



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: Chair Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
House Committee on Judiciary

From: Paula Yoshioka  
Senior Vice President  
The Queen's Health Systems

Re: SB 729, Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses  
Hearing—April 7, 2015 at 2:05 PM

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The Queen's Health Systems would like to offer support for SB 729, which would ensure that advanced practice registered nurses are fully recognized as mental health professionals qualified to diagnose mental illness under section 334-59, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

The Queen's Medical Center-Punchbowl receives a large portion of Oahu's emergency and involuntary hospitalizations. It is important that all qualified providers, like APRNs, are able to assist in these situations. This law will clarify that APRNs are fully qualified to perform mental health status and safety risk assessments.

In order to ensure that all qualified providers are available to assist in situations that fall under section 334-59, HRS, we ask for your support of SB 729. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

*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.*

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2015

Tuesday, April 7, 2015  
2:05 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 729, RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE  
REGISTERED NURSES.**

TO THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill No. 729, Relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, that clarifies the role of advanced practice registered nurses in sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to emergency hospital admission and involuntary hospitalization.

The Board supports this bill that would allow a qualified advanced practice registered nurse ("APRN") to:

- Perform an emergency examination;
- Direct that a patient be hospitalized on an emergency basis or cause the patient to be transferred to another psychiatric facility for emergency hospitalization; and
- Certify the signs and symptoms of a patient for a petition for commitment to a psychiatric facility.

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These roles are consistent with an APRN's current scope of practice and will allow APRNs to participate to a greater extent in emergency hospital admission and involuntary hospitalization processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill No. 729.