

April 27, 2010
Hawaii State News

Kathy Yokouchi, Executive Director (ED) of the Hawaii Board of Nursing, notified the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and the LACE Taskforce that the APRN Model Language which parallels the APRN Consensus Paper has been signed into law by the governor. APRNs practicing in Hawaii will now have full prescriptive authority and independent practice.

Hawaii is the first state to successfully get the entire APRN Model Language passed all at once. Yokouchi reported that they were able to get all of the Hawaiian state APRN stakeholders in agreement, such as educators, the ANA, employers and the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). Hawaii is a great example of what nurses can accomplish when we work together. The ED and the entire BON worked really hard to get this legislation passed, in spite of huge barriers that the AMA and Hawaii Medical Association presented. At the 2009 HMA meeting, the president said in her opening address, "Hawaiian APRNs want to be known as primary care providers." There was a lot of booing from the audience and she continued, "And we are not going to let that happen."

Hawaiian APRNs are now primary care providers with independent practice and full prescriptive authority. It is a great victory for all of us.