

**SB 1527**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

## galuteria1 - Ikaika

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 8:28 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** kblake@mac.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1527 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/CPN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1527

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Keith Blake  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Kapaa, Hi  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kblake@mac.com](mailto:kblake@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

**Comments:**

This bill is overall a great addition. However, I strongly caution giving too much power to the overseeing panel for test criteria. Different practitioners do things differently for their own reasons, their ways are not right or wrong, but still effective. Do not take the individuality out of the practitioner.

galuteria1 - Ikaika

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 8:30 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** kilo.akama@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1527 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Testimony\_SB1527(Kilo Akama).doc; SB1527\_.pdf

Testimony for HWN/CPN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1527

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kilo Akama  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 527 Lauiki st. Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 808.647.0434  
E-mail: [kilo.akama@gmail.com](mailto:kilo.akama@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

**LATE**

**Testimony Presented Before the  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Hawaiian Affairs**

February 7, 2011

2:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

by

**Marisa M. Wriston**

Student of La'au Lapa'au at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

**SB 1527- RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALERS**

Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee: Rosalyn Baker (chair), Brian Taniguchi (vice chair), Brickwood Galuteria, Josh Green, Clarence Nishihara, Malama Solomon, and Sam Slom

Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee: Brickwood Galuteria (chair), Pohai Ryan (vice chair), Kalani English, Clayton Hee, Gilbert Kahele, Michelle Kidani, Malama Solomon, and Sam Slom

My name is Marisa Wriston, undergraduate student of la'au lapa'au under the teachings of Kumu Levon Ohai at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

**I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1527.**

And these are the reasons why:

I strongly believe that la'au lapa'au and the practice of herbal medicine should be easily accessible to people. There are a number of illnesses which can be easily cured through the use of la'au lapa'au and those who wish to take that route in their healing process should be

able to find practitioners easily and achieve their optimum health. In my limited experience thus far, I have seen incredible healing and I believe this should be shared. I do not believe that things should be disrupted for traditional practitioners and wish this process to occur with the utmost sensitivity and aloha. My hope is that we are given the opportunity to provide people with true healing applied with love, and care.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share with you these thoughts, and provide this supporting testimony.

Aloha,

Marisa Wriston

**LATE**



**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

**Papa Ola Lokahi**

non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

**Board of Directors**  
*Member Organizations*

*Hui Na Ke Ola Pono*

*Hui Malama Ola Na Ohiwi*

*NU LIKE*

*Ke Ola Mamoo*

*Ke Ola Mau*

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*Hawaii State Department of Health*

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*Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

**Ex-Officio Members**

*Hawaii Primary Care Association*

*Ke Alaala*

**Executive Director**

*Hardy Spoehr*

**TESTIMONY: SB 1527, Relating to Native Hawaiian Healers**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, Chair  
Sen. Pohal Ryan, Vice Chair

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Monday, February 7, 2011  
2:45 pm

Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director

Aloha Chairs Galuteria and Baker, Vice Chairs Ryan and Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and on Commerce and Consumer Protection. Papa Ola Lokahi (POL) strongly opposes this measure.

You will hear today the many reasons why it is inappropriate for the State of Hawai'i to regulate traditional Native Hawaiian practices. We would argue that this is solely a right given to the Native Hawaiian community in the State Constitution. Our guidance at POL on the matter of this bill comes from the Kahuna Statement issued by Hawai'i's senior Native Hawaiian healer practitioners at Kailua-Kona on October 31, 1998. The State Legislature asked POL to call them together and to get their mana'o on licensure (Act 162-July 14, 1998). A report along with their mana'o was filed with the State Legislature. They stated in part:

We, the Undersigned Kupuna Practitioners of Hawaiian healing have counseled and agree:

- (1) That we are only instruments in the healing process and that the true source of healing comes from the Almighty, known as Akua, Io, or God. It is this source that gives us our calling to practice;
- (2) That the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i is not knowledgeable in the healing traditions of the Hawaiian people; and
- (3) That while we are grateful that the Legislature has passed SB 1946, the blood quantum, licensure, and certification issues raised in the legislation are inappropriate and culturally unacceptable for government to ascertain. These are the kuleana of the Hawaiian community itself through kupuna who are performing these practices.

The bill being heard today is flawed legally and culturally.

Four major legal failings of this legislation include:

- (1) This legislation usurps the rights of the Native Hawaiian community and seeks to regulate Native Hawaiian traditional healing practices by virtue of the Administrative procedures Act. Under existing law, health care costs and compensation are determined and provided for under the structure of kupuna councils and some have affiliated with the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems and community health centers in unique arrangements by agreement. Most importantly the existing law clearly upholds traditional healing practices at the highest level constitutionally possible in the State of Hawai`i;
- (2) This legislation sets up two classes of healers; those who would be licensed with college degrees and those who would not. Yet, those who fall in the latter category are generally Native Hawaiian kupuna practitioners who hold the knowledge and, by this law, could not be called Native Hawaiian healers. There is also confusion in the use of these defining terms for these classes as many probably will be Native Hawaiian ancestry and others will not be of Hawaiian ancestry but defining terms seem to be used inconsistently;
- (3) This legislation is not consistent with federal statutes which already define "Traditional Native Hawaiian Healer"; and
- (4) This legislation has no administrative penalty or penalties indicated for those who practice but do not meet the requirements of the legislation.

Culturally, the failings of this legislation are, from our perspective, more damaging and are of just as great concern:

- (1) In the drafting of this legislation there was no prior discussion with those individuals and entities which have been part of developing the current certification system. The current system has been in existence for almost ten years and has worked well. To our knowledge, not one of the initiators of this legislation contacted any of the POL board members, members of existing kupuna councils outside of Kaua`i, or Native Hawaiian practitioners, outside of Kaua`i, who have been actively practicing and have been at the forefront of providing traditional healing services for many years. The leading Native Hawaiian group of la`au practitioners headed up by Po`okela Aunty Marie Place was never given the courtesy of discussion nor was the advocate organization for traditional healing practices for more than twenty five years, the Native Hawaiian organization, E Ola Mau. The University of Hawai`i's John A. Burns School of Medicine offers its medical students some training in traditional Native Hawaiian healing practices. To our knowledge, those involved with this effort were also not given the courtesy of discussion about this legislation;

- (2) The basis for this legislation is culturally flawed. From our understanding, it is being proposed because some individuals wish to be compensated financially for their services. While this, in and of itself, may be a part of the discussion, it can not be the basis for modifying a traditional system. There is no restriction for receiving any financial compensation under the current system. If billing for services is a desired end result, then that is a discussion with health plans, not the State legislature. Under the existing system billing for services is allowed; and
- (3) Traditional healing practices have a strong spiritual component. Traditional Native Hawaiian healing practices have adopted, in most cases, a strong Christian component. Our political system separates church and state; thus, the critical spiritual nature and its associated values can not be integrated into this legislation, nor any board of examiners related to this legislation.

These are some of our concerns raised by this legislation. We strongly feel that this legislation does not reflect the overall will of the Native Hawaiian community in regards to its traditional Native Hawaiian healing practices and the vast majority those who have continued on these practices throughout Hawai'i.



**From:** Michael F Bernardini [mfbernar@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 9:18 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony; Sen. Roz Baker; Sen. Brian Taniguchi; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Pohai Ryan  
**Subject:** In support of Kumu Ohai's Certification and Licensure Proposal

Aloha,

My name is Michael Bernardini and I am writing the Senate in support of Kumu Levon Ohai's Certification and Licensure Proposal for Laau Lapaau. I have been a student of Kumu Ohai's for the last 4 years and in the last four years Kumu Ohai has been without question been the largest influence in my spiritual and physical life helping to create a foundation to stand on and move forward from stronger and with more purpose then I could have before studying under Kumu Ohai. In my humble opinion the health of Lahui is of the utmost importance for without the health of people physically and spiritually we cannot move forward in a strong positive manner. With that being said there is no way insure the health of Lahui without giving the people whats necessary to help themselves and by accepting Kumu Ohai's proposal the Hawaii State Senate will be at forefront in this fight to help Hawaii become the model of physical and spiritual health for the world to follow. In closing I would like say, using Kumu Ohai's favorite metaphors the kumu aalii (aalii tree), by accepting Kumu Ohai proposal the Senate will be establishing a root system for the people of Hawaii so that they can stand strong like the Aalii in face of the strongest winds and harshest weather. He '*a'ali'i*' ku makani mai au, 'a'ohe makani nana e kula'i.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Michael Bernardini

Feb. 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding, proposal SB1527 (HB1618), I am in favor of the Bill. As a third-generation islander and a student of Kumu Ohai at the University of Hawai'i, I've been opportuned to learn more about our aina and the medicinal properties of plants easily within our reach.

I'd like to testify to the effectiveness of the herbs. Last October my Kumu Hula was diagnosed with a heart condition and told he needed to have four bypasses. Having just turned 70 years old, the news was quite traumatic. He brought it up to our halau, that he would have to be leaving us to rest and to see what would happen.

I introduced him to Kumu Ohai who prescribed one month of a disciplined herbal program. My Kumu Hula followed the prescriptions for preparing the herbs and taking them faithfully for the whole month. His only failure to the regiment was in eating kalua pig and steak on a couple of occasions and not following the dietary intake that would have allowed the herbs to work most fully.

Nonetheless, when he did go in for surgery in December, he had only three bypasses, and the doctors were impressed that his heart was stronger.

On a personal note, instead of taking xopenex (asthmatic inhaler) when I climbed down and up from topside Molokai to Kalaupapa two years ago, I kept intaking an herbal tincture- formula Kumu Ohai had taught us in class. It naturally helped to keep my lungs open to breathe easier under the elevation changes and strenuousness of the hike.

We need to get more La'au Lapa'au practitioners licensed and out in the public domain, that they can serve the population better, naturally, in the way this land of aloha was created to provide—healing, harmony, aloha.

Sincerely,  
Malia Wong

**galuteria1 - Ikaika**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 9:49 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** mano1@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1527 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/CPN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1527

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joan K. Paglinawan  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 47-710 Ahuimanu Road Kaneohe, HI  
Phone: 808-239-8945  
E-mail: [mano1@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mano1@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

**Comments:**

I am in opposition to this bill as written, specifically with section 6. In section 6, Qualifications for examination, the applicant shall have been awarded a Bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Studies or an equivalent degree and includes an accredited course of study in native Hawaiian healing from an accredited college or university but does not take into account a traditional healer's training and practice that did not come from a University or western class. This is the only qualification for examination? This will exclude traditional healers who do not have a degree. And is the only experts in Native Hawaiian Health found in a accredited college or university? Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion and view.

Joan Ka'ai'ai Paglinawan, LSW

**From:** Joseph Cadiz [jacadiz@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 10:20 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

Aloha,

My name is Joey Cadiz. I have been in the Hawaiian Studies program at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa for four (4) years now. I have just entered my senior year as a student and have completed every single Laꞑau Lapaꞑau class that Kumu Ohai has made available in my time as a UH student. I can honestly say that his classes are by far the most applicable classes I have ever taken. Each and every lesson I have been able to apply to various situations of my life not only to help myself, but to help others also. You honestly donꞑt get this type of knowledge anywhere else on campus! I have complete trust and faith in the practice and know that it WILL help save lives and continue to allow the Hawaiian Culture to flourish!!!

Mahalo,  
Joey Cadiz

## galuteria1 - Ikaika

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 10:54 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** makana@makanachai.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1527 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/CPN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1527

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Makana Chai  
Organization: Individual  
Address: P. O. Box 1835 Kailua, HI  
Phone: 808-282-2743  
E-mail: [makana@makanachai.com](mailto:makana@makanachai.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

**Comments:**

As the editor/researcher of the Bishop Museum book on lomilomi, hāhā, and la'au lapa'au, I am aware of the long history of ancient Hawaiian medicine and the current practitioners of traditional healing. The Hawai'i Legislature during the monarchy, Territorial and statehood days has frequently sought to license traditional practitioners as set out in my book, Na Mo'olelo Lomilomi, Chapter 7. In every instance, such regulations have forced traditional practitioners underground and limited the numbers of kanaka maoli who can be served. At this time when this precious knowledge is being made more available and is coming to the aid of the people who need it, nothing could be worse than the Legislature determining who is and who is not allowed to practice. Therefore, I oppose this legislation. Sincerely, Makana Risser Chai

**galuteria1 - Ikaika**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 11:23 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** acutabovehi@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1527 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/CPN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1527

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Pamela  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 3133 B Brokaw st. Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phone: 808 9468085  
E-mail: [acutabovehi@aol.com](mailto:acutabovehi@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:  
SB. 1527:  
Relating to Native Hawaiian Healers

To the chairpersons, HWN/CPN committees:

I am Pamela Kanae Matsuda, Traditional Practitioner of Spiritual Healing. I am a member of Kupuna Laau Lapaau O Hawaii and Naleihulu O Ke Ola Mamo.

I oppose SB 1527.

My Kupuna was Edna Mahinakeokeo Kelley who was a Hawaiian Traditional Healer and Practitioner, I learned from her over 30 years of oral and on the spot training. We did Spiritual Blessings for People Places, Land in the State of Hawaii. We did with Calabash and led by the Bible for the pilikia. She taught me first first ye seek the kingdom of God and all will fall in place. that we are only instruments that are godly gifts flow from. She belonged to Kupuna Laau Lapaau O Hawaii and Kupuna Councils.

Please reconsider, I strongly urge this bill SB1527 be held in committee. It will have a negative impact on the state of Hawaii and future generations to come.

Mahalo<lt;  
Pamela K. Matsuda

**LATE**

February 7, 2011

To: HWN/CPN Committee  
Re: SB 1527 Relating to Hawaiian Healers

From: Patricia Fifita

Dear Chairs & Committee Members:

I, Patricia Fifita, would like to submit a testimony in support of SB 1527. This bill acknowledges the importance of Native Hawaiian healing practitioners and the value of the Hawaiian medical and botanical knowledge systems in modern society. I believe it is important to recognize how indigenous knowledge and wisdom can be bridged with Western science and biomedicine to provide better and more culturally grounded and appropriate options for healthcare, healing, and well-being. This measure will encourage the preservation and perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian medicine by acknowledging its function and relevancy within the dominant biomedical system. This measure recognizes the right of Native Hawaiian healers to be respected not only for their knowledge and expertise as cultural practitioners, but also as medical professionals. By allowing Kahuna La'au Lapa'au to practice alongside other licensed and certified medical professionals, this measure will not only extend the network of health care providers, but will also increase access to healthcare particularly among Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders who face disproportionately high rates of illness and disease.

I passionately support this bill. I am a Polynesian that comes from a long line of traditional healers. I have learned both from the wisdom of my ancestors and as a doctoral student in medical anthropology at UH Manoa how important it is to respect both modern and traditional approaches to health and healing. I believe this bill will do exactly so.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit a testimony in support of this important bill.

Respectfully Yours,

Patricia Fifita  
PhD Candidate  
Medical Anthropology Program  
University of Hawaii, Manoa  
pfifita@hawaii.edu

galuteria1 - Ikaika

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**From:** dafna epstein [rootsofhawaii@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 11:53 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1527

Aloha

This is regarding the bill for licensing of herbal healers.

It is important to pass this bill in order to preserve Hawaiian culture and knowledge. the studies of La'au Lapa'au hold great potential for the future of Hawaiians and those living in Hawaii.

The knowledge is not only of healing but also of staying healthy, licensing of La'au practitioners will provide us with less dependency on our health insurance and hospitals leaving more money on the islands, and provide an alternative for those who western medicine does not help.

licensing will also motivate more farmers to grow native plants, help in preserving the Islands Aina. In growing a crop that is native there is no price competition from mainland or china, creating a market that can only grow.

licensing will also provide Hawaiian people and mostly keiki with a pride in their culture, a pride they were stripped of by missionaries when they were not allowed to speak the language and practice the beliefs. A pride they deserve to get back.

Please vote for this bill.

Mahalo  
Dafna Epstein

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Roots of Hawaii  
Hawaiian natural products  
MAKANA MA'I AINA- GIFTS OF NATURE



**LATE**

**Dr. Agnes Kalaniho'okaha Traditional Hawaiian Healing Center  
86-260 Farrington Highway  
Waianae, Oahu, Hawaii 96792**

**Council of Elders Position on a new 2011 Bill For An Act  
Native Hawaiian Healers**

The Council of Elders Agnes K. Cope, Joseph Kepa Hart, James 'Ace' Kaleohano, Herbert Kalena Hew Len, Janice Keonaona Kalua and Vincezia Midge Eli, on January 17, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. met in a special Council meeting called by Kamaki Kanahele, Director of the Kalaniho'okaha Traditional Hawaiian Healing Center (KTHHC) to discuss and share their mana'o on this Bill that has been submitted to Senator Suzanne Chun-Oaklands office by Levon Ohai from the island of Kauai. After careful review and discussion of the Bill, the Council of Elders is in opposition and states their position as follows:

1. Position is to not support this bill.

The list below also states other positions they have proposed:

2. The Council will challenge the credibility of the University of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Studies teachings of traditional culture.
3. Inform all Healers/Kupuna Councils statewide to oppose this bill.
4. Do not support tuition waivers for Hawaiian Studies at UH Manoa; but support the waivers for the Hilo Campus.
5. Take a position to support the Hawaiian Studies program at the UH Hilo campus, not at UH Manoa Hawaiian Studies

**LATE**

S.B. 1527 Relating to Native Hawaiian Healers

Chairpersons Galuteria, Baker & Members of the HWN/CPN Committees:

I am Loretta O. Hussey, of Waikele, Hawaii, a Native Hawaiian Retired Public Health Nurse from the State Department of Health, as well as a Board member of E Ola Mau, and Papa Ola Lokahi, and selected spokesperson for Kupuna Laau Lapaau O Hawaii, a Statewide Organization of Traditional Healers, whose mission it is to perpetuate the art of their traditional healing practices with integrity. The Pookela, or head of this organization is Kupuna Aunty Marie Place of Molokai, her kakoo is Bobby Alcain, also of Molokai, the Vice Chair is Kupuna Kaohu Monfort Chang, of Milolii, Hawaii, Secretary is Kupuna Dane Silva of Hawaii, Treasurer is Kupuna Alapai Kahuena of Waianae, Hawaii.

**Kupuna Laau Lapaau O Hawaii strongly oppose S.B. 1527: Relating to Native Hawaiian Healers, as an organization, as well as individually.**

Please read POL's Interim Report to the State Legislature in Regards to Act 162, Relating to the Practice of Medicine (January 1999). The Report summarizes the October 1998 meeting of the 5 respected Kahuna, wherein Kupuna Papa Henry Auwae served as Chairperson and spokesperson to the legislature. POL convened the kahuna laau lapaau to discuss the question of recognition and certification of practitioners of traditional Hawaiian healing practices, thus their response or Kahuna Statement is as follows:

We, the undersigned Kupuna Practitioners of Hawaiian Healing have counseled and agree:

- 1) That we are only instruments in the healing process and that the true source of healing comes from the Almighty, known as Akua, 'lo, or God. It is this source that gives us our calling to practice;
- 2) That the Legislature of the State of Hawaii is not knowledgeable in the healing traditions of the Hawaiian people; and
- 3) That while we are grateful that the Legislature has passed SB 1946, the blood quantum, licensure, and certification issues raised in the legislation are inappropriate and culturally unacceptable for the government to ascertain. These are the kuleana of the Hawaiian community itself through kupuna who are perpetuating these practices.

Thus again, I reiterate that we strongly oppose this measure, S.B. 1527, as truly issues related to Hawaiian healing practices is the kuleana of the Hawaiian community and the practicing traditional practitioners.

On behalf of Kupuna Laau Lapaau O Hawaii, I extend a mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to respond to this measure.



## **galuteria1 - Ikaika**

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**From:** Dennis Kauahi [kauahi63@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 2:18 PM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1527 Native Hawaiian Healers

Aloha Senators,

My name is Dennis Kauahi and I am a Native Hawaiian Healer. I was schooled in the use of ho'oponopono as a spiritual and cultural conflict resolution process by renowned kupuna healers and scholars such as Mary Kawena Pukui, Rachel Mahuiki, Danny Hanakahi and Malia Craver. I am not in support of SB 1527 relating to licensure of Native Hawaiian Healers. There has not been enough discussion and input from the Hawaiian community at large, and in particular, the kupuna and other Native Hawaiian Healers. I am recommending that this bill, SB 1527, be deferred so more time can be given for proper input and development.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dennis Kauahi

I am writing in support of the licensure of Hawaiian healers in the state of Hawai'i. SB1527

Aloha and mahalo for your time. My name is Emmalani Makepa-Foley, and I am in support of SB1527, the licensing of Hawaiian herbal healers. I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am double majoring in 'ōlelo Hawai'i and 'ike Hawai'i with a focus on Lā'au lapa'au. I am in pursuit of my masters in education through the Hawaiian medium.

I began taking courses in Lā'au lapa'au under Kumu Levon Ohai in 2008. It has been a life changing experience to say the least. His courses are so much more than just the mundane coursework of other classes. They teach not only how to be healthy and how to heal others, but also how to be a better person, to be good to one another, and above all how to reconnect with our foundation. Which is and always has been, Akua, God. I was blessed enough to have been led to Ohai's courses and felt the passion fill me up from the first day I stepped into his classroom. Building my knowledge and my spirit up while healing the sick and afflicted; It is a calling.

I started practicing Lā'au lapa'au on myself, my family and on friends, and unlike results from western medicine; I immediately saw results from my medicine. Again and again, my medicine works. Throughout my studies at the University, students talk about the success of their lā'au. I hear story after story of the wonderful incorporation of Hawaiian medicine in everyday life, and the healing thereof. We learn how to draw our spirits close to Akua so that we can harness the mana, needed for making our medicines, as our kūpuna did. Lā'au has changed my life, not only am I a healthier person physically but I am also a stronger person spiritually.

I am in support of this bill as a means to progress in our understanding of Hawaiian medicine as a healthcare option. So many people are suffering due to illness and many more suffer due to the treatment of those illnesses and the side effects thereafter. Lā'au lapa'au works, the question is why is Hawaiian medicine not in the open?

Our people were an advanced civilization, always looking forward. That is how WE are to be, "Looking to the future while keeping one ear to the past." (Puakea Nogelmeier) The reason why we were such an advanced culture was because of our drive to holomua-to advance as a people. That same passion to advance is still alive and well today, in us, the keiki of Hawai'i. We are here and wanting to holomua just like our kūpuna who came before us. We want to learn and refine our learning and above all, practice. Hawaiian herbal healing is not only a beautiful job opportunity but it also keeps a Hawaiian treasure alive, the treasure of Lā'au lapa'au.

We have to move forward and advance Hawaiian herbal healing so that it doesn't die in the dark where it has been placed for these generations of oppression. No, we have an opportunity to bring it out into the light and do wonders with it. Heal and save lives! As a native Hawaiian I understand that there is a tension between native Hawaiian practitioners (papa ola lokahi) and us, as the new generation of practitioners. We are not in competition with our kūpuna, we appreciate and respect them and their mana'o(knowledge/thought). We are on another path, a path that has the same foundation as our tradition, Akua.

Like the culture of Hawai'i, we hānai other plants, like we hānai other things (food, ideas, etc.) Just as Kamehameha knew to take in people of other places to advance his knowledge and people of Hawai'i, so do we. We incorporate not only Hawaiians (herbs and people) but herbs (and people) of other origins as well. The passing of this bill means another option for health care, it means job opportunities for Hawaiians as well as the other "Hawaiians" at heart.

In Hawai'i we have many medicines, Chinese medicine, acupuncture, Indian medicine, Oriental medicine, among others. However, nowhere in the state can you find an establishment or means of contact for a Hawaiian medicine practitioner. ..In Hawai'i. We have the knowledge and the opportunity, we just need our states support. We need the support of the state to help bring Hawaiian healing to the light, and save lives. Please join with me in supporting the licencing of Hawaiian herbal healers under bill SB1527.

In closing, Mahalo nui for your time

Mālama pono

Me Ke Aloha,

Emmalani Makepa-Foley

## galuteria1 - Ikaika

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 2:23 PM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1527 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN/CPN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1527

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown  
Organization: Living Life Source Foundation  
Address: 1926A Fern St. Honolulu, Hi.  
Phone: 808-330-6224  
E-mail: [farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:farmfreshhawaii@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

**Comments:**

I oppose this bill as many of the Kupuna practioners who are part of the Hawaiian Healing community and have taught many at the UH Manoa and Hilo campus do not have colledge degrees taht would allow them to continue to teach these very sacred and ancestral practices.



# **Joint hearing by the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Commerce and consumer Protection**

Feb. 7th 2011

**Aloha Kakou Senate Committee Chairs and Committee Members,**

**I present testimony today in opposition to the Bill SB 1527. I oppose the Bill for the following reasons:**

- 1. There is already a law that has been passed in recognizing a process to provide traditional Healers a path to gain certification and recognition by the State, through Kupuna Councils under the guidance of Papa Ola Lokahi. This was an arduous and time consuming process that has been in place by law.**
- 2. The corner stone of this process is guided by Kupuna who has experience and knowledge in healing tradition and practices. The lessons are from real life experiences. The current process is working successfully.**
- 3. The Traditional practices are spiritually based and not academic and degree based. What is being suggested is a western system of certification and recognition not a traditional Hawaiian System. So how can one be identified as a Traditional Healer if you did not go through a traditional process? What is being suggested is a western system and equivalence. It is a "degree based but not pedigree based recognition" a quote from Aunty Lidia from Waimanalo.**
- 4. I, As a certified Practitioner of traditional medicine recognized by the State of Hawaii to practice, this Bill is distasteful in that it ignores Native Hawaiian Tradition, Practice, knowledge, Kupuna and culture.**

**I apologize for not being able to present in person but at this very moment, I am working with 4th year medical students in their requested rotation of wanting to learn about traditional Medicine and practice. Mahalo a nui loa.**



## galuteria1 - Ikaika

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 3:51 PM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** kawailanisoma@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1527 on 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** SB 1527.wps

Testimony for HWN/CPN 2/7/2011 2:45:00 PM SB1527

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kawailani Soma  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kawailanisoma@yahoo.com](mailto:kawailanisoma@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

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Naleihulu No Ke Ola

Mamo

1505 Dillingham Blvd Suite 205

8086971007

laaulapaau@yahoo.com

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2/7/2011

**Senate Bill 1527**

**Relating to Native Hawaiian Healers**

**Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Commerce and  
Consumer Protection**

**February 7, 2011**

**2:45 PM**

**Conference Room 224**

*Members:*

Aunty Alapa'i Kahuena

Rodney "Roddy" Akau

Erline "Sunny" Greer

Janice Keonaona Kalua

Emmett Keao

Gerald "Gerry" Lam

Jimmy Lewis

Somerset "Kalama" Makanaole

Pamela Masuda

Analika Nahulu

Helen O Connor

Arnold "Kekai" Quarter

Darlene "Nalani" Tavares

Edana Wong

Aunty Malia Craver *(dec.)*

Arthur "Hatsu" Uesugi *(dec.)*

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Naleihulu No Ke Ola Mamo **STRONGLY OPPOSES SB 1527.**

Naleihulu No Ke Ola Mamo is the Kupuna council of Ke Ola Mamo, the Native Hawaiian Health Care System serving Native Hawaiians on O'ahu pursuant to the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act. The State of Hawaii **is not** the keeper of Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge and practices.

As practitioners who trace ourselves and our knowledge to members of the 1998 Kupuna Council of Master Practitioners of Hawaiian Healing convened specifically by Papa Ola Lokahi to address issues of certification and licensure, we state that *"the Legislature of the State of Hawaii is not knowledgeable in the healing traditions of the Hawaiian people."* We acknowledge and accept this *kuleana*.

Every Master Practitioner of the council would not be qualified under this measure. Their *mana'o* is that only God is the healer, not man, not the university, not the Legislature, or the State of Hawaii.

We affirm the Kahuna Statement of the Council of Master Practitioners dated October 31, 1998, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Please see the attached 1999 Interim Report to the Legislature.

We **STRONGLY URGE** that this Senate Bill 1527 be held in Committee.

**PAPA OLA LOKAHI  
222 MERCHANT STREET, 2ND FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813**

**telephone (808)536-9453  
fax (808)545-1783**

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**INTERIM REPORT TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE  
IN REGARDS TO  
*ACT 162, RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF  
MEDICINE***

**HONOLULU, HAWAI'I  
JANUARY 1999**

HONORABLE MEMBERS, 20TH STATE LEGISLATURE:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this final report on the activities undertaken by our group of *kupuna* which was constituted by Papa Ola Lokahi in accordance with Act 162, passed by you last year.

We will continue to assist you as you desire.

Henry Auwae  
Henry Auwae, Chair, Kapuna Council,  
Pookela, Kupuna Laau Lapaau o Hawaii

1/10/99  
Date

**KAHUNA STATEMENT:**

**WE, THE UNDERSIGNED KUPUNA PRACTITIONERS OF HAWAIIAN HEALING HAVE COUNSELED AND AGREE:**

**(1) That we are only instruments in the healing process and that the true source of healing comes from the Almighty, known as Akua, 'Io, or God. It is this source that gives us our calling to practice;**

**(2) That the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i is not knowledgeable in the healing traditions of the Hawaiian people; and**

**(3) That while we are grateful that the Legislature has passed S.B. 1946, the blood quantum, licensure, and certification issues raised in the legislation are inappropriate and culturally unacceptable for government to ascertain. These are the kuleana of the Hawaiian community itself through kupuna who are perpetuating these practices**

**Further, we agree that Kupuna Henry Auwae serves as chairman of this council of Master practitioners and has the consent of its members to address future issues related to this legislation.**

**DATED: Kailua-Kona, October 31, 1998**

## ATTACHMENT 2

### ATTENDEES

- |     |                              |                    |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.  | Papa Henry Auwae             |                    |
| 2.  | Kako'o: Haunani Kalama-Smith | POL STAFF          |
| 3.  | Aunty Malia Craver           | 13. Hardy Spoehr   |
| 4.  | Kako'o: Millie Kawaa         | 14. Gayle Bonham   |
| 5.  | Aunty Margaret Machado       | 15. Babette Galang |
| 6.  | Husband: Dan Machado         | 16. Pua Aiu        |
| 7.  | Kako'o: Nerita Machado       |                    |
| 8.  | Kalua Kaiahua                |                    |
| 9.  | Wife: Annette Kaiahua        |                    |
| 10. | Kako'o: Janice Nielson       |                    |
| 11. | Aunty Agnes Cope             |                    |
| 12. | Kako'o: Kamaki Kanahele      |                    |







**SB 1527**  
**RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALERS**  
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

February 7, 2010 2:45 p.m. Room 224

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SB1527, which would create requirements for licensure of Native Hawaiian healers and establish a Board of Native Hawaiian Healing to be administratively attached to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

The OHA Administration will recommend that our OHA Board of Trustees oppose SB1527. The bill requires that all Native Hawaiian healers be licensed, regardless of whether they are operating a commercial business or not. (See line 8, page 2 of the bill.) This provision would significantly hinder the ability of Native Hawaiians to exercise their constitutionally-protected traditional and customary rights. However, on page 7, line 11, the bill exempts “traditional practitioners” from the licensing requirement. Most Native Hawaiian healers would seem to fall under the “traditional practitioner” definition and would therefore be exempt from the proposed statute. This is confusing.

We understand the importance of authenticating traditional healers to ensure that costumers, especially Native Hawaiians, are not deceived. We note that as early as 1865, Kamehameha V began issuing licenses to Hawaiian kahuna. However, we do not believe that this is the responsibility of the State of Hawai‘i. This is the kuleana of the Native Hawaiian community.

OHA has supported the systematic organization and collection of vital knowledge and practices of Native Hawaiian traditional healers. We have and will continue to support those practitioners presented to us by Papa Ola Lōkahi and the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.

The OHA Administration will make this recommendation to our Board at its meeting on Feb. 10, 2011. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

SB 1527 Senate Bill Relating to Hawaiian Healers

Good afternoon to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection. It is a great day here in our beautiful Hawaii nei and we find ourselves gathered to discuss the future of Hawaiian Medicine and more specifically the perpetuation of cultural practices that are rooted in the people of Hawaii.

My name is Sarah Brinsfield and I am a pre-med student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I have been studying medicine at the University for several years and this semester began my introduction to Hawaiian Medicinal Healing and more specifically La'au Lapa'au. Under the guidance of Kumu Ohai, I am becoming familiar with the traditions and practices that are deeply rooted within Hawaiian Culture. I am learning new ways to heal, new ways to think, and new ways to pray. I am learning to find local, affordable cures to illnesses and learning how to heal with the power of touch.

This is a very important time in terms of opportunity for Hawaiian Medicine and the future of health care in Hawaii. It is not unheard of to seek out alternative styles of medicine to aid in your own healing. That is a right afforded to us as free thinkers and as citizens of the United States. I stand before you today to testify as a believer in the practice and validity of La'au Lapa'au and the people behind the current movement to obtain licensure. La'au Lapa'au offers healing, Hawaiian style. Some may choose to obtain health care from a traditional practitioner of western medicine, while others seek holistic cure that can only be found through the close contact and insight of a Hawaiian healer.

It does not matter which route one takes in pursuit of their healthcare, what matters is the availability and accuracy by which it is delivered. By providing a way for accreditation for Hawaiian practitioners, we are not only acknowledging that Hawaiian healing methods are important, but we also acknowledge that we are entitled to the highest level of healthcare and that we want our La'au lapa'au practitioners to be of the highest level as well.

Please help us acknowledge the validity of our practitioners and the medicine and traditions that they use every day by passing Senate Bill 1527. We have the opportunity to perpetuate knowledge that has been handed down to us, to help the afflicted, and to help one another. I thank you for your time today and hope you find my testimony helpful in your decision.

Sarah Brinsfield