

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing Date: April 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in Senate conference room 229
Re: House Bill 1378 HD2 SD1

I wish to testify in support of House Bill 1378 HD2 SD1.

I am addressing this bill as both a citizen and resident on the Big Island in Hawaii. Also, I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with Prescriptive Authority currently working in the Department of Veteran's Affairs. During the past several decades, I have provided care to residents in rural areas of the Big Island in the areas of advanced practice women's health and in psychiatric care.

HB 1378 HD2 SD1 would extend my ability to provide more care to more patients, within the context of quality and comprehensive services. Additionally, HB 1378 HD2 SD1 would extend to additional Advanced Practice Registered Nurses the ability to provide the services more broadly especially in those areas in the state that are sadly lacking services.

There are numerous studies and professional experiences documented that demonstrate that care by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses is safe, effective and well accepted by consumers. Further, the access to health services, and specifically primary care which is inclusive of mental health care services is vital to our community well being. Severe shortages in numbers and types of quality health care providers are daily impacting on our communities. In particular, the Big Island is a federally designated mental health provider shortage (HPSA) and medically underserved area (MUA). Removal of barriers, will enhance the full utilization of Licensed Qualified Professionals, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses will offer great relief to the shortage. In addition, this will help Hawaii as a state to move forward as most other states have already done so, to having Advanced Practice Registered Nurses who have the privilege of unobstructed professional practice.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important concern,

Beth Ananda-Stout, APRN, CNS, APRN-Rx, CNM
Board Certified Certified Nurse-Midwife
Board Certified Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist

Testimony
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
on
April 2, 2009, 2 PM ~ Conference Room 229

By

Dale M. Allison, PhD, RNC, APRN-Rx, FAAN
Hawai`i Pacific University
Professor of Nursing & Graduate Program Chair

HB 1378 HD 2 SD 1 Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB1378 HD 2 SD 1 Requires insurers, mutual and fraternal benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to recognize advanced practice registered nurses as primary care providers. Provides for licensure by endorsement. Grants global signature authority and prescriptive rights. Amends definition of advanced practice registered nurse .

As a nurse practitioner and educator of Advanced Practice Nurses (APRN) I stand **in support** to this bill which accurately describes the purpose and practice of nurse practitioners in their professional practice relationship in the health care setting.

Advanced Practice Nurses are educated to assume the responsibilities and scope of practice presented in this bill. They have provided excellent health care services over the past 14 years without total ability to practice their profession unencumbered by the laws of the state. This bill allows them to practice as full professional colleagues in the health care setting.

I commend the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce for putting forth this excellent bill.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha Senator Baker, Senator Ige and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1378 HD 2 SD 1. As an APRN with over 20 years experience, I am asking that you consider modifying the bill to include signatory authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to sign the medical certification form for disabled persons parking placards.

A review of federal statutes and rules clearly indicates that there is no federal mandate that physicians only sign these medical certifications.

Hawaii is one of only 8 states that does not allow Advanced Practice Nurses to sign the certification forms for disabled parking placards. APRN's presently are completing the forms and then must request a physician colleague not as familiar with the patient to sign them. It is the most common form we are asked to complete for our patients.

Please consider modifying HB 1378 HD 2 SD 1 so that APRNs may sign disabled parking placard medical certification forms. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Lauren Rodier, APRN-BC



April 1, 2009

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
 Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
 Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: H.B. 1378 H.D.2, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE
 REGISTERED NURSES
Hearing on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am Mihoko Ito, an attorney with Goodwill Anderson Quinn & Stifel, testifying on behalf of Walgreen Co. (“Walgreens”). Walgreens operates more than 6,600 locations in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Walgreens also operates 217 Take Care Health Clinics in 15 states within select Walgreens stores, employing Advance Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants.

Walgreens **supports the intent of** H.B. 1378, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, which requires insurers, mutual and fraternal benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to recognize advanced practice registered nurses as primary care providers, grants increased signature authority and prescriptive rights, and amends the of advanced practice registered nurses:

- to require that insurers recognize advance practice nurses as primary care providers;
- to expand the signature authority to allow advanced practice nurses to “sign, certify and endorse all documents relating to health care for their patient”; and
- to expand the prescriptive authority of advanced practice nurses, while remaining **neutral** on the provision to expand that authority to include controlled substances.¹

Walgreens supports H.B. 1378, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 because advanced practice nurses are highly qualified professionals, who are consistently rated by patients as trusted professionals in the health care system. Walgreen’s Take Care advanced practice nurses are board certified, with master’s degrees in the science of nursing. Research has shown that advanced practice nurses provide care comparable in quality to that provided by primary care physicians.

¹ With respect to prescriptive authority for controlled substances, Walgreens does not permit its advanced practice nurses to prescribe controlled substances even where permitted by law, as a matter of good business practices. Therefore, Walgreens does not have a position on this provision of the bill.

In addition, advanced practice nurses provide comparable care to physicians at lower costs to the patient. A typical visit to a nurse practitioner at a retail clinic costs \$59-\$80, whereas the same visit to a physician's office costs \$95-\$150.

Advance practice nurses are a viable and qualified alternative to physician primary care, and in light of the increasing primary care physician shortage and rising healthcare costs overall, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.