



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII\*  
MĀNOA

Office of Public Health Studies, John A. Burns School of Medicine

LATE

March 15, 2012

Written Testimony Regarding SB2398

As the Chair of Health Policy and Management at the Office of Public Health Studies, John A. Burns School of Medicine, I'd humbly request to submit this written testimony.

Senate Bill 2398, as introduced, may pose an unnecessary health risk to the citizens of Hawaii, as well as visitors attending tattoo trade shows and conventions. The proposed language amendments introduce risk by shifting the ultimate responsibility of licensing from the State of Hawaii to services for hire. These for-hire licensing services could be out-of-state or even online licensing. While some online licensing services ask for infection control course work, there is no way to verify if artists have received necessary training. Other professionals who come in contact with body fluid, such as phlebotomists, have extensive in-person training programs and licensing. This is important to ensure patient safety and effectiveness. It is my opinion that professionals whose work involves human fluid, and possibly may come in contact with blood borne diseases, must have the appropriate professional training, certification and licensing to prevent the unnecessary spread of disease. In an analysis of several dozen past studies, CDC researchers found that tattoos from non-professionals appear to carry a risk of the blood-borne liver infection hepatitis C. On the other hand, there was no evidence that tattoos done by professionals carried a hepatitis C risk. Online licensing, which would be made possible through the amendment of SB 2398, would prevent the State of Hawaii from the direct oversight of important disease control and prevention.

I submit this testimony and ask state legislators carefully to consider how amendments to SB 2398 could introduce unnecessary health risks to Hawaii.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maile Taualii".

Maile Taualii, PhD, MPH  
Assistant Professor, Chair of Health Policy and Management  
Office of Public Health Studies & Department of Native Hawaiian Health  
University of Hawaii, Manoa  
1960 East West Road, Biomed C105C  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: 808-453-0276  
Email: [mtaualii@hawaii.edu](mailto:mtaualii@hawaii.edu)

LATE

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 2:09 AM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** mtaualii@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2398 on 2/15/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for PGM/HTH 2/15/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2398

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Maile Taulii  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [mtaualii@hawaii.edu](mailto:mtaualii@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments: