



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
[www.hawaii.gov/dcca](http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca)

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2012

Thursday, March 1, 2012  
2:30 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2257, H.D. 1, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL  
AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division ("Division"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill No. 2257, H.D. 1, Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing. We support the intent of this bill.

The purpose of House Bill No. 2257, H.D. 1, is to allow professional and vocational licensing authorities to: 1) to allow applicants to demonstrate competency in lieu of work experience requirements; and 2) to establish procedures to expedite the issuance of licenses, certifications, or permits to military spouses.

While we fully support all military service members and their families, asking us to establish special procedures for military spouses will negatively impact the way the Division licenses professions and vocations. The Division currently oversees the regulation of forty-seven (47) boards, commissions and programs. Each licensing area has **specific** requirements for licensure and its own statutes and rules.

House Bill No. 2257, H.D. 1, adds two new sections to the Division's Model Act, Chapter 436B, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The first section provides for licensure by endorsement by allowing applicants to demonstrate competency in a specific occupation or profession in lieu of any experience requirement.

The second proposed section allows every licensing authority to establish rules and procedures to expedite a license, certificate, or permit to an out-of-state licensee whose spouse is a member of the armed forces, and who left employment to accompany the spouse to Hawaii. The procedure may include issuing the individual a license, certificate, or permit if the other state's license requirement is at least equivalent to our own, or issue the individual a temporary permit until our license requirements are met. Generally, determining the equivalency of license requirements of other states is not a simple process, and the licensing authority often does not have the time or resources to research the matter and evaluate whether a particular course or type of training is equivalent to another. It would take an inordinate amount of time to make this kind of determination, and may ultimately delay the processing time rather than expedite it.

We have concerns about allowing the licensing authority to issue a temporary permit until the license requirements are met. This process would allow an individual to offer unsupervised services to the public without the required education, training, or experience, and is contrary to the Division's mission of protecting the public. Also, expediting the license process for this particular class of person over all other applicants is not consistent with our policy of treating all applicants fairly and equally.

There are forty-seven different professions and vocations under our jurisdiction. Currently, each licensing authority establishes its own requirements for licensure, and nothing prevents an authority from providing accommodations for a military dependent or out-of-state licensee. These matters should be left for each licensing authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our concerns with this bill. We do, however, support the intent of this measure.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

Testimony on HB 2257  
Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

March 1, 2012  
2:30 pm, Room 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and members of the Finance Committee:

The Office of the Governor appreciates your willingness to request a waiver and hear House Bill (HB) 2257, Proposed House Draft (HD) 1, Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing.

While the Governor was in DC earlier this week, First Lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden made a very public plea for all Governors to pass bills that will assist military spouses with obtaining professional licenses. The Governor strongly supports this effort and the passage of HB 2257, HD 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.