



LATE

Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 8:30am, CR 329

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President
Philip Hellreich, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
April Donahue, Executive Director
Richard C. Botti, Government Affairs
Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

Re: SB 420 NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE

In Opposition

Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) strongly opposes SB 420 because the bill will allow a naturopathic practitioner to administer a substance intravenously, or through injections. This should not be allowed unless the naturopathic practitioner is under the direct supervision of a physician.

A traditional naturopath will generally avoid procedures common to medical care such as: diagnosing disease, treating disease, prescribing drugs and pharmaceuticals, and performing invasive procedures. In determining the root cause of a client's problems, traditional naturopaths can not diagnose or treat disease, but instead focus on health and education. They teach clients how to create an internal and an external environment that is conducive to good health, enabling the clients to make their own choices. Traditional naturopathy is not a medical practice. Major and minor surgery, prescribing drugs and pharmaceuticals, giving injections and drawing blood should be limited to medical doctors only and not performed within the scope of naturopathy.

Most over-the-counter products (OTC) are not available for injection. There are no existing quality standards for the preparation of the materials that would be allowed for naturopathy injection and there is no evidence of any benefits.

Passage of this legislation would allow naturopaths to inject substances that are of variable strength and quality by a variety of routes into the human body. There is no requirement for manufacturers to assure that a quality standard is met in the production of these substances.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

OFFICERS

Gary Okamoto, MD
President

Robert Marvit, MD
President Elect

Cynthia Jean Goto, MD
Immediate Past President

Thomas Kosasa, MD
Secretary

Jonathan Cho, MD
Treasurer

April Donahue
Executive Director

Hawaii Medical Association
1360 S. Beretania St.
Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 536-7702
(808) 528-2376 fax
www.hmaonline.net

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: SEJ645@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 8:55 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

Steve Joseph
91-113 Unahipipi Place, Ewa Beach
March 15, 2009

To: The Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Health, Twenty-Fifth Legislature Regular Session of 2009

**RE: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine
Committee on Health Hearing Scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 8:30 a.m., Room 329**

Dear Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and other distinguished Members of the House Committee on Health,

As a Hawaii resident, I am writing to strongly urge your support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2 relating to naturopathic medicine. I and my wife have seen Dr. Laurie Steelsmith for naturopathic medical care, and as a result we have significantly improved our health. Naturopathic physicians have extensive training at naturopathic medical schools, and they are by far the most highly trained preventive medicine experts. However, in Hawaii they cannot yet practice according to the full scope of their medical training and they have minimal insurance coverage. 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 Hawaii's naturopathic doctors greater ability to practice preventive medicine according to their training. S.B. No. 420, S.D.2 will give Dr. Steelsmith and other naturopathic doctors in Hawaii 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 20 years. As general practitioners who are licensed in Hawaii as primary care physicians, 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 naturopathic physicians to practice according to their training, S.B. No. 420, S.D.2 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.

Sincerely,

Steve Joseph

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Kristina Krich [kkrich@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 4:55 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

Kristina Krich
87-1282 Farrington Hwy
Waianae, HI 96792

March 15, 2009

To: The Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Health, Twenty-Fifth Legislature Regular Session of 2009
RE: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine
Committee on Health Hearing Scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 8:30 a.m., Room 329

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

Sincerely,
Kristina Krich

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: joe kassel [drjoe@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 4:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: doctorshanon@yahoo.com
Subject: S.B.420

The House Committee on Health

Twenty-fifth State Legislature Regular Session of 2009

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 420, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

To be heard Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

To:
Representative Ryan I. Yamane,
Chair Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto,
Vice Chair and committee members

Dear Representative Yamane, Nishimoto and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Joseph Kassel, N.D., L.Ac.. I have worked in health care since earning my nursing degree with honors in 1979. I have worked as a Naturopath and Acupuncturist since earning those degrees with honors in 1988. I served on the Oregon Board of Naturopathic examiners in the mid 1990's. I have lived and provided primary affordable health care in Kona since 2002.

I am testifying in favor of passage of SB420. When I sat on the Naturopathic Board in Oregon, we went through a similar process in which we modernized our administrative rules to reflect current education and common practice of Naturopathic Physicians. At that time I actually held a fairly conservative position, concerned that some of these changes could distract our profession from its fundamental roots. While this may occasionally be true, what the changes did for the rest of us was simply allow us to provide optimal therapies for patients expeditiously and cost effectively.

While I have a strong commitment to traditional Naturopathic modalities, there is not a week that goes by in which a modern modality could not complement the therapies that I provide to a patient. For many of my patients, my limited scope of practice results in their not acquiring that additional treatment, usually for financial reasons.

We live in a time when we are confronted with rising health care costs. One means of reducing these costs is to prevent redundant office visits to a second practitioner for the same condition. I have committed my career to providing accessible health care. Our current Naturopathic law is on occasion an obstacle to being able to do this and unfortunately sometimes prevents the provision of optimal care.

Clearly the passage of this bill will require an enormous amount of work for the Naturopathic Board to implement responsibly. I have little doubt that they will have the support of local and national authorities to carry this out. The vast majority, if not all other states licensing Naturopaths have laws similar to SB420. I hope you will seriously consider its passage, so that we can better care for those who seek our help.

Sincerely,
Joseph Kassel, N.D., L.Ac.

CATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Natural Choices for Women [info@naturalchoicesforwomen.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 1:05 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: In support of SB420, SD2

Betsy Dyer

216 N Kainalu Dr

Kailua, HI 96734

March 15, 2009

To: The Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Health, Twenty-Fifth Legislature Regular Session of 2009

**RE: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine
Committee on Health Hearing Scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 8:30 a.m., Room 329**

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

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

Sincerely,
Betsy Dyer

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Natural Choices for Women [info@naturalchoicesforwomen.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 1:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support for SB420, SD2

Lynn Garcia

95-1121 Koolani Dr, #183

Mililani, HI 96789

March 15, 2009

To: The Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Health, Twenty-Fifth Legislature Regular Session of 2009

**RE: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine
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Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing of the passing of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2.

Sincerely,
Lynn Garcia