
16           fibrillation;
- 17           (5) Orders for speech therapy and plans of care;



1 (6) Applications for bracelets indicating compassionate  
2 care only;

3 (7) Admissions applications for foster homes;

4 (8) Dietary consultations forms;

5 (9) Medicaid application forms for nursing care facility  
6 admission; [and]

7 (10) Orders for occupational therapy and plans of care[-];  
8 and

9 (11) Orders for respiratory therapy and plans of care."

10 SECTION 2. Section 466D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by amending the definitions of "practice of respiratory  
12 care" and "qualified medical direction" to read as follows:

13 "Practice of respiratory care" means providing assessment,  
14 therapy, management, rehabilitation, support services for  
15 diagnostic evaluation, education, and care for patients with  
16 deficiencies and abnormalities that affect the pulmonary system,  
17 including:

18 (1) Respiratory care services, including the  
19 administration of pharmacological, diagnostic, and  
20 therapeutic care related to respiratory care  
21 procedures necessary for treatment, disease



1 prevention, rehabilitative, or diagnostic regimens  
2 prescribed by a physician[+] or an osteopathic  
3 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 453, a  
4 physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 453,  
5 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
6 pursuant to chapter 457;

7 (2) Observation and monitoring of signs, symptoms,  
8 reactions, and physical responses to respiratory care  
9 treatment and diagnostic testing;

10 (3) Diagnostic or therapeutic use of:

11 (A) Medical gases, excluding general anesthesia;

12 (B) Aerosols, humidification, environmental control  
13 systems, or invasive and non-invasive modalities;

14 (C) Pharmacological care related to respiratory care  
15 procedures;

16 (D) Mechanical or physiological ventilatory support,  
17 including maintenance of natural airways and  
18 insertion and maintenance of artificial airways;

19 (E) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and



1 (F) Respiratory protocol and evaluation or diagnostic  
2 and testing techniques required for  
3 implementation of respiratory care protocols; and  
4 (4) The transcription and implementation of the written,  
5 verbal, and telecommunicated orders of a licensed  
6 physician, licensed osteopathic physician, licensed  
7 physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice  
8 registered nurse, pertaining to the practice of  
9 respiratory care.

10 "Qualified [~~medical~~] direction" means ready access by a  
11 respiratory therapist to a licensed physician, licensed  
12 osteopathic physician, licensed physician assistant, or licensed  
13 advanced practice registered nurse, who has specialty training  
14 or experience in the management of acute and chronic respiratory  
15 disorders and who is responsible for the quality, safety, and  
16 appropriateness of the respiratory services provided by the  
17 respiratory therapist."

18 SECTION 3. Section 466D-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "[~~§466D-4~~] ~~Physician supervision~~ Order and qualified  
21 direction required. No person shall practice respiratory care



1 under this chapter except under the [~~direct~~] order and qualified  
2 [~~medical~~] direction of a physician or an osteopathic physician  
3 licensed pursuant to chapter 453 [~~-~~], a physician assistant  
4 licensed pursuant to chapter 453, or an advanced practice  
5 registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 457."

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Respiratory Therapists; Supervision; Physician Assistants;  
Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

**Description:**

Allows certain physician assistants to sign orders for respiratory therapy and plans of care. Expands the class of health care providers under whom respiratory therapists may practice respiratory care to include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses. (CD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

