

APRNs Recognized as Primary Care Providers in Hawaii

There is good news in Hawaii for patients and APRNs. On July 2nd, the Governor signed into law HB1378 / SB1045 which requires insurers, mutual and fraternal benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to recognize advanced practice registered nurses as primary care providers. The new law also:

- * Provides for licensure by endorsement.

- * Grants global signature authority and prescriptive rights. This authorizes APRNs to sign, certify, or endorse all documents relating to health care "within their scope of practice" for their patients, including workers' compensation verification documents; verification and evaluation forms of the department of human services and department of education; verification and authorization forms of the department of health; and physical examination forms, provided that nothing in this section shall be construed to expand the scope of practice of advanced practice registered nurses.

- * Amends the definition of advanced practice registered nurse to recognize all categories of APRNs and specifies completion of an accredited graduate-level education program leading to a master's degree as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, a nurse midwife, a clinical nurse specialist, or a nurse practitioner.

The primary sponsor of this bill is registered nurse and Representative Marilyn Lee.

To read more go to <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>