

Sharon Sagayadoro

From: Sato Mamoru [mamorus@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 9:41 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Subject: Support of SB420, SD2, HD1, Re Naturopathic Medicine

LATE TESTIMONY

March 28, 2009

To: The Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, Twenty-Fifth Legislature, Regular Session of 2009

**RE: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, H.D.1, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce Hearing Scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2009, at 2:15 p.m., Room 325**

**From: Mamoru Sato, Assoc. Chair
Dept. of Art & Art History
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822**

Dear Representative Robert N. Herkes, Chair, Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and other distinguished Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

As a Hawaii resident, I am writing to very strongly urge your support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, H.D.1 relating to naturopathic medicine. I have seen Dr. Laurie Steelsmith for naturopathic medical care, and as a result I have significantly improved my health. Naturopathic physicians have extensive training at naturopathic medical schools, and they are by far the most highly trained preventive medicine experts. They are licensed in Hawaii as primary care physicians, and fully trained to diagnose and treat disease. However, in Hawaii they cannot yet practice according to the full scope of their medical training. Many other states have passed measures that allow naturopathic physicians a much broader scope of practice than they currently have in Hawaii.

In keeping with the Obama administration's aims to cut health care costs by promoting preventive medicine, it is high time to give Dr. Steelsmith and other naturopathic doctors in Hawaii greater ability to practice preventive medicine according to their training. S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, H.D.1 will give Hawaii's naturopathic doctors a greater scope of practice and enable them to more effectively serve the people of our state.

With the current state of the economy there is a shortage of good primary care physicians in Hawaii, many physicians are leaving the state, and it is often difficult for patients to receive even basic medical care. In order for our state to attract more top-quality naturopathic physicians, it is time to modernize Hawaii's naturopathic law, which has not been revised in more than 20 years. As general practitioners, naturopathic physicians are an invaluable part of our health care system. They are uniquely qualified to promote a healthier Hawaii while decreasing the long-term financial burden of health care costs. By allowing Dr. Steelsmith and other naturopathic physicians to practice according to their training, S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, H.D.1 will greatly improve the quality of health care available in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing of the passing of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, H.D.1.

Bert A. Kobayashi
1288 Ala Moana Blvd., # 201, Honolulu, HI 96814

March 29, 2009

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Sincerely,

Bert A. Kobayashi
Ph: 692-0046
Email: bak@kobayashi-group.com