

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

Friday, March 14, 2008
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 3028, RELATING TO GRADUATES OF
FOREIGN ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAMS.**

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

My name is Dr. Gary Saito, Chiropractor, and I am a public member of the Board of Acupuncture ("Board"). The Board has authorized me to speak on its behalf. The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill No. 3028, which is an Administration bill.

Your Committee had heard the companion measure, H.B. No. 3106 on February 4, 2008, and passed it out unamended.

This bill proposes to authorize the Board to require foreign-educated acupuncture applicants, at the applicant's own expense, to have their educational information evaluated by a Board-approved professional credentialing evaluator as a prerequisite for examination and licensure. Doing so will assist the Board in understanding the foreign academic credentials, as well as provide it the opportunity to conduct a well-informed and objective review of the applicant's educational qualifications.

Further, the Board believes that amending section 436E-5(d), H.R.S.,

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to authorize the Board to require graduates of foreign acupuncture programs to submit their educational information to a credential evaluator, will assist the Board in ensuring that all applicants for acupuncture examination and licensure, regardless of whether they attained their education in the U.S. or at a foreign program, meet the same high standards of acupuncture education that the legislature intended.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

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