

SB 2600

HTH/CPN

HSRC Hawaii Society for Respiratory Care

Testimony in Support of SB 2600

To: CPC and Health Committees, Senator Baker, Chair CPC and Senator Ige, Chair Health

From: Ed Borza, RRT-NPS, CPFT, President HSRC

Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the committees,

I am testifying in support of SB 2600 to license and regulate respiratory therapists (RTs) in Hawaii. RTs are involved in the care of the most critical patients in Hawaii's healthcare system and also are critical in the continuum of care as homecare providers, patient educators and advocates for lung health. It is critical that the consumers and patients in Hawaii have the same protections afforded to consumers of 48 other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Because we are among the last states (with Alaska) to recognize and regulate the profession, there is a possibility of unethical or incompetent RT's coming from other states and harming our patients. There is also the risk that an unscrupulous therapist could move from hospital to hospital within our state.

RTs are involved with the most critically ill patients in Emergency departments and Intensive care units, including pediatric and newborn intensive care. They are primarily responsible for operating life-support equipment and assisting with, and performing, invasive procedures such as arterial punctures and artificial airway placement. RT's also administer medications and medical gasses that have the potential to harm a patient if not correctly or safely administered.

It has sometimes been suggested that hospitals police the profession sufficiently by requiring national credentials and doing "background" checks, but there is evidence that this system is not always able to screen adequately. In Hawaii, employers are not given access to licensing board decisions in many mainland jurisdictions because we don't have a state licensing authority. The lack of a license in Hawaii also means that Hawaii based RTs would not be eligible to apply for Federal disaster relief teams and may be restricted from providing certain Medicare services if regulations mandate services be provided by licensed professionals.

This bill is not meant to restrict the practices of other healthcare professionals whose duties and scopes overlap with the RTs. Nurses will often administer oxygen, for instance, and no patient should have to wait for rescue because of concerns about licenses or scopes of practice. The HSRC would like to recommend a few

minor amendments to the Bill to address clarification and add some needed exemptions.

1. Definition item 1: Clarify and standardize to read "licensed respiratory therapist" (strike "care").
2. Exemption clauses:
 - a. Durable Medical Equipment providers- "The delivery, assembly, setup, testing, and demonstration of oxygen and aerosol equipment upon the order of a physician. Provided however that no person providing such services shall be authorized to assess such patients, develop care plans, instruct patients in taking treatment, or discuss the hazards, administration or side effects of medication with patients."
 - b. Overlapping duties with other healthcare professionals(nurses, physical therapists, polysomnographers, etc.)- "This bill is not intended to restrict the practice of other licensed or credentialed healthcare practitioners practicing within their own recognized scope(s) of practice."
3. Continuing Education: while the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) requires continuing education for RTs credentialed after 2002, the state should mandate continuing education for all licensed RTs. The HSRC recommends a minimum of 6 hours per year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha, Ed Borza, RRT-NPS, CPFT



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street ▪ Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 ▪ Phone (808) 538-9011 ▪ FAX: (808) 547-4646 ▪ www.queens.org

To: Senate Committee on Health & Commerce & Consumer Protection

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

Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m. RM 229

Re: SB 2600 Relating to Healthcare

I strongly support the intent of SB2600 to regulate the practice of respiratory care in Hawaii.

◆ As Physician's patient-loads are increasing, especially on the neighbor islands, they are relying on Respiratory Care Practitioners more than ever, to manage their most challenging patients, those with pulmonary diseases, including Asthma, COPD and respiratory pandemics such as SARS and H1 N1.

◆ Federal Medicare laws for reimbursement are currently undergoing a significant change that affects reimbursement to all Medical Centers. Medicare soon will not reimburse for patient care given by an unlicensed healthcare provider. This would reduce the Federal dollars to our state as Medicare is reformed on this important point.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue,

Scott Gallacher MD, Medical Director
Medical Intensivist Medical Intensive Care Unit
Medical Director Medical Intensive Care Unit
Assistant Professor of Medicine John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii



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Christopher A. Fiack, MD, M.P.H., T.M.

Medical Intensivist, Medical Intensive Care Unit

Assistant Professor of Medicine John A. Burns School of Medicine

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Medical Intensivist Medical Intensive Care Unit
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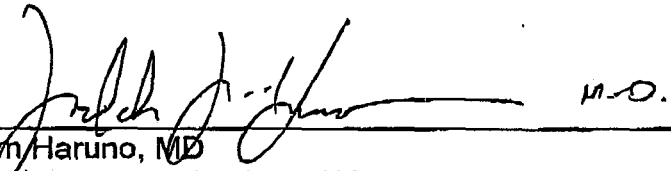
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Malcolm Haruno, MD
Cardiac Intensivist, Cardiac ICU
Queen's Medical Center



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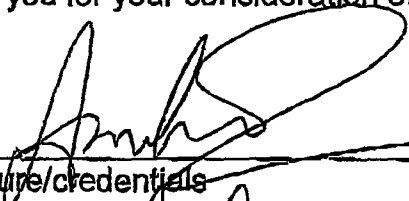
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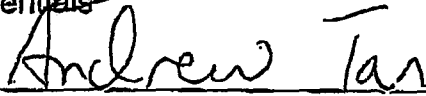
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Signature/credentials

MD



Print Name

baker5 - Leo

From: HTHTestimony
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:18 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for SB2600 on 2/9/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HSRCLICTemplate2010#.doc

testimony

-----Original Message-----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:17 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: msappington@hawaiiimedcen.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2600 on 2/9/2010 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HTH/CPN 2/9/2010 9:00:00 AM SB2600

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mark Sappington
Organization: Individual
Address: 92-710 Paakai Street Kapolei, HI
Phone: 808-255-5489
E-mail: msappington@hawaiiimedcen.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

Date 02/08/2010

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Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green MD Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
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Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

By: Mark Sappington RRT
Manager of Cardiopulmonary Clinical Services
HMC East and West Hospital Campus
HSRC Co-Chair Legislative Committee

Re: SB 2600 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Chairs and Committee Members:

I support SB 2600, which would provide licensing of Respiratory Care Practitioners.

Hawaii is only one of two States that does not have legislative oversight over the profession of Respiratory Care. The regulation of Respiratory Practitioners has become necessary nation wide due to the highly technical and complex tasks associated with the evolution of the profession.

In Hawaii:

- We are in a situation that practitioners who have had their license to practice Respiratory Care *revoked* in other states can come to Hawaii and practice here.
- *Access* to medical care by Respiratory Care Practitioners under health care reform maybe hindered if federal legislation provide only for "licensed" RT providers. This is very *important for our rural population*.
- Persons may provide care in Hawaii as an RT *without* obtaining a national credential in Respiratory Care
- No CME requirement exists to provide for ongoing *competency* to a large portion of practicing Respiratory Therapists.

We realize that the last Auditors Report was opposed licensing with a major part of the opposition based on cost. Because of this, we suggest that licensing be done with a volunteer a board, and accept our National Credential as a competency. This would help in keeping this legislation cost neutral.

What licensing will do is to assure that all respiratory care therapy is done by practitioners that are qualified with minimum qualifications, which do not now exist, since it is entirely left up to those that purchase the services.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'M' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

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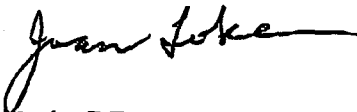
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There is little question whether the need of oversight is necessary for the profession of Respiratory Care Practitioners, as evidenced by the fact that forty-eight of our fifty states have oversight protection.

From a safety standpoint, if a barber or beautician is required to be licensed, the practice of respiratory care is far more invasive and an error can be far more damaging to a patient.

The bottom line is the sooner this issue is resolved, the sooner a firewall is installed against Respiratory Practitioners that have lost their privileges in other states from applying for a position in Hawaii.
Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Loke".

Joan Loke RRT

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Senator Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair
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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
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Re: Senate Bill 2600 relating to Healthcare

Chairs and Committee Members:

I have been a Respiratory Therapist in the State of Hawaii for 25 years. I'm currently the Cardiopulmonary Manager at Kuakini Medical Center, and also a member of the Hawaii Society for Respiratory Care. My strongest professional desire is for our community to have the very best Respiratory care, especially as our population ages, and the challenges to our respiratory health continue to grow. It will not be very long before those of us providing the respiratory care now will be the recipients of it, and not long after that - our children and their children will need the same care also.

Therefore, I strongly support the intent of Senate bill 2600, relating to the regulation of Respiratory Care. As one of the last two states in our Nation not regulating Respiratory Care, Hawaii is behind in providing oversight protection to ensure the safest, and best quality care for our residents with respiratory problems.

I do recommend the content of the bill be revised to broaden the exemptions related to other health care workers currently providing respiratory care, and also promote the adoption of continuing education requirements. I appreciate your attention to this very important matter, and encourage you to pursue this very important bill. Thank you!



Lisa Vidinha, RRT

I support SB 2600. My name is Steve Camara and I have been a Respiratory Care Practitioner for over a decade at many hospitals in Honolulu. I know first hand the need for action on this Bill. I befriended a Respiratory Practitioner from the Mainland that shared with me some disturbing news. He told me that his California license was pulled after a Domestic Violence Complaint had been lodged against him by his live in girlfriend. He told me that he had two options for work; Alaska and Hawaii, the only two states that do not have Licensure. He said the choice to freeze or work in Paradise was a no brainer. A few months later, his temper issues flared in the workplace at co-workers. Maybe he is working in Alaska now. I can't help but wonder how scary it was that this guy was running life support equipment. In Hawaii, you need a license to cut hair, but not run life support. Please give us the tools to protect our Aina from bottom tier Respiratory Practitioners running from their past mistakes in the Mainland; as equitable protection processes screen other important bedside healthcare professions currently. Thank you for listening.

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Thank you for your kind attention.



SCOTT S. AMURA, REP

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Wayne Goodwin RRT

 WAYNE Goodwin

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 RRT

Kai Po Ti Gilman

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Nancy G. Soeder, RRT
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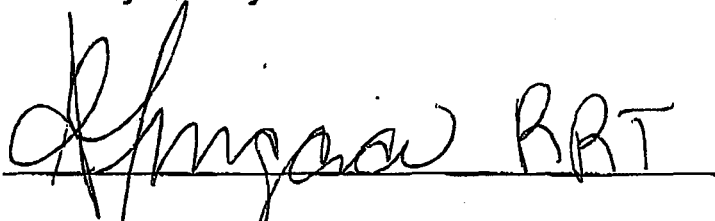
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Santeunana Mingoa

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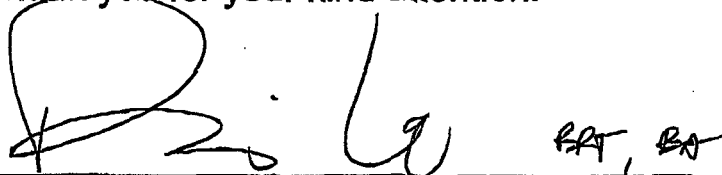
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bonni Lee', with the initials 'B.L.' and 'B.L.' written to the right of the signature.

BONNI LEE

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Willie Thomas Jr.

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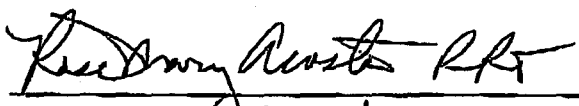
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Rosemary Acosta

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 LYNETTE G. ACCARDI RET

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Geraldine Cabaccong
 2/8/10
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The bottom line is the sooner this issue is resolved, the sooner a firewall is installed against Respiratory Practitioners that have lost their privileges in other states from applying for a position in Hawaii.

Thank you for your kind attention.



 Marilita Balason RRT

**To: Senate Committees on Health & Commerce & Consumer Protection
 Committee on Health
 Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
 Senator Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair
 Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
 Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
 Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9th, 2010 @ 9:00 am

RE: Senate Bill 2600 relating to Healthcare

Chairs and Committee Members:

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[Handwritten Signature] RRT 02/08/10
 Leila Y. Takahama RRT

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Nancy Tentinu, RRT / BSG 2/8/10

 NANCY TOLENTINU, RRT / BSG

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Daniel Rausch RCP, RRT
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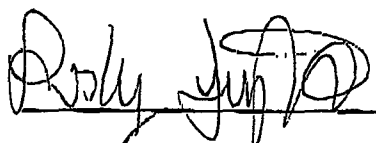
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Lesley Fujimoto RRT

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Marc Rezentes RRT
Marc Rezentes

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Catherine A. Lee RRT

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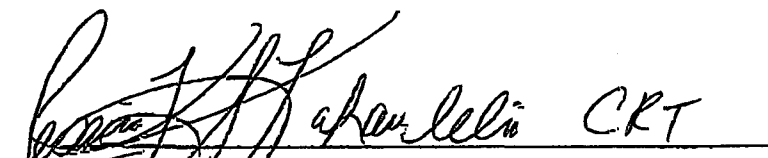
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Thank you for your kind attention.



 Jessica K. S. Kahaula'au CRT

My name is Patrick Ariki and I am testifying **in strong support of SB2008**. This bill would essentially create a body that would ensure that patients' access to care will not be diminished to solely maximize the rate of return for medical insurers.

I have been a practicing physical therapist in Hawaii for over 25 years and am a small business owner with my own physical therapy practice. So believe me, I know how hard it is economically, and I know we all have to tighten our belts, but our sacrifices should not manifest itself in the reduction of necessary patient care.

- In 2003, the average number of physical therapy services utilized by HMSA participants per episode of injury was 12.9 visits.
- In 2004, HMSA demanded a reduction of the physical therapy benefit and instituted a "Benefit Maximum Policy," or in other words they put a limit on how much physical therapy services they would cover.
- Since then, the average number of physical therapy services utilized by HMSA participants per episode of injury has dropped to 10.7 visits.

This process in essence is telling the patient, "You need to heal faster," and we all know that is just not reasonable or realistic.

In April, HMSA intends to enact an even more restrictive physical therapy services policy, which would have the following negative effects:

- A mainland medical panel reviewing only a file, will be allowed to over ride a physical therapy request by a local doctor who physically examined the patient.
- Physical therapy benefits may be reduced to 3 – 8 visits per episode of injury.
* The national standard is 6-90 visits per episode of injury.
- It creates a classification system that rewards providers who render the least amount of care, under the guise of rewarding "efficiency."

In the majority of cases, we are unable to achieve maximum recovery. This type of indiscriminate policy changes are unfair and unhealthy to the patient.

I urge you to pass this bill to create a body to over see these policies that may be detrimental to patient care. Medical insurers deserve to make a profit, but not on the backs of small business and especially not in spite of their patients' health.

* Guide to Physical Therapist Practice Second Edition

baker5 - Leo

From: HTHTestimony
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:12 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for SB2600 on 2/9/2010 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Senate Bill 2600-James White.pages

Testimony for tom

-----Original Message-----

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:05 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: kimo-n-flumps@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2600 on 2/9/2010 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HTH/CPN 2/9/2010 9:00:00 AM SB2600

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: James White
Organization: Individual
Address: 3444 James Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 8082771658
E-mail: kimo-n-flumps@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

Thomas G Munzlinger, BS, CRT, RPSGT
2807 Park St
Honolulu, HI 96817

Ref: SB 2600 Licensure Bill for Respiratory Therapy

The bill as it presently reads will cause a conflict in areas of overlap responsibilities with Sleep Medicine. This has already happened in other states (California and New York), leading to useless, costly and inefficient use of time and resources. Let's do it right from the start.

This is a unique opportunity to add needed regulation to two areas of medicine at the same time. I propose the following amendment:

In the field of Sleep Disorders Medicine, Recognition of the RPSGT and CPSGT credential of the BRPT as having overlapping responsibility in the use of equipment designed for the treatment of Sleep Disordered Breathing including, but not limited to: CPAP, BPAP, VPAP , Adaptive Servo ventilation equipment and oxygen therapy for diagnostic testing in an accredited Sleep Medicine Facility setting with competent Medical Direction by a Board Certified Sleep Medicine Physician will be acceptable.

This will include students enrolled in an AASM approved educational program in order to sit for the RPSGT or CPSGT credential exam, as long as said students are overseen in their duties by a credentialed RPSGT or RRT for a period not exceeding two years.

This will allow competent Polysomnographic Technologists to continue to work uninhibited, but define a process to follow so that non-trained individuals must either become trained or leave the field. This has become an area of concern for both Respiratory Therapy and Polysomnography in Hawaii.

BRPT = Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists
AASM = American Academy of Sleep Medicine

baker5 - Leo

From: CAROL YOSHIMURA [C.YOSHIMURA@kuakini.org]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 1:01 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Subject: FW: SB2600

From: james kohan [mailto:jackohan@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Senator Rosalyn Baker
Subject: SB2600

Aloha Senator,

I am the medical director for Pacific Sleep Tech, inc a sleep disorder center with labs in downtown Honolulu, Aiea and in Hilo.

I have reviewed SB 2600 and kindly request that you reconsider full inclusion requirement of licensed respiratory therapists to deliver gases and maintain airways, as described in "Item D".

The restriction of this function to licensed respiratory therapists will exclude registered polysomnographer technicians (RPST) from performing this duty, which is an important function that they routinely perform. RPST are fully trained to assess, evaluate, and administer positive pressure to maintain patency of the upper airway of sleep apnea patients. They are likewise capable of administering supplemental O2 if required. They are fully trained to do this treatments and are always under supervision of a licensed physician. Full accreditation is under the auspices of The American Academy of Sleep Medicine(AASM).

I have been in sleep medicine since 1982. Therefore I know first hand the predominance of sleep disorders in our society and the patient load burden which sleep labs are operating under. If SB2600 were to pass and require registered respiratory therapists alone to perform this duty in the sleep lab, there would be a dire shortage of therapists in the sleep labs across Hawai'i and stoppage of continued diagnosis and treatment of sleep apnea, which is undermining the cardiovascular, cognitive and mental health of its victims.

If I can be of any further assistance to discuss this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

James "jack" Kohan,

352-2501(cell)

M.D.

Hotmail: Trusted email with Microsoft's powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

February 8, 2010

Memorandum of Testimony

To: Senate Committee on Health Senator Ige, Chairperson Senator Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Senator Baker Chair, Senator Ige, Vice-Chair

From: Stephen F. Wehrman CRT, RRT, CPFT, RPFT, AE-C

Re: Hearing for February 9, 2010 SB 2600 Licensure of Respiratory Therapists

I have been a Respiratory Therapist for 33 years. I took my training as an RN in Hilo in the early 1970's and went on to Respiratory school in the mainland since we did not have a program in Hawaii. I have taught Respiratory Care for 28 years and I've been the Director of the only program in this state for the last 20 years. I have seen a lot in my career and I've seen a lot of changes in society, in medicine, in healthcare and in education. One thing hasn't changed: Respiratory Therapists don't have a license to practice in Hawaii.

A license to practice defines what a health care professional does and how they are supposed to do it. When our profession was young, in the 60's and 70's, we didn't have licenses and what we did was more or less undefined. Our profession grew and licensure efforts began in the 1980's. I was licensed in California and later in Washington before I moved back to Hawaii. We don't have a license here and it has not been for lack of trying.

I think that a lot of people know the myths about licensure and not the truths. I came here today to tell you about the truth and to tell you why the truth is important.

Myth #1: Licensure is all about turf and protecting your profession.

Fact: Paramedics, RN's, Physicians-all provide critical life-saving therapies for patients. All have overlapping areas of skill and responsibility. Respiratory Therapists are members of the lifesaving team. We have no need or desire to take away from others. We all work together sharing these vital responsibilities.

Bottom Line: Our licensure will have no impact on other professions. They are our partners not our rivals.

Myth#2: Licensure increases the cost of healthcare and the cost to society.

Fact: The cost of every respiratory care license in the United States is paid by the Respiratory Therapists. In California this costs \$500. In Washington it is \$100. Costs vary from state to state but the facts are simple: the people who want the license pay for it. A \$300 a year license would cost an RT less than 1\$ per day and less than most of us make in a day.

Bottom Line: We are willing to make this sacrifice to protect our patients.

Myth #3: The hospitals will protect the people of Hawaii, so we don't need licensure.

Fact: Hawaii's hospitals do try to protect people. They do drug testing and background checks using the State of Hawaii database. I have seen them catch people who had an outstanding parking ticket or never went to jury duty. I've never had a graduate rejected by a background check here in Hawaii, however, I have had graduates who could not obtain a license in another state!

Hawaii employers can check for credentials but they only require unofficial proof since no license is involved. What they can't do is check for previous license problems *because the National Disciplinary Database is only available to states with licensure.*

Does this matter? Aside from the obvious big issues, hiring staff that you later terminate due to background issues costs money.

Bottom Line: Licensure is the only method of regulating health care workers that can ensure a hiring process that is safe and effective. Mainland respiratory therapists who lost their license or experienced disciplinary action try to come to Hawaii!

Myth #4: Nothing bad has happened so what's the big deal?

Fact: Bad things have happened, on the mainland and right here in Hawaii. I'll give you three examples:

The Angel of Death

A respiratory therapist at Glendale Adventist Hospital in California. He euthanized elderly patients he felt were kept alive inappropriately. He was arrested and released for lack of evidence. **The licensure board revoked his license immediately.** It took 4 years to convict this man.

The Pediatric Therapist

He was good with children and volunteered to work with them at his community hospital. Until he was accused of molesting a young female patient. Threatened with termination, he fought back and demanded proof. The hospital administration told him he could resign and they would let him go. What happened? The HR department at the community hospital could not tell the new employer of their problem because of the risk of lawsuits and bad publicity. **A licensure board would have suspended his license and investigated.** This gentlemen now works at one of the three hospitals on Oahu that have large pediatric populations.

The Cocaine Fiend

I went to the Big Island to set up additional clinical experiences for my students. My goal was to get rural community health rotations where students could learn to care for patients outside the hospital and the urban setting of Oahu. I know the future of healthcare lies outside the hospital and I know how important it is to provide this care on the neighbor islands. I had just signed an agreement and come home to Kaneohe. My mother-in-law called from Waimea to ask me if I had seen the Tribune Herald? She informed me that my 'friend' had just been arrested on Mamo St. in Hilo

for buying cocaine. I immediately canceled the clinical rotation. The judge gave leniency for this man's role in society and his first-time offense. **A license board would have revoked his license until rehabilitation was proved.** It took years of repeated offenses for the system to remove this man from caring for patients in their homes.

I urge you to pass this bill. Actually, I'm begging you. We've tried for 25 years and we need your help. It's pretty important. We're not asking for ourselves, we're asking on behalf of the people we have sworn to care for and protect. The people of Hawaii are counting on us and we are counting on you.

When I get up in the morning I look in the mirror and I ask myself if I like the person I see. I'm usually pretty happy. I hope when you look in the mirror you look happy knowing that you did something to make life better for the 250,000 people in this state who suffer from lung diseases.

We took care of Brother Iz. We took care of Governor Cayetano. We took care of Patsy Mink. And we took care of June Jones, and Tadd Fujikawa and we took care of your loved ones. Who should be taking care of them? People who are trusted.

If you still don't think it is necessary to license my profession, I want you to ask yourself who takes care of your wife, your mother, or your daughter when they are sick. Is it someone trusted? Is it a licensed health care provide?

Finally, I want to share what happened when I volunteered to help with Hurricane Katrina. The United States of America said **NO**. They said I was not qualified. I was not licensed. If we had a public health disaster in Hawaii we would only be able to help at the hospital where we work. We would lose 300 highly trained critical care workers exactly when we need them most. The United States of America bought life-support ventilators to use during a disaster. We have them here in Hawaii. The paramedics are supposed to operate them. Who trained the paramedics?
Respiratory Therapists.

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair

Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Takako Kashimura and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

If you could only see what the RTs do in the hospital, or even in the homes of patients, you would see that there is a risk to the patients if untrained or unethical RTs are allowed to treat our people. My classmates and I are learning to save lives with some very complicated and sophisticated equipment. I have actually helped to teach nursing students and, sometimes, even graduate nurses about lung health and techniques. We are constantly reminded that we are expected to be the experts on lung health and life support equipment such as mechanical ventilators.

As a student in the RT profession I urge you to pass SB 2600 and license and regulate respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,

Takako Kashimura

Student RT

Home Address 411 Hobron LN #1012

Town, HI zipcode Honolulu, HI 96815

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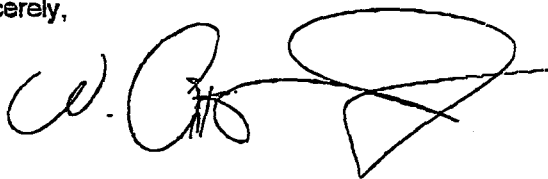
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Wilfred Antonio Jr. and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

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As a student in the RT profession I urge you to pass SB 2600 and license and regulate respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,



Student RT

Home Address 3438 Aliomanu St.
Honolulu, HI. 96818
Town, HI zipcode

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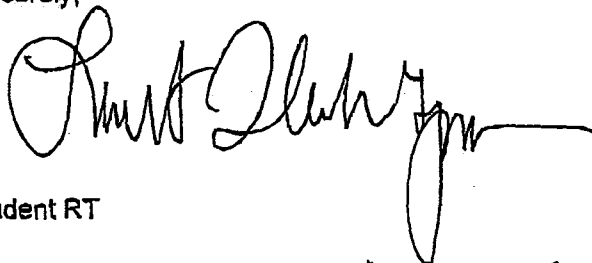
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Lori Ikehara-LYMAN and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

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Sincerely,



Student RT

Home Address 2047 Nuuanu Ave. 1703

Town, HI zipcode Honolulu, HI 96817

Testimony in support of SB2600

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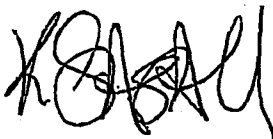
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Keith Sasaki and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

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Sincerely,



Student RT

Home Address

796 Isenberg St Apt 5A

Town, HI zipcode

Honolulu HI 96826

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is BYLIE ARAKAKI and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,

RT student

Home Address

Town, HI zipcode

Testimony in support of SB2600

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Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

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My name is Jas Malunas and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

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Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,

 RT student

Home Address

94-374 Apaale St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

Town, HI zipcode

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair

Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

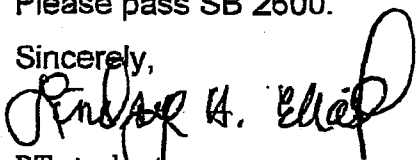
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Lindsey H. Echaris and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,


RT student

Home Address 95-2044 Waikani Pl. (204
Town, HI zipcode Milani, HI 96789

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Patricia Pasim and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,



RT student

Home Address 911076 Kaimoia St.

Town, HI zipcode Ewa Beach HI 96706

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair

Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Candice Lozano and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,

RT student *Candice Lozano*
Home Address *91-102 Irohe Place*
Town, HI zipcode *Ewa Beach, HI 96706*

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Glemour Kassner and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,

Glemour Rose Kassner
GLEMOUR ROSE KASSNER
RT student
1909 Kahakai Drive
Home Address
Honolulu HI 96814
Town, HI zipcode

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Anna Koo and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,

Anna Koo

RT student Anna Koo

Home Address 6770 Hawaii Kai DR. #408

Town, HI zipcode Honolulu, HI 96825

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

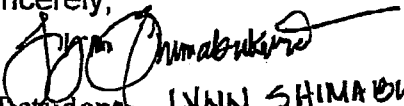
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Lynn Shimabukuro and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,


RT student LYNN SHIMABUKURO
Home Address 94-1088 Paawahu St.
Town, HI zipcode Waipahu ; HI 96797

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is BO POLLARO and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

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Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,



RT student Bo Pollaro

Home Address 3093 Pualei Circle #204

Town, HI zipcode Honolulu, HI 96815

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

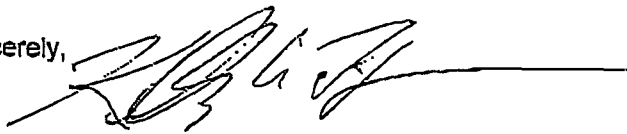
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is KELLY FAYNN and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

If you could only see what the RTs do in the hospital, or even in the homes of patients, you would see that there is a risk to the patients if untrained or unethical RTs are allowed to treat our people. My classmates and I are learning to save lives with some very complicated and sophisticated equipment. I have actually helped to teach nursing students and, sometimes, even graduate nurses about lung health and techniques. We are constantly reminded that we are expected to be the experts on lung health and life support equipment such as mechanical ventilators.

As a student in the RT profession I urge you to pass SB 2600 and license and regulate respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,



Student RT

Home Address 1043 KIIOMIOMI LOOP

Town, HI zipcode HONOLULU HI 96816

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

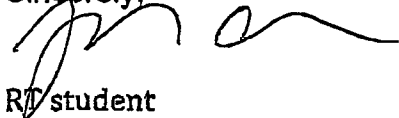
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is JOJO chen and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,



RT student

Home Address 1135 Hahaione Dr # 11A

Town, HI zipcode Honolulu, HI 96817

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Austin Tani and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

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Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,

Austin Tani

RT student

Home Address 3130 Ala Flima St. apt 9A

Town, HI zipcode Honolulu HI 96818

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

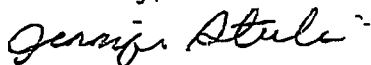
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Jennifer Sterlacci and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

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Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,



RT student Jennifer Sterlacci

Home Address 45-488 Loliist.

Town, HI zipcode Kaneohe, HI 96744

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Sang Mi Kim and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

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Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,


RT student

Home Address 3215 Ala Ilima St. B412
Town, HI zipcode Honolulu. HI 96818

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Sophia Rivera and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

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Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,

Sophia Rivera

RT student Sophia Rivera

Home Address 1650 Young St. Apt. 101

Town, HI zipcode Honolulu, HI 96826

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Jessica Hall and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2011. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. I have only been studying respiratory care for a short time, but I have already learned that this is an amazingly complicated and vital profession in the modern healthcare world.

I've been taught that RTs all around the country are licensed and regulated, but that in Hawaii there is no regulation of the profession. I don't understand how this can be. Surely, the things I've seen in my clinical training would make you think RTs need licenses. I've been taught to stick needles in arteries and secure artificial airways and I'm now learning to operate life support equipment. I know that RTs work with the sickest patients in the ICU, but also work in homecare and in diagnostic labs. Our instructors also keep telling us about how fast things change and how things are different now than they were when they were students- I can only imagine how thing will continue to change. Licenses for RTs make a lot of sense in such a quickly changing environment when lives are at stake.

Please pass SB 2600.

Sincerely,

RT student Jessie Hall
Home Address 967 Waioli St.
Town, HI zipcode Hon HI 96825

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

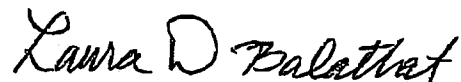
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Laura D Balatbat and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my role as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

If you could only see what the RTs do in the hospital, or even in the homes of patients, you would see that there is a risk to the patients if untrained or unethical RTs are allowed to treat our people. My classmates and I are learning to save lives with some very complicated and sophisticated equipment. I have actually helped to teach nursing students and, sometimes, even graduate nurses about lung health and techniques. We are constantly reminded that we are expected to be the experts on lung health and life support equipment such as mechanical ventilators.

As a student in the RT profession I urge you to pass SB 2600 and license and regulate respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,



Laura D Balatbat- Student RT

94-602 Kupuohi Street Apt. D

Waipahu, HI 96797

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Alden Lum and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

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As a student in the RT profession I urge you to pass SB 2600 and license and regulate respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,



Student RT

Home Address

1714-A, Eluwene St.
Town, HI zipcode
Honolulu HI 96819

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

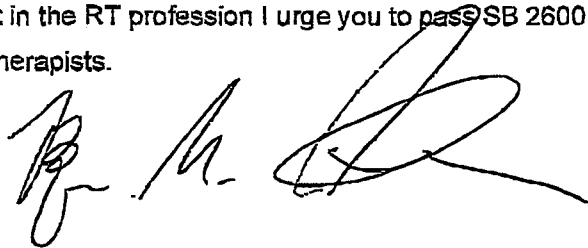
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Bryan Acevedo and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

If you could only see what the RTs do in the hospital, or even in the homes of patients, you would see that there is a risk to the patients if untrained or unethical RTs are allowed to treat our people. My classmates and I are learning to save lives with some very complicated and sophisticated equipment. I have actually helped to teach nursing students and, sometimes, even graduate nurses about lung health and techniques. We are constantly reminded that we are expected to be the experts on lung health and life support equipment such as mechanical ventilators.

As a student in the RT profession I urge you to pass SB 2600 and license and regulate respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,



Student RT

Home Address

Town, HI zipcode

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

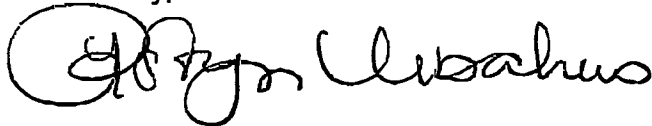
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Robyn Urbahns and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

If you could only see what the RTs do in the hospital, or even in the homes of patients, you would see that there is a risk to the patients if untrained or unethical RTs are allowed to treat our people. My classmates and I are learning to save lives with some very complicated and sophisticated equipment. I have actually helped to teach nursing students and, sometimes, even graduate nurses about lung health and techniques. We are constantly reminded that we are expected to be the experts on lung health and life support equipment such as mechanical ventilators.

As a student in the RT profession I urge you to pass SB 2600 and license and regulate respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,



Student RT

Home Address 94-1076 Hahana St.

Town, HI zipcode Waipahu HI 96797

Testimony in support of SB2600

To: Senate Committee on Health, Senator Ige, Chair and Sen. Green, Vice Chair and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Sen. Baker, Chair and Sen. Ige, Vice Chair
Re. Hearing on Feb. 9, 2010 at 9AM, conference room 229

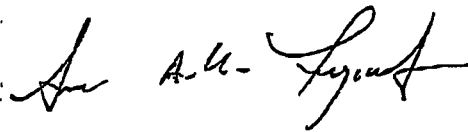
Dear Senators of the committees,

My name is Sean Fujimoto and I am a student in the Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care program, scheduled to graduate in June of 2010. As someone still learning about the profession and hoping to join its' ranks soon, I am strongly in support of the intent of SB 2600. In my studies, I am learning that respiratory therapists (RTs) are critical members of the healthcare team and that my roll as an RT will mean that patients' lives will be entrusted to me. It surprised me to learn that almost every other state requires a license to practice RT, but Hawaii does not require a license or even regulate the profession in any way.

If you could only see what the RTs do in the hospital, or even in the homes of patients, you would see that there is a risk to the patients if untrained or unethical RTs are allowed to treat our people. My classmates and I are learning to save lives with some very complicated and sophisticated equipment. I have actually helped to teach nursing students and, sometimes, even graduate nurses about lung health and techniques. We are constantly reminded that we are expected to be the experts on lung health and life support equipment such as mechanical ventilators.

As a student in the RT profession I urge you to pass SB 2600 and license and regulate respiratory therapists.

Sincerely,


Sean A.K. Fujimoto

Student RT

Home Address

Town, HI zipcode

**To: Senate Committees on Health & Commerce & Consumer Protection
Committee on Health
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
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RE: Senate Bill 2600 relating to Healthcare

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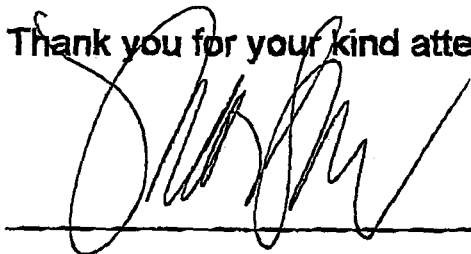
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Thank you for your kind attention.



Melody Favor
911028 Holoimua St.
Kapolei HI 96707

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Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m. RM 229

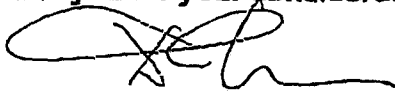
Re: SB 2600 Relating to Healthcare

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◆ As Physician's patient-loads are increasing, especially on the neighbor islands, they are relying on Respiratory Care Practitioners more than ever, to manage their most challenging patients, those with pulmonary diseases, including Asthma, COPD and respiratory pandemics such as SARS and H1 N1.

◆ Federal Medicare laws for reimbursement are currently undergoing a significant change that affects reimbursement to all Medical Centers. Medicare soon will not reimburse for patient care given by an unlicensed healthcare provider. This would reduce the Federal dollars to our state as Medicare is reformed on this important point.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue,



MD

Signature

LEN TANAKA

Printed Name

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Signature James C. Pascual, MD
CPT, MC
Pediatric Resident, PGY 2

Printed Name

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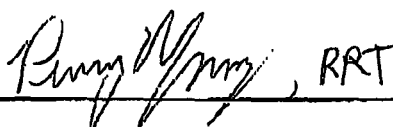
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Penny Young

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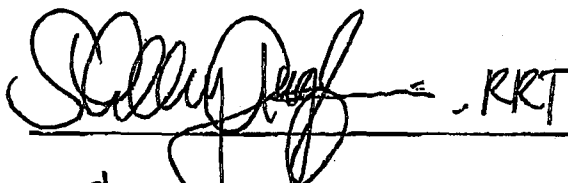
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Shelley Nagafuchi, RRT

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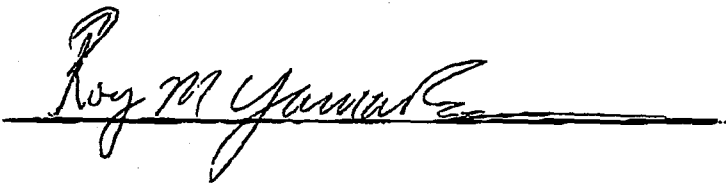
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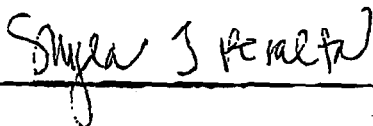
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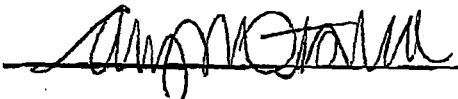
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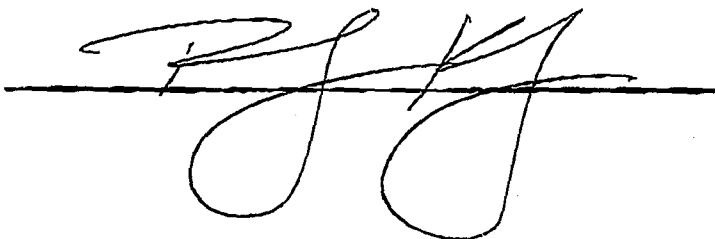
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 Signature/Credentials

 Print Name Andrew Tan

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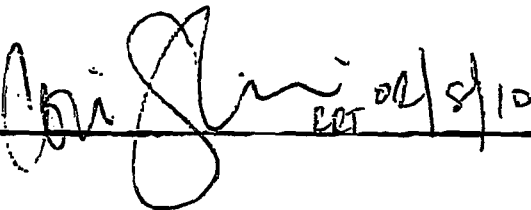
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2010 02/08/10

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