

LATE



**PLEASE DELIVER TO: Health Committee, Room 016
February 11, 2009, 3:00 pm**

To: Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President
Phillip 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) 528-2315 fax
www.hmaonline.net

LATE

Dr. Lori Kimata
1188 Bishop Street Suite 1509
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808)783-0361

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

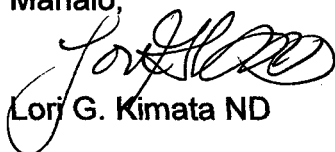
Re: SB420 Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

I am Lori Kimata, ND, Past President of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians and Past Board Member of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, and I am testifying in support of SB420. Born and raised in Hawaii, I graduated Punahou in the same class as our newly elected President, received my undergraduate degree from UCLA, and Naturopathic Medical degree from National College in 1988. Since then I have been actively teaching both in the islands as well as abroad in addition to both a private and group family practice. I currently have a group practice in downtown Honolulu and on the North Shore in Haleiwa.

I ask for your support of this bill for many reasons, most importantly the necessity for adaptability and change in an ever changing world. Considering the public's welfare as top priority, collaboration between all licensed health care providers is of utmost importance. We can all bring something different and necessary to the health care arena. In order for Naturopathic Physicians to do our best in current times our law must be modernized. We are asking only to be able to practice as we are trained. Please examine our training and it will be clear to you how our law needs to be undated. The last time our law was revised was when I was beginning practice over 20 years ago. It is important for us to be able to meet the changing demands of today's world.

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

Mahalo,


Lori G. Kimata ND