



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
February 11, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 1217 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1217 to permit advanced practice nurses to sign certification forms for their patients, if not already included in SB 1045 relating to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN).

Access to available and quality health care is a national and state priority to ensure protection of consumers of care. Updating statutes to reflect signature authority by APRNs will help to address the provider shortage and ensure quality care delivery.

In order to effectively and efficiently implement the APRN role, APRNs must have the ability to sign the multiple forms required to document services. The scope of an APRN includes, but is not limited to, performing acts of advanced assessment and diagnosing. Expanding signature rights to APRNs will streamline the process at the health care system level by providing point-of-contact service to clients. Clear bill language will allow APRNs global signature rights relative to health care for their patients to further address this ongoing need. For example, the APRN signature will be accepted by insurers on the forms required for school physicals, durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers, and many other consumer needs.

The University of Hawai'i Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supports a collaborative approach to addressing the healthcare provider needs of Hawai'i and looks forward to our continued partnership with the legislature and community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.