

SB 420



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

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PRESENTATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2009

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009
3:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 420
RELATING TO NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN, M.D., VICE-CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 420, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine. My name is Jo Ann Uchida, Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO offers the following comments on the enforcement aspects of the bill.

Senate Bill No. 420 contains a number of amendments to the Naturopathy chapter, authorizes naturopathic physicians to administer parenteral therapy, authorizes naturopathic physicians to obtain Federal Drug Enforcement

Administration registration and prescribe controlled substances, and authorizes naturopathic physicians to administer intravenous, subcutaneous, and intramuscular injections.

These amendments significantly expand the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians. If the Committee is inclined to approve the expansion of scope of practice in this manner, RICO requests that clear standards of practice or guidelines be promulgated that set forth the conduct that would be allowed. Standards of practice would provide Hawaii's licensee community, as well as RICO, with guidance, for example, as to when and how injections would be administered and which patients would be eligible for controlled substances.

From an enforcement perspective, this is important because, in the event a patient is injured or dies as a result of treatment, RICO would likely review the facts of the case in terms of the following three violations in §455-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes:

(10) Professional misconduct or gross carelessness or manifest incapacity in the practice of naturopathy;

(11) Conduct or practice contrary to the recognized standards of ethics of the naturopathic profession; and

(12) Utilizing medical service or treatment which is inappropriate or unnecessary.

As part of proving a violation, RICO would have to compare the respondent's conduct against some generally accepted standard of practice or ethical standard. While there are many generally accepted standards of practice available in the field

of medicine, there appears to be less consensus regarding generally accepted standards of practice in the field of naturopathy, particularly relating to parenteral therapy. In the absence of generally accepted professional standards, RICO recommends that these standards be set forth in rules promulgated by the Board.

If Senate Bill No. 420 is approved, RICO suggests amending the bill to add the following language on page 12, lines 19-20, which would explicitly allow the Board to promulgate rules relating to standards of practice and educational requirements:

"All rules shall be approved by the governor and the director of commerce and consumer affairs, and when adopted pursuant to chapter 91 shall have the force and effect of law. The rules may forbid acts or practices deemed by the board to be detrimental to the accomplishment of the purpose of this chapter, establish standards of practice, care and ethics, establish the medications that may be prescribed by licensees, require licensees to complete educational courses and training, and establish requirements for parenteral therapy. This enumeration of specific matters that may properly be made the subject of rules shall not be construed to limit the board's broad general power to make rules necessary to fully effectuate the purpose of this chapter."

With regard to the language at page 13, lines 6-8 that states that the Board may annually publish a list of medications that have been approved by the Board, RICO suggests that consideration be given to issuing a list of approved medications by rule rather than through the annual publication of a list. This will allow for public review and commentary before the list is adopted. In the alternative, if the language at page 13, lines 6-8 is adopted as is and not by rule, additional language would be necessary in §455-11, HRS, to explicitly state that prescribing

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 420
February 11, 2009
Page 4

medications not approved by the Board would subject the licensee to disciplinary action.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 420. I will be happy to answer any questions the members of the Committee may have.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN NATUROPATHY**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION of 2009**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2009
3:00 p.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 420, RELATING TO NATUROPATHIC
MEDICINE.**

**TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Dr. Michael Traub, Chairperson of the Board of Examiners in Naturopathy ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 420, Relating to Naturopathy.

The purpose of S.B. No. 420 is to amend the title of the chapter regulating naturopathy to "naturopathic medicine"; define and clarify the scope of "naturopathic medicine"; authorize naturopathic physicians to administer parenteral therapy (i.e., treatments by injection) and obtain Federal Drug Enforcement Administration registration; and authorize the Board to issue temporary licenses to out-of-state naturopathic physicians in a declared public health emergency.

The Board supports the intent of this bill with the following amendments:

1. Include "parenteral therapy" in the definition of "naturopathic medicine" on page 8. The Board believes that parenteral therapy is included in the training received by students in naturopathic medical schools;

2. Delete the new section entitled "Parenteral Therapy" (on pages 1 and 2 of the bill);
3. Amend HRS section 455-6(2) to read:

"Adopt, amend, or repeal rules in accordance with chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including but not limited to requirements regarding parenteral therapy".

This amendment will allow the Board to establish requirements regarding parenteral therapy in the Board's administrative rules.

4. Delete subsection (b) on page 5, lines 16-18, in the new section entitled "Exceptions; scope of chapter" because it is already addressed on page 4, lines 5-8.
5. Clarify the definition of "Radiography" on page 10 as follows:

"Radiography" means the ordering of all radiographic diagnostic and other imaging studies, including but not limited to computed tomography scans, x-rays, magnetic resonance imaging, positron emission tomography scans, and ultrasounds. The term also means and includes the taking and interpreting of x-rays."

The Board believes that this amendment reflects the types of education and training that is taught in naturopathic medical schools.

6. Amend the definition of "Naturopathic formulary" by deleting "in accordance with rules established by the board" (on page 8, lines 13 and 14). The deletion of this phrase will make the definition of "Naturopathic

formulary” consistent with the proposed amendment in HRS section 455-6(7) on page 13, lines 6-8, which gives the Board the authority to annually publish a list of medications that naturopathic physicians could prescribe, administer, and dispense. The Board believes that it has the expertise to independently determine the naturopathic formulary that naturopathic physicians are taught in naturopathic medical schools and at the same time, protects the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 420.

HAWAII SOCIETY OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS

1481 S. King Street, Suite 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dr. Kevin Gibson
Legislative Committee Member

TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green M.D., Vice Chair

SB 420, Relating to Naturopathy

For a hearing scheduled Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM, Conference Room 016.

February 10, 2009

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green and Members of the Committees:

I am Dr. Kevin Gibson, licensed naturopathic physician and acupuncturist, and registered environmental specialist. I serve on the Naturopathic Board of Examiners, but I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians who write in **SUPPORT of SB 420.**

The need for this legislation is presented as follows:

This legislation would allow naturopathic physicians to practice medicine as they are trained to as primary care providers.

As with any health care profession, naturopathic medicine is an evolving field. To provide our patients with the best care possible we seek to keep our practice law up to date. The last modification to naturopathic practice law was over twenty years ago and naturopathic medicine has evolved significantly over that time.

Our state and nation are in a health care crisis and part of that crisis is the lack of qualified primary care doctors. Naturopathic physicians can be part of the solution to this crisis, but we must not be limited in our practice to be most effective.

Our current law is unclear about some practice areas such as the parenteral administration of vitamins, minerals and amino acids; our prescriptive authority and minor office procedures. These practice areas are taught in the curriculum of naturopathic schools, and are included in the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians in the majority of states in which they are licensed, including California, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Arizona.

Parenteral administration of vitamins, mineral, and amino acids are an important part of naturopathic practice and are not a service customarily supplied by conventional health care providers.

Vitamin, mineral, and amino acid injections are very beneficial for a variety of health conditions, including immune enhancement, correcting nutrient deficiencies, and eliminating toxic substances such as heavy metals (lead, mercury, etc.). Naturopathic physicians provide a valuable service to public health and safety by offering this treatment.

Past History:

Naturopathic doctors licensed here in Hawaii and nationwide have been administering natural substances including vitamins, minerals and amino acids subcutaneously, intramuscularly and intravenously (i.e., injection routes) for approximately twenty years. The current naturopathic governing statute, HRS 455 states naturopathic doctors may use the "...natural methods or modalities, together with natural or homeopathic medicines, natural foods, and herbs, and nature's remedies of the type taught in education and training at naturopathic medical colleges." Because injection routes are taught in naturopathic medical colleges, doctors have chosen in the past to safely utilize these effective methods.

The naturopathic governing board issued an opinion in 1984 that the injection of vitamins was within the scope of practice of naturopathic physicians. There has not been one case of misuse or harm caused by these methods reported to the state licensing board or the state member society. In addition, naturopathic malpractice insurance companies insure practitioners using these techniques. The largest insurance companies offering malpractice insurance have not received one malpractice claim throughout the nation against a naturopathic physician for the misuse of injection methods.

There were no complaints brought to the Board of Naturopathic Examiners in regard to the use of these injectable natural medicines by naturopathic physicians during this time. In 2006, the legislature approved HB1155 which clarified that naturopathic physicians have the authority to administer natural medicines by injection, although the bill was vetoed by the Governor.

In addition to clarifying the use of parenteral therapies, this bill would give the Board of Naturopathic Medicine the authority to determine the naturopathic formulary. This would help to safeguard against the misuse of any "new" natural substance and protect public health. The Board has the expertise to determine this formulary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

14500 Juanita Drive N.E.
Kenmore, Washington 98028-4966
(425) 823-1300
FAX (425) 823-6222
www.bastyr.edu

February 10, 2009

Re: SB420 hearing by the Senate Health Committee on Wednesday, February 11 at 3 pm.

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage support of SB420 that would modernize the law relating to naturopathic medicine in Hawaii and would empower the Board of Naturopathic Medicine to establish a naturopathic formulary and would also clarify that naturopathic physicians can perform minor office procedures.

A 2004 government survey called attention to the fact that more than one-third of U.S. adults use complementary and alternative medicine. It is imperative that residents of Hawaii have access to naturopathic doctors who can practice to the extent of their training.

As the dean of the School of Naturopathic Medicine at Bastyr University, I am responsible for the delivery of the Naturopathic Medicine Program. As a medical doctor, I can attest as to the rigor and quality of training of naturopathic doctors.

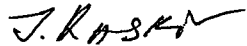
Naturopathic doctors who graduate from CNME (Council on Naturopathic Medical Education) accredited schools complete pre-med training before entering four years of graduate naturopathic medical programs. The schools are accredited by regional accrediting agencies. Regional accreditors as well as the CNME are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. In order to practice and be held accountable to state licensing boards, naturopathic doctors are required to pass a national board exam.

Naturopathic medical curriculum at Bastyr University provides for training of primary care physicians and includes training on:

- 1). Prescribing of all non-Scheduled legend drugs and Scheduled codeine and testosterone in Schedules III, IV, & V
- 2). Administering medications via intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intradermal routes. (Naturopathic physicians may inject any medication that is manufactured in an injectable form and is within the scope of practice)

3). Performing minor office procedures relating to lesions (including biopsies of superficial lesions), excluding only excisions or incisions "beyond a minor office procedure"

Aloha,



Gannady Raskin MD, ND
Dean, School of Naturopathic Medicine
Bastyr University
14500 Juanita Drive N.E.
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Tel: (425) 602-3386
Fax: (425) 823-6222
Email: graskin@bastyr.edu

February 10, 2009

RE: SB420, Relating to Naturopathy, for a scheduled hearing Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM, conference room 016

Honorable Chair David Y. Ige and Vice Chair Josh Green M.D., and members of the committee.

I am Tom Leland M.D. testifying in support of SB420, Relating to Naturopathy. I have been a practicing physician for the State of Hawaii Department of Health for 35 years and have been an active licensed physician for 55 years. I am also on the faculty at the University of Hawaii Medical School. I am writing as a member of the public who has received excellent care by a local naturopathic doctor and believe they serve the role as a primary care doctor very well.

I understand their current scope of practice is hampered by their current law and this bill SB420 would allow them to practice as they are trained. We the people of the state of Hawaii need their full care. Please support their good work by passing this important legislation.

Thank you,

Tom Leland M.D.

From: jazz@dubey.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 3:20 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: Testimony -Senate Bill 420 - Naturopathic Medicine Modernization

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 420
NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE- MODERNIZATION BILL February 10, 2009

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE HEARING

FEBRUARY 11, 2009

TO: CHAIRPERSON: HONORABLE SENATOR DAVID IGE
VICE CHAIR: HONORABLE SENATOR JOSH GREEN, MD
and HEALTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DEAR SENATORS IGE, GREEN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I am Dr Steve Dubey, Hawaii licensed Naturopathic Physician and Acupuncturist, practicing 28 years.

I write to you today in favor of passage of SB 420. This bill simply puts the definition and practice of Naturopathic Medicine in Hawaii at a comparable level with the rest of our profession in North America.

I live and practice on the island of Kauai. I have run a busy clinic in Lihue since 1981. My staff and I offer family health care , with an emphasis on musculo-skeletal therapies and modalities, Natural Medicines including medicinal herbs, nutrition, life style counseling, and preventative patient education. I have now treated members of our community from the newborn to the elderly , with nearly every simple and complex health diagnosis listed in Dorland's Medical Dictionary.

From 1996 to 2004 I served on the Naturopathic Board of Examiners, and finished my last term as Chairperson. Hawaii Revised Statute Chapter 455 , which licenses Naturopathic Doctors in our state, was first put into law in 1926 , before Hawaii attained statehood. Much of the original language is still in the statute.

On numerous occasions, during my term on the Board, it was obvious that our statute has simply become outdated. Due to this fact, it has unfairly restricted the practice of Hawaii's licensed NDs and turned away numerous Hawaii born practitioners because we have been come to be known as a " Backwards State"- a state where graduates from Naturopathic schools can not practice to the full extent of their training. Modern Naturopathic training prepares the Doctors of today as Primary Health Care providers with a specialty in practical, common sense Natural Health Care.

I don't have to go into specifics of how Science, Technology and Health Care in general has changed over the last 90 years. Appropriately, Naturopathic Medicine , as taught in the accredited educational institutions that train Naturopathic Physicians, has changed as well.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in putting Hawaii's Naturopathic Physicians scope and definition of practice at a level with the rest of our profession throughout the continental United States, Alaska, and Canada.

Yours Sincerely

Steven Dubey ND LAc
dr.dube
3093 Akahi Street
Lihue, HI 96766
(808) 245-2277
Fax (808) 245-2277

From: Karen Kathleen Speedy Altergott [speedyaltergott@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 3:38 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: SB420 Naturopatic Medicine Feb 11th 09 at 3pm

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Please support NDs to be able to practice the full scope of their medicine and have the laws up to date with the rest of the nation. Mahalo

From: joy blais [joyblais@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 3:34 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine, February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Aloha,

I am writing to express my support of SB420 which would change the current laws regarding the ability of naturopathic doctors to practice to the full extent of their training. Please pass this bill and bring Hawaii up to the same standards held by many other states.

Sincerely,

Joy Blais

Joy Blais
P.O. Box 131
Honokaa, HI 96727

February 10, 2009

To: Senate Health Committee, Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green

Re: SB420, Relating to Naturopathy; hearing on Wednesday, 2/10/09; 3:00 PM, conference room 016.

My name is Nan Holmes, I **support passage of SB420**. My background is a Masters in Public Health from the Univ. of Hawaii where I also served for many years as the Assistant Director for Continuing Education. In this role I worked closely in the community in preventative health and ran the statewide wellness celebration. Through all of this I learned that healthcare needs to be offered as a choice of modalities.

My experience with naturopathic medicine has been effective as an adjunct to allopathic medicine. In my experience, both are necessary in meeting the publics demand and the current health care crisis.

Aloha,

Nan Holmes, MPH

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From: April Fitzsimmons [purplejadewave@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 3:07 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine, February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

This bill is necessary for Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine to practice to their full extent. Hawaii should not fall behind in Health Care, there is no reason to. Mahalo for you support.
- april fitzsimmons

Kerry Ferguson, ND
73-5618 Maiiau Street, Suite A204
Kailua Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone 808-329-2114

For a hearing scheduled Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 016.

Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

I am Kerry Ferguson, ND, member of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, and of the Hawai'i Society of Naturopathic Physicians. I am a recent resident to Hawaii and am practicing in Kailua-Kona. Within weeks of practicing, it was abundantly clear that there is a great shortage of primary care physicians practicing on the Big Island. As I continue to meet local residents on the island and they are informed of my profession I hear the same words, "I am so glad you are here, we need doctors so badly." I have learned that six months is a common wait time for a primary care visit. The next thing I hear out of residents when they learn I am a naturopathic physician is, "that is so great, are you covered by insurance." Imagine their dismay when I have to explain that at this time we are not covered, and they have to pay cash out of pocket. In these economic hard times that is difficult at best for many residents. What a choice, wait six months when your health is deteriorating, or go into debt to receive care from a fully trained primary care physician who not only treats occurring illnesses, but who can also work with patients to prevent and at times reverse serious illnesses such as diabetes.

I mention diabetes as it is becoming epidemic among not only adults but young children. Using naturopathic and sometimes traditional pharmaceuticals, this illness can be managed, and often reversed through lifestyle changes, thus preventing the devastating effects this illness can have on the body. It is often frustrating, as a physician, that I do not have the ability to manage these patients pharmaceuticals when necessary. When changes need to be made, we are back to waiting for months for a MD to make a simple change in a prescription that I am trained and qualified to make. During this time, patient's health can continue to deteriorate. This bill would provide enhanced care to all patients by providing increased continuity of care by allowing naturopathic physicians to provide care according to their training, including prescription rights. In addition, it would increase the accessibility of doctors for patients by including naturopathic physicians in healthcare plans.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Please support its passage.

Kerry Ferguson, ND

February 9, 2009

To: Senate Health Committee, Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green

Re: SB420, Relating to Naturopathy; hearing on Wednesday, 2/10/09; 3:00 PM, conference room 016.

My name is T.N. Jade Tran, M.D., working for the State Department of Health. I am writing in **SUPPORT OF SB420**, not as a representative of the Department of Health, but as a private practitioner. I was medically trained both here and in Germany where naturopathic medicine is commonplace and well regarded for its effectiveness. I am very familiar with the breadth of education and training a naturopathic physician receives and believe they are much needed to help fill our primary care doctor shortage and well qualified to safely administer vitamins, minerals, amino acids and fatty acids by routes of intravenous and intramuscular injection.

Passage of this legislation will help our shortage of primary care doctors here in Hawaii and allow patients to receive the high quality care naturopathic medicine has to offer.

Sincerely,

Jade Tran, M.D.

From: Shanon Sidell [doctorshanon@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 2:40 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: SB420

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

To: Health Committee, Sen. David Ige, Chair, Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine, Feb. 11, 2008, 3 pm,

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green and Committee members,

I am writing out of my desire to be a part of the solution to our healthcare crisis in the Hawaiian Islands.

I have been a resident of Hawaii since 1996. In 2001, I left to attend medical school on the mainland, and finished my residency last year. I have returned to South Kona and intend to practice in this community. There is not another doctor for 15 miles in one direction and 25 miles in the other.

As a naturopathic physician, I was trained as a primary care doctor. My education was comprised of two (2) years of science didactics and three (3) years of clinical training. This included one (1) year of coursework in medical procedures such as superficial wound closure, intramuscular injections and Intravenous therapies. In addition were 50 hours of pharmacology. The training in these areas is on par with my allopathic counterparts.

In order to be able to fully care for my patients as a primary care physician, there are antiquated areas of Hawaii's naturopathic medicine law that need updating. Currently, when patients come to me with conditions needing a prescription drug, or injections such as tetanus booster or vaccinations, they are referred to a practitioner with prescriptive authority. When a patient sees me for stitches for superficial cuts, I refer them to the Emergency Department. A patient with nutrient deficiencies or needing immune supplementation could be helped with intravenous vitamin, mineral, or amino acid therapies however, they must find a local allopathic physician who is trained in those therapies, or go to the mainland.

These are a few of the areas in which the current Hawaii naturopathic medicine law could be improved. I am asking on behalf of myself and the patients in my community to support the current legislation SB420. It would make a huge difference in the quality and breadth of care I am able to give my patients in our underserved area.

I am asking for your support of Senate Bill 420.

Shanon Sidell, ND
Ho'okena Beach Road
Kealia, Hawaii 96751
808-960-8333

Dear Senators Ige, Green and members of the Senate Health Committee:

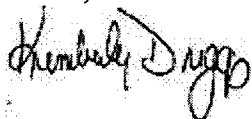
I am writing as a Hawai'i resident and as a concerned citizen. It is increasingly clear that we are in an economic recession and it is also rather alarming to see the state of our current healthcare system. Many physicians are leaving the state, especially the outer islands, and replacements are minimal at best. Many of us residing on the outer islands must fly to Oahu to seek even basic medical care, which is a great expense and is often difficult for those who are injured or ill. Even this option is not always adequate and an increasing number of patients are flying to the mainland for specialized treatment in the interest of being seen in a timely fashion.

It is my understanding that there are approximately 100 Naturopathic Physicians actively practicing in the state of Hawai'i with minimal insurance coverage and a limited scope of practice. This seems counterproductive to increasing the level of healthcare available to the citizens of this state, especially in the underserved areas. Given their level of training it seems that naturopathic physicians are a powerful resource for helping to remedy the current situation and should be utilized as such. If you are not familiar with their skills and training, I strongly encourage you to educate yourself on the matter (much information can be obtained at www.naturopathic.org). They are licensed in this state as primary care physicians but are not allowed to practice as trained due to the antiquated limitations put upon them.

If it weren't for my Naturopathic Physician finding a treatment for me that took care of my illness when the regular MD couldn't or was not available here, I would still be very ill. I owe everything to my ND. The ND's need a more modern scope of practice.

General practitioners are invaluable and help decrease the work load of the medical specialists, who are generally overwhelmed with the current demand. Indeed, many of them are no longer able to take on new patients, leaving individuals to look elsewhere for therapies. Preventative medicine and lifestyle changes can promote a healthier Hawai'i, while decreasing the financial burden of healthcare costs. I ask that you please consider a modernization of scope of practice for naturopathic physicians for the benefit of all the citizens and visitors to Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Driggs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly Driggs

From: Nat [nat@maui.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 1:59 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine wed. 2/11/09 3pm conference room 016

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Dr. Nathan Ehrlich, N.D.

PO Box 756 Makawao, HI 96768
(808) 572-1388 fax 572-1389
February 10th, 2009

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

For a hearing scheduled Wed. February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM Conference Room 016.

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine SB420

My name is Dr. Nathan Ehrlich, N.D. I am a naturopathic physician with a practice in upcountry Maui since 1989. I received my pre-medical bachelor of science degree in psychobiology from Albright College in 1984 and received my Naturopathic Doctorate from National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, OR in 1988. I have been a member of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians since 1989 for which I have also served as an officer in several capacities over the years. I also have been a member of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians since 1989 as well.

I ask for your support of SB420 for the following reasons: The field of naturopathic medicine, along with medicine and healthcare in general, is evolving rapidly. The wisdom of traditional medicine is being coupled with the advancement of research and technology and we, as naturopathic physicians, as the foremost authorities on natural medicine, have the responsibility of being in step with this process. It is time for the law governing naturopathic medicine in Hawaii to be modernized to permit N.D.'s to practice as educated in the curricula of accredited naturopathic medical schools.

One aspect of naturopathic practice which is directly impacted by this bill is the ability for N.D.'s to perform parenteral therapy (administration of medicine via injection). Natural medicines administered by injection are an important part of naturopathic practice and are not a service customarily supplied by conventional health care providers. There is a history of safe administration of injection therapy for naturopathic physicians in the state of Hawaii, and we are, as naturopathic physicians, the most trained practitioners in nutrition and, as such, are the providers most able to perform this therapy. There is currently a healthcare crisis on a national level which can be aided by the full integration of naturopathic physicians into a complementary model of healthcare which allows for overlap among healthcare professions. As certain procedures within a profession are also administered by trained and qualified practitioners from other professions, the public is more effectively served.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Please support its passage.

Nathan Ehrlich, N.D.

From: Kristen Fujii [k.fujii@scnm.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 1:28 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: michaeltraub@earthlink.net
Subject: For a hearing scheduled Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

For a hearing scheduled Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM

Conference Room 016.

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

My name is Kristen Fujii, and I am currently a 4th year Naturopathic medical student at Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe, Arizona. I am testifying in support of SB420. As a local girl, born and raised in Honolulu, I am looking forward to returning home to practice as a fully licensed naturopathic physician, hopefully with a scope of practice that is comparable to the scope of practice that I am currently being trained in.

I ask for your support of this bill for the following reasons:

1. Naturopathic medicine has evolved significantly over the past twenty years, and legislation should be in place to parallel that evolution. Parenteral therapy, prescriptive authority, and minor office procedures are being taught as part of the curriculum of all approved naturopathic medical schools, and should be within the scope of practice of licensed naturopathic physicians in Hawaii.
2. Naturopathic physicians licensed in Hawaii have graduated from approved schools, and have passed the national Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Exam (NPLEX), showing that they have achieved competency to practice as they were taught in medical school. As a student, being trained in the state of Arizona, I have been exposed to the widest scope of practice of any of the mainland states, and I feel that it is important to be able to practice in the way I have been trained.
3. We are in the midst of a major healthcare crisis, and naturopathic medicine is part of the solution to this problem. Naturopathic physicians are trained as primary care doctors, and should be utilized as such, to help decrease the burden on other medical specialists. Naturopathic medicine focuses on preventative medicine and lifestyle changes, and naturopathic physicians can provide services, such as parenteral therapy of natural medicines, that general medical practitioners are not extensively trained in.

It is my intention to return home to the islands to practice, hopefully in a rural area, to bring naturopathic medicine to populations that can truly benefit from our approach to healthcare. I ask that you please consider the modernization of the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians, to enable them to practice as they are trained, and help improve the health of the people of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Kristen E. Fujii

From: Michael Traub [michaeltraub@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 9:00 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: SB420: For a hearing scheduled Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

THE SENATE - THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

For a hearing scheduled Wednesday February 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM Conference Room 016.

To: Committee on Health, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

I am Michael Traub, ND, Past President of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, and I am testifying in support of SB420. I have practiced full-time in Kailua Kona for the past 24 years. I am Chairman of the Hawai'i Board of Naturopathic Examiners. I submit this testimony not on behalf of the Board, but as a member of the Hawai'i Society of Naturopathic Physicians.

From 2005-2006, I served as a member of the Formulary Advisory Committee for the Bureau of Naturopathic Medicine in California. Should SB420 be passed into law in Hawaii, I will be able to share the work that has been done in California with regards to this matter, which would facilitate the development of the naturopathic formulary in Hawaii. A copy of the findings and recommendations of the Formulary Advisory Committee is attached to this email and is available at: http://www.naturopathic.ca.gov/about_us/reports.shtml

I ask for your support of this bill for the following reasons:

1. Modernization of HRS 455 is badly needed. The last major revision to the statute was 15 years ago. There are contradictions and gray areas in the law which have created difficulties for naturopathic physicians to practice as trained. The naturopathic practice act needs to evolve as health care demands and the capabilities of naturopathic physicians have changed.
2. The current health care crisis can be partly addressed by primary care doctors who focus on prevention and lifestyle changes. Naturopathic physicians are the experts in this type of care, and can be much more a part of the solution to the shortage for prevention-oriented primary care providers if they are able to practice to the full scope of their competence.
3. The language in this bill was drawn primarily from the other Western states that regulate naturopathic medicine: Arizona, California, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Passage of SB420 will bring naturopathic medicine in

Hawaii up to the standards of these and other states across the nation.

4. Much of this bill is housekeeping in nature. It rightly grants autonomous authority to the licensing board, which alone has the necessary expertise and responsibility for public safety, to determine naturopathic formulary.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Please support its passage.

Michael Traub, ND, DHANP, FABNO

From: Jessyka M [jessykaspirit@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 8:51 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: Re: SB420

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

To the Seante Health Committee:

This email is in regards to SB420, scheduled for its first hearing Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 3 pm in the Senate Health Committee.

As I understand it, Hawaii's laws surrounding medicine are not updated. As a resident of ths state, who first turns to naturopaths when in need, I find it troubling that ND's are unable to practice to the full extent of their capabilities, as they are in other US states. Furthermore, is it not your duty as our leaders to see to it that the health of its citizens is priority one. Many uninsured residents of Hawaii, such as myself, seek help from naturopaths who are limited by the law to aide it's citizens. If I need a prescription, I have to make an additional appointment with an MD before getting it, an unnecessary out-of-pocket expense.

Please pass SB420. We need more useful practioners!

Jessica Murray
Kapaa, HI 96746



EMAILING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

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I am writing as a Hawai'i resident and as a concerned citizen. It is increasingly clear that we are in an economic recession and it is also rather alarming to see the state of our current healthcare system. Many physicians are leaving the state, especially the outer islands, and replacements are minimal at best. Many of us residing on the outer islands must fly to Oahu to seek even basic medical care, which is a great expense and is often difficult for those who are injured or ill. Even this option is not always adequate and an increasing number of patients are flying to the mainland for specialized treatment in the interest of being seen in a timely fashion.

It is my understanding that there are approximately 100 Naturopathic Physicians actively practicing in the state of Hawai'i with minimal insurance coverage and a limited scope of practice. This seems counterproductive to increasing the level of healthcare available to the citizens of this state, especially in the underserved areas. Given their level of training it seems that naturopathic physicians are a powerful resource for helping to remedy the current situation and should be utilized as such. If you are not familiar with their skills and training, I strongly encourage you to educate yourself on the matter (much information can be obtained at www.naturopathic.org). They are licensed in this state as primary care physicians but are not allowed to practice as trained due to the antiquated limitations put upon them.

General practitioners are invaluable and help decrease the work load of the medical specialists, who are generally overwhelmed with the current demand. Indeed, many of them are no longer able to take on new patients, leaving individuals to look elsewhere for therapies. Preventative medicine and lifestyle changes can promote a healthier Hawai'i, while decreasing the financial burden of healthcare costs. I ask that you please consider a modernization of scope of practice for naturopathic physicians for the benefit of all the citizens and visitors to Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Tami Winston

From: Lisa Mireles [lisa@kula.org]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 1:32 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: carriejbrennan@hotmail.com
Subject: For SB420, to be heard on Feb. 11, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the Senate Health Committee

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support the passage of SB420, to be heard on Feb. 11, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the Senate Health Committee. In light of the current health care crisis, we urgently need a shift in focus from reactionary to preventative medicine, I am writing to express my support of this bill. Naturopathic practitioners are highly trained individuals who can provide a high quality standard of care that focuses on the mind-body connection. We would be remiss if we did not support this holistic approach to health care.

I personally have found many benefits for my family from working with naturopathic practitioners who have managed to improve and/or resolve both short term and long term conditions including fevers, allergies, asthma, obesity, anxiety, and herniated disks.

With respect and aloha,

Lisa Mireles
Principal
Kula Elementary at Na Kamalei
4480 Ho'okui Road
Kilauea, HI 96754
www.kula.org
808 828-1144 (phone)
808 828-1110 (fax)

One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.- Chinese Proverb

From: lyle robinson [doclrob@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 11:46 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: in support of SB420

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Aloha, I am writing in support of the bill known as SB420, which will be heard on Wednesday, February 11th 2009, at 3pm. I am a licensed, part-time practicing Naturopathic Physician on the island of Kauai. I am fully in support of this bill. If it passes, which indeed, it should, then we will have a standard of care which is crucial for treating patients and we will be able to use our training to its full extent. As the law stands presently, we are limited in our abilities to help people, however, with the passage of this bill, Hawaiian Naturopathic Physicians will be able to treat people with the same tools used by Naturopathic Physicians in all of the Western states. Please help us to help others.

Mahalo, Dr. Lyle Robinson

From: Helena1824@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 10:44 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: in support of SB420

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

I am writing and asking for your help to expand the naturopathic medical law here in Hawaii. Our law has not been modernized in many years, and it needs to be!! This bill has far-ranging ramifications for naturopathic practice in Hawaii. Basically it would bring the scope of practice up to the standards of all the other Western states, and allow Doctors to practice to the full extent of their training. Even include prescription rights!

Healthcare in this country needs to be reformed, and naturopathic medicine is an important part of making and keeping us all healthier.

For SB420, to be heard on Feb. 11, 2008 at 3 pm in the Senate Health Committee.

Thank you for your service to Hawaii,

Helena Cooney
5316 Kumole St
Kapaa, HI 96746
808-822-1885

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you will never know how soon it will be too late.

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

From: Karen Tilley [forkarentilley@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 7:17 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: For SB420, to be heard on Feb. 11, 2008 at 3 pm in the Senate Health Committee

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

I am writing and asking to ask that you please **expand** the naturopathic medical law here in Hawaii.

We need the modernization bill SB420.

I am a healthy 44 year old woman who has consulted with naturopathic doctors as my primary care physicians ever since I became an adult.

In my opinion, Naturopathic physicians are a key to Disease Prevention for this country and could save the country Billions in medical fees.

Naturopathic physicians can assist people to stay healthy or recover from illness or disease through educating their clients on simple but profoundly effective lifestyle choices or herbal treatments.

The root of the word 'doctor' means teacher. Doctors are supposed to be teachers, teaching their client how to stay or get healthy!

This teacher /student relationship rarely happens in a normal western medicine dynamic, : not much can be taught in an appointment lasting only 10 minutes from start to finish.

Plus... Taking a chemical pill to reduce symptoms while the person continues to do what make him ill, does not really work.

When I see a Naturopathic doctor, my appointment with them can be an hour or sometimes an hour and a half! Teaching happens.

My friends and family success stories of consulting with ND's include curing of staph aureus (that had not been cured by 5 other types of antibiotics), fish hooks removed, wonderful natural homebirths, Staph Prevention, clean wound healing, diabetes improvement, and more.

I sincerely hope that you will pass the moderization bill for Naturopathic medicine.

Thank you.

Karen Tilley
Kauai Eden Tours
a fine Personal Guide service on Kauai

Karen Tilley
P.O. Box 510021
Kealia HI
96751-0021

"Making most of your time here"

Karen@KauaiEdenTours.com

www.KauaiEdenTours.com

808-821-8008

From: Dr. Monica Scheel [drscheel@pacificaskinwellness.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2009 9:12 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB420, hearing 2/11/09 3pm

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

To: Committee on Health, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

I am Monica Scheel, MD, a board-certified dermatologist. For the past 5 years, I have practiced with a naturopathic physician. Our professional relationship is very mutually beneficial, for our patients as well as ourselves. We refer back and forth to each other, and learn a great deal from each other. My partner, Michael Traub, ND, knows considerably more about dermatology than the average MD primary care physician. In fact, he is an active member of the Big Island Dermatology Society, which meets monthly to discuss patient cases, dermatopathology, and journal articles.

Due to our close working relationship, I am able to help Dr. Traub's patients with certain things that the Hawaii naturopathic law does not provide for, such as biopsies and prescription medications. It is my opinion, however, that Dr. Traub has the level of knowledge, experience and competence to provide these for his patients independently.

I wholeheartedly endorse the intent of SB420 to modernize the naturopathic scope of practice in Hawaii and urge you to support its passage.

Sincerely,

Monica Scheel, MD

From: Jill Richardson [jill@kauainature.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2009 10:39 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: The modernization bill, SB420

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Please support The modernization bill, SB420. It would make seeing the Doctor of our choice much simpler and more cost effective. Natropathic Doctors are excellent care givers and in many cases better caregivers than Mds.

Please support expanding the law in this area.

Sincerely, Jill Richardson

From: Marianne George [george.mimi@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 1:52 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: naturopathic medicine

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

February 9, 2009

Dear Senator or Representative:

I am writing as a Hawai'i resident and as a concerned citizen. It is increasingly clear that we are in an economic recession and it is also rather alarming to see the state of our current healthcare system. Most of the physicians have left Hawaii and we cannot afford to lose more of them. Here on Hawai'i Island we are especially lacking. There are not enough replacements and they are not aware of the particular needs of Hawaii people. Many of us residing on the outer islands must fly to Oahu to seek even basic medical care, which is a great expense and is often difficult for those who are injured or ill. Even this option is not always adequate. Many of those patients who can afford it are flying to the mainland for specialized treatment in the interest of being seen in a timely fashion. Most of us cannot afford to do that. There is no good reason for this situation to continue. We are fortunate to have Naturopathic Physicians here in the state and I have found that the care they give is a better fit with my needs and the needs of my friends and family than what the M.D.s are offering. Personally I experienced serious illness ten years ago. I was diagnosed with lupus and given no hope of recovery. But I have regained my health and capacity to work because of treatments by naturopathic physicians in the state of Hawaii.

It is my understanding that there are approximately 100 Naturopathic Physicians actively practicing in the state of Hawai'i with minimal insurance coverage and a limited scope of practice. This is not only depriving us of superior health care but it is counterproductive to increasing the level of healthcare available to the citizens of this state, especially in the underserved areas. Given their level of training it seems that naturopathic physicians are a powerful resource for helping to remedy the current situation and should be utilized as such. If you are not familiar with their skills and training, I strongly encourage you to educate yourself on the matter (much information can be obtained at www.naturopathic.org). They are licensed in this state as primary care physicians but are not allowed to practice as trained due to the antiquated limitations put upon them. Expanding their scope of practice to fit their medical training is one way to get 100 more physicians meeting the needs of our people immediately.

General practitioners are invaluable and help decrease the work load of the medical specialists, who are generally overwhelmed with the current demand. Indeed, many of them are no longer able to take on new patients, leaving individuals to look elsewhere for therapies. Preventative medicine and lifestyle changes can promote a healthier Hawai'i, while decreasing the financial burden of healthcare costs. I ask that you please consider a modernization of scope of practice for naturopathic physicians for the benefit of all the citizens and visitors to Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Marianne George, Ph.D.
george.mimi@gmail.com

POB 712
Captain Cook, HI 96704

Re: SB420, Relating to Naturopathy; hearing on Wednesday, 2/11/09; 3:00 PM, conference room 016.

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

From: Richard Rovin M.D., N.D.

Date: February 10, 2009

Subject: Support of SB420, Relating to Naturopathy

I am writing in **SUPPORT OF SB420**. I am Dr. Richard Rovin in active practice as a licensed allopathic(conventional MD) and naturopathic doctor here in the state of Hawaii. I believe I am uniquely qualified to assess the qualifications of both licensed professions. There is a great deal of overlap in the two professions, yet very distinct differences in the practice philosophies. Modern health care needs both, the public deserves both and each should be given the full right to practice as they are trained. SB420 is necessary to allow naturopaths to do just that and help many patients who otherwise could not be helped with conventional medical care.

I respectfully ask for your support of this important health care legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard Rovin MD, ND

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:54 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: mauricetmorita@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB420 on 2/11/2009 3:00:00 PM

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Testimony for HTH 2/11/2009 3:00:00 PM SB420

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Maurice Morita
Organization: Individual
Address: 1142 Ala Aloalo Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-225-0326
E-mail: mauricetmorita@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

My name is Maurice Morita and I am testifying as an individual in support of SB 420. I am presently seeing a Naturopathic Physician and I am happy with the results I have been receiving after three treatments and knowledge of how my Naturopathic Physician have helped me to improve my health wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: Joan Conrow [joanconrow@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 7:04 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: SB420: Feb. 11, 2008 at 3 pm Senate Health Committee.

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Dear Senators:

I strongly urge you to approve Senate Bill 420, which would serve to recognize the valuable medical services that naturopaths provide in Hawaii.

I've received extremely good health care from the two naturopaths I've seen on Kauai and view them my primary care providers. It would be very helpful if they could provide a fuller range of health services so I don't have to spend time and money seeing a medical doctor as well.

Naturopaths are highly trained and skilled practitioners, and they bring a humanity to their practice that isn't always found in medical doctors. They provide an important form of health care for our community and deserve our appreciation and support.

Please give this bill your support.

Thank you.

Joan Conrow
PO Box 525
Anahola, HI 96703

Testimony regarding SB420, Senate Health Committee Hearing at 3pm on February 11th, 2009

Kona, February 10th 2009

Dear Fearless Leaders,

Exceptionally good health is on my side thanks to my Naturopathic Physician. As a former professional athlete I experienced many successes and setbacks requiring medical expertise. Now, my go-to Doctor is my Naturopath here in Kona, Dr. Michael Traub. I was able to avoid a painful surgery and lost time at work thanks to his intervention. The care I receive at the Naturopathic Doctor's office keeps me balanced on many levels. This balance is the foundation of being well.

Through my experience with Naturopathic Medicine at Lokahi Health Center I came to believe that

- Naturopaths avoid costly and unnecessary surgery
- Embody an extraordinary understanding of the ENTIRE body
- Recognize when experts from other fields need to be pulled in
- Work seamlessly with the rest of the medical community
- Cover the gaps of conventional medicine successfully
- Are greatly respected by the medical community

I trust my Naturopath with my life.

It wasn't easy to find my Naturopathic Physician. It wasn't an obvious avenue to seek out. Originally I tried to find a general practitioner here in Kona. I had to travel all the way to Waimea to find someone who would accommodate me within 6 months. Half a year went by and I was informed that the doctor had moved off island to a land-locked state without mountains. Conditions in Hawaii have to be pretty bad for doctors to be enticed to leave our Island Paradise.

Now that I have experienced the scope of expertise at my Naturopath's office, my health care needs are in great hands. As a Hawaii resident, I would kindly like to ask you to empower Naturopathic Physicians so that they may best serve an ever growing need for health care amongst residents and visitors.

Sincerely yours,

Renata Goetzendorfer,
77-434 Ho'omaluhia, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: Michael Traub [michaeltraub@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 10:29 PM
To: Lloyd Friesen, DC
Cc: HTHTestimony
Subject: Re: SB 420 (Naturopathic Legislation)

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Thank you Lloyd, this is excellent, I'll keep you posted on the progress of the legislation.

Michael

On Feb 10, 2009, at 8:45 AM, Lloyd Friesen, DC wrote:

Dear Senator Ige,

On behalf of American Specialty Health, Inc., I am submitting the attached letter of support for SB 420 for your consideration.

R. Lloyd Friesen, DC

Director, Professional Affairs

American Specialty Health

777 Front St.

San Diego, CA 92101

805.253.0085 (Direct)

619.990.2511 (Mobile)

619.237.3833 (FAX)

lloydf@ashn.com

From: Drew Ross [spiritualpersonality@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 7:37 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: Michael Traub
Subject: SB420 Testimony

To whom it may concern:

Re: SB420 February 11, 2009 3:00 pm

I am writing in support of SB420 regarding naturopathic practice. I am a psychiatrist, not a naturopath, who has worked in the State of Hawai'i since 1992 and in Kona since 1998. Over this time, the naturopaths in my community have become some of my most valued colleagues. I lean on them for information about the integration of alternative and Western approaches, and for help in understanding the many modalities of alternative and natural health care used by my patients. If high quality naturopaths were not available in our area, I am quite unsure whether I could continue the work that I do.

As you know, we have a shortage of many types of physicians on the Big Island. Naturopaths, due to this shortage as well as their integrative approach, are the primary care health providers for many people on the Big Island, and for many of my patients.

Please support naturopaths in the important work that they do in our state.

Sincerely,

R. Andrew Schultz-Ross, M.D.

Miles Greenberg, ND
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN
3093 Akahi St.
Lihue, HI 96766

February 11, 2009

Hawaii State Senate
The Twenty Fifth Legislature
Regular Session 2009

RE: SB 420

Honorable Committee Chair, David Y. Ige, Vice Chair Josh Green, and other Health Committee members:

I am a full time practicing naturopathic physician (ND) for nearly 20 years in Kauai. I have been past president of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians and a twelve plus year volunteer with DCCA's Regulated Industries Complaint Office. I am providing testimony in **support** of SB 420.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has ranked the United States of America 37th for the medical care the it provides to its citizens. As the richest country in the world this ranking is abominable. What steps are being taken to heal this health crisis? *Not much*. Costs continue to sky rocket and access to low tech, first line intervention is unavailable to the public.

Naturopathic physicians are trained as primary care providers and utilize many low tech, low cost interventions that work and save big money. Yet the State of Hawaii has limited the scope of practice more than any other state that licenses ND's. It's time to update and *modernize* the statute in congruence with our training and with the other states. The last time this statute was revised was more than 20 years ago.

This bill would give the Board of Naturopathic Medicine authority to determine the naturopathic formulary. This would provide the necessary safeguards that would be required to regulate the dispensing of legend items by naturopaths, in accordance with their training. Other provisions that grant temporary licensure to out-of-state ND's in the event of an emergency/catastrophe are just plain practical.

We ask our legislative body to bear in mind that the purpose of regulation is to protect the public interests **not** professional self-interests. Please **support** SB420.

Hawaii State Senate, The Twenty Fifth Legislature, Regular Session 2009

RE: **SB 420**

Honorable Committee Chair David Y. Ige, Vice Chair Josh Green, MD and other Health Committee members:

I am writing as a Hawaii resident and as a concerned citizen. It is increasingly clear that we are in an economic recession and it is also rather alarming to see the state of our current healthcare system. Many physicians are leaving the state, especially from the outer islands, and replacements are minimal at best. Many of us residing on the outer islands must fly to Oahu to seek even basic medical care, which is a great expense and is obviously challenging for those who are injured or ill. Even this option is not adequate and there are an increasing number of patients who must fly to the US mainland for timely treatment by specialists.

It is my understanding that there are approximately one hundred licensed naturopathic physicians actively practicing in the state of Hawaii. These physicians have extremely limited insurance coverage and seemingly even more limited scope of practice. This is obviously counterproductive to increasing the quality, availability, and variety of healthcare in the state of Hawaii. Given their level of training and their much broader scopes of practice in more progressive states on the US mainland, it appears clearly that this body of *highly trained* professionals, is an extremely powerful resource that should be tapped into as one of the more effective tools already at our disposal for remedying the rapidly degenerating healthcare crisis in our state.

If your investigation needs evidence of the high level of training of these physicians or of their extremely broad scope of practice in other states, one may check www.naturopathic.org. I also recommend you may want your research team to familiarize themselves with Naturopathic Medicine scope of practice laws of Oregon and California for example. While our naturopathic physicians in the state of Hawaii do have licensure (even as primary care physicians/GPs), their scope of practice is severely hampered by the antiquated laws governing their practice.

General practitioners are an invaluable resource who not only decrease the already overloaded caseload of the boarded specialists, they also bring the humane element back into medicine by taking the time to consider the "whole" of the being. Preventive medicine and lifestyle changes can promote a healthier patient base and therefore a healthier Hawaii while simultaneously decreasing the financial burden of healthcare on Hawaii's government.

I implore you to **support** a modernization of the Naturopathic scope of practice (SB 420) for the benefit of all Hawaii's people, residents and visitors alike.

Humbly yours,

Dr. Melissa A. Shaw DVM

P.O. Box 20

Hanalei, HI 96714

(808)346-7387