



**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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Please deliver to:  
House Health Comm.  
02/1/2008, Wed.  
8am  
Conf. Rm.329

January 31, 2008

To: To: Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

From: Cynthia Goto, M.D., President  
Linda Rasmussen, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair  
Philip Hellreich, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair  
Paula Arcena, Executive Director  
Dick Botti, Government Liaison

Re: HB 3105 RELATING TO OSTEOPATHY

The HMA is in strong support of HB3105.

This bill will make Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 453, relating to Medicine and Surgery to include Osteopaths and the practice of Osteopathy.

Both D.O.s and M.D.s are alike. Listed is an example of how they are alike:

- Applicants to both D.O. and M.D. medical colleges have four-year undergraduate degrees with an emphasis on scientific courses.
- Both D.O.s and M.D.s complete four years of basic medical education.
- After medical school, both D.O.s and M.D.s obtain graduate medical education through such programs as internships and residencies. This training typically lasts three to six years and prepares D.O.s and M.D.s to practice a specialty.
- Both D.O.s and M.D.s can choose to practice in any specialty area of medicine-such as pediatrics, family practice, psychiatry, surgery or obstetrics.
- D.O.s and M.D.s must pass comparable examinations to obtain state licenses.
- D.O.s and M.D.s both practice in fully accredited and licensed health care facilities.

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- Together, D.O.s and M.D.s enhance the state of health care available in America.

The key difference is that the D.O. will specialize in an area that focuses on the whole body. D.O.s practice a "whole person" approach to medicine. Instead of just treating specific symptoms or illnesses, they regard your body as an integrated whole. Approximately 65% of practicing osteopathic physicians specialize in primary care areas, such as pediatrics, family practice, obstetrics and gynecology, and internal medicine. Many D.O.s fill a critical need for physicians by practicing in rural and other medically underserved communities.

Since both D.O.s and M.D.s are alike, they should be treated the same in all continuing education requirements as M.D.s. We ask Chapter 453 be amended to use the term Osteopathy where Physician is listed as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Friday, February 1, 2008  
8:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3105, RELATING TO OSTEOPATHY.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN, M.D., CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Constance Cabral and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Medical Examiners ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 3105. The Board is in strong support of this bill, which is an Administration bill.

The purpose of this bill is to provide uniformity for osteopathic physicians by including them in chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to Medicine and Surgery.

The Board regulates doctors of medicine ("MDs") through chapter 453, HRS, and doctors of osteopathy ("DOs") through chapter 460, HRS. Because the Board considers MDs and DOs to be similar, it attempts to regulate the two in as uniform a manner as possible.

However, it has not been able to do this to the fullest extent possible due to the lack of consistency between chapter 453, HRS, and chapter 460, HRS. The inconsistency is because chapter 460, HRS, does not contain many of the provisions that are in chapter 453, HRS. In 2007, the Board submitted a bill which

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amended chapter 460, HRS, by including such provisions. While the bill was heard by respective Committees of the Legislature, it did not clear all Committees and did not pass.

Since then, the Board has reconsidered the approach it took with the 2007 legislative proposal and believes that regulating both professions through chapter 453, HRS, would be more fitting. This would allow it to treat MDs and DOs in a uniform manner without having to ensure that corresponding amendments are made to chapter 460, HRS, each time chapter 453 is revised.

Thus, this proposal revises chapter 453, HRS, by adding:

- "osteopathic physician" throughout the chapter whenever reference is made to physician;
- "osteopathic medicine" to section 453-1
- "D.O." to subsection 453-2(a), thereby allowing only those licensed as DOs to use those letters;
- "doctors of osteopathic medicine" to subsection 453-3.2(a);
- "Bureau of Osteopathic Specialties" to subsection 453-3.5(a) to provide for DO specialties;
- "D.O. degree" to subsection 453-4(b) to provide for osteopathic licensing requirements;
- "American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation" to subsection 453-4(b) as that is the agency

that approves osteopathic medical programs and residency training programs;

- “American Osteopathic Association” to subsection 453-4(b) as that is the agency that approves residency training programs;
- “Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable-Purpose Examination-USA” to subsections 453-4(b) and (d) to provide an examination for DOs who have been in practice a number of years and never took the National Board of Medical Examiners examination;
- “National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners examination” and “Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination-USA” to subsection 453-4(c) to provide osteopaths with licensing examinations; and
- “Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons” and “American Osteopathic Association” to subsection 453-8(a), thereby making it a ground for disciplinary action if a licensee were to engage in conduct or practice contrary to these associations’ standards of ethics.

This bill will also:

- Require DOs, like MDs, to obtain continuing medical education (“CME”) as a requirement for license renewal and provide for Category 1A CME in subsections 453-6 (b) and (c); and

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- Repeal 460, HRS, relating to osteopathy.

The Board asks for your favorable consideration of this Administration bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of House Bill No. 3105.

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