

SB 2398

RELATING TO TATTOO ARTISTS

Description:

Authorizes the department of health to contract with professional testing services to administer licensing tests to out-of-state tattoo artists for Hawaii tattoo trade shows.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and
Military Affairs
Committee on Health**

S.B. 2398, RELATING TO TATTOO ARTISTS

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

**February 15, 2012
2:45 p.m.**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The department opposes this bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** Passage of this bill would require additional resources by the department
3 to contract with a professional testing service; review site plans for temporary events, and inspection of
4 any trade shows, conventions, or exhibitions.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** We oppose this bill, as the department feels it is unnecessary. Hawaii
6 Revised Statutes (HRS) Part XXX. Tattoo Artists. §321-375 (b) states that, "The department may
7 contract with a professional testing agency to prepare, administer, and grade the exam for licensure as a
8 tattoo artist." Furthermore, the department has been advised by the Deputy Attorney General that tattoo
9 conventions, trade shows, or exhibitions are currently allowed in Hawaii under existing statutes and
10 administrative rules.

11 The department further believes that: 1) DOH does not have the expertise to create professional
12 licensing exams as required by this measure and 2) Any changes to the existing tattoo regulations

1 should also include serious discussions regarding the currently unregulated practice of body-piercing
2 and body implants. These types of body modifications are performed very frequently in licensed tattoo
3 shops, but afford a much higher public health risk than tattooing.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 5:25 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: terpatterson@yahoo.com
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: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim and Tere Patterson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: terpatterson@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

It is very important to keep our local tattoo artists ONLY certified in our island not to let others who may be coming in for conventions. The health issue is the greatest and we know sterilization is very important to those of us who have tattoos. Please continue to keep our local laws strong on this issue. We do not want just anyone coming in and taking our income away at these conventions. If one has a cultural tattoo it is very important to keep areas and instruments clean as do our tattooists.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 5:26 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: skamoe@gmail.com
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: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sheri Kamoe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: skamoe@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 9:40 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: tawkpidgin@yahoo.com
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: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: clifford kealoha jr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: tawkpidgin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2012

Comments:

I am a traveling tattoo artist from Hawaii. I spend most of my year traveling. Common sense will tell you that when entering some ones house, you respect and abide by there rules. With out these rules, every one would be able to run rampant. In this situation it poses a great health risk among the community. With an extensive list of contagions that the tattoo community is exposed to, it only benefits the people of Hawaii to stand up and recognize that poorly trained artist will increase the chances of transmitting diseases and/or epidemic. I have seen generic and some times sub par regulations in different areas I have traveled to. With out the tattoo community working hand in hand with government, the war against illegal and unsafe practice of tattoooing will never be won.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 10:22 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: jeremymichaelmurphy@hotmail.com
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: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeremy Murphy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jeremymichaelmurphy@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:

Due to the fact that not all States share our requirements of licensing, I believe all Out of State artists wishing to tattoo in Hawaii should have to pass testing to ensure they meet the level of standers we uphold here.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 1:00 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: ccdesign@hawaii.rr.com
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: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Colbath
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ccdesign@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2398 WITH TWO REVISIONS.

#1). We would like to see a maximum number of participating artists at any given event clarified in the language (see below). We think having no limit is a major health risk.

#2). We are against any testing out-of-state and feel all testing should be here in Hawaii to guarantee proper administration of such exams.

Reasoning:

My first suggested revision is in reference to [§321-373.5] d (1) in our current statutes dealing with temporary permits for trade shows and conventions. In 2009 the coalition behind SB1263 polled over a hundred licensed tattooists as to what a safe cap is on the number of participating artists at any given event. Some limit must be in place to make monitoring the booths for safety precautions a feasible task. Recently it was determined that the limit on participating artists that we thought was in place is NOT! I would like to see this corrected and the original intent recognized and honored in a revision clarifying the language of that section, although a somewhat higher number; perhaps more is more suitable to meet the economic needs of convention promoters, but a limit is necessary to ensure public safety. The smaller the number of participating artists, the smaller risk of cross-contamination and exposure to the public. I believe a maximum of 50 artists is reasonable, a slight increase from what was initially intended to be in the statutes.

If conventions with as many as two hundred participating tattooists are hosted here, there IS a health risk. Multiply 200 artists by an average of 6 clients per artist and you have the possibility of as many as 1200 people bleeding in a communal space. Although the new tattoos are bandaged, most clients remove the bandage in order to show off their new tattoo. This is a tremendous health risk when you consider how easily Hepatitis B is transmitted. Also monitoring that many booths for safety measures is impossible, whereas a small number of booths can feasibly be monitored.

Please consider a revision of SB2398 to clarify this. The original intent is quite clear, and that not implementing that maximum number is a MAJOR health concern. Raising that cap slightly is acceptable, but we urge to you realize the risks in having a very large number of participating tattooists.

The second concern with SB2398 is in allowing for out-of-state testing. I feel section 1 of the bill is fine, but would like a revision to REMOVE the option of out-of-state exams. With the increased popularity of tattooing in recent years, numerous "courses" and "tests" are offered in various locations on the mainland that are of very little substance. Many tattoo "schools" are offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. Also there are many online courses and tests being offered that require less than 30 minutes, yet provide one with a "certificate". The issue is that there is absolutely no means of determining if an out-of-state test is sufficient. It could be simply a two-hour Red Cross course or 20 minute online test, or it could be a legitimate OSHA approved course. As for the Hawai'i State Exam being administered elsewhere by professional testing services, I believe we may be jeopardizing our examination process and inviting problems. With the test being administered here in Hawai'i by either our division of DOH or by a professional testing service, we have the opportunity to insure that the course truly is sufficient, confidential and properly administered. This is not a possibility with out of state exams. Please consider revision and removing the out-of-state option.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 2:22 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: pirategirlz3@yahoo.com
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: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: megan jones
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pirategirlz3@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:

Aloha I am a licensed tattoo artist in the state of Hawaii and do support the bill with revisions on a a limited amount of artist at the local conventions and no on-line course certifacation . mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 5:58 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: henriness1@aol.com
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: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Henry Gonzalez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: henriness1@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2398 WITH TWO REVISIONS.

#1). We would like to see a maximum number of participating artists at any given event clarified in the language (see below). We think having no limit is a major health risk.

#2). We are against any testing out-of-state and feel all testing should be here in Hawaii to guarantee proper administration of such exams.

Reasoning:

My first suggested revision is in reference to [§321-373.5] d (1) in our current statutes dealing with temporary permits for trade shows and conventions. In 2009 the coalition behind SB1263 polled over a hundred licensed tattooists as to what a safe cap is on the number of participating artists at any given event. Some limit must be in place to make monitoring the booths for safety precautions a feasible task. Recently it was determined that the limit on participating artists that we thought was in place is NOT! I would like to see this corrected and the original intent recognized and honored in a revision clarifying the language of that section, although a somewhat higher number; perhaps more is more suitable to meet the economic needs of convention promoters, but a limit is necessary to ensure public safety. The smaller the number of participating artists, the smaller risk of cross-contamination and exposure to the public. I believe a maximum of 50 artists is reasonable, a slight increase from what was initially intended to be in the statutes.

If conventions with as many as two hundred participating tattooists are hosted here, there IS a health risk. Multiply 200 artists by an average of 6 clients per artist and you have the possibility of as many as 1200 people bleeding in a communal space. Although the new tattoos are bandaged, most clients remove the bandage in order to show off their new tattoo. This is a tremendous health risk when you consider how easily Hepatitis B is transmitted. Also monitoring that many booths for safety measures is impossible, whereas a small number of booths can feasibly be monitored.

Please consider a revision of SB2398 to clarify this. The original intent is quite clear, and that not implementing that maximum number is a MAJOR health concern. Raising that cap slightly is acceptable, but we urge to you realize the risks in having a very large number of participating tattooists.

The second concern with SB2398 is in allowing for out-of-state testing. I feel section 1 of the bill is fine, but would like a revision to REMOVE the option of out-of-state exams. With the increased popularity of tattooing in recent years, numerous "courses" and "tests" are offered in various locations on the mainland that are of very little substance. Many tattoo "schools" are offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. Also there are many online courses and tests being offered that require less than 30 minutes, yet provide one with a "certificate". The issue is that there is absolutely no means of determining if an out-of-state test is sufficient. It could be simply a two-hour Red Cross course or 20 minute online test, or it could be a legitimate OSHA approved course. As for the Hawai'i State Exam being administered elsewhere by professional testing services, I believe we may be jeopardizing our examination process and inviting problems. With the test being administered here in Hawai'i by either our division of DOH or by a professional testing service, we have the opportunity to insure that the course truly is sufficient, confidential and properly administered. This is not a possibility with out of state exams. Please consider revision and removing the out-of-state option.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 9:00 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: straycat@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2398 on 2/15/2012 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: Testimony SB2398.txt ✓

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

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Samantha Fairchild
Organization: Individual
E-mail: straycat@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2012

Comments:

While educational/cultural exceptions to the argument can certainly be made, I don't personally relish the idea of commercial tattoo conventions in general and particularly in Hawaii. For instance, at a medical convention, just how many surgical procedures are performed on the convention floor? I do, however, realize the inevitable. Let us please consider the health and well being of our community first and foremost in all considerations.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 12:08 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: adamsiehr@gmail.com
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: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Adam Siehr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: adamsiehr@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:

We are testifying against S.B.2398 for the following reasons:

With the increased popularity of tattooing in recent years, numerous "courses" and "tests" are offered in various locations on the mainland that are of very little substance. Many tattoo "schools" are offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. Also there are many online courses and tests being offered. The concern is that there is absolutely no means of determining if an out-of-state test is sufficient. It could be a two-hour Red Cross course or simply a 20 minute online test, or it could be a legitimate 8-hour OSHA approved course. As for the Hawaii State Exam being administered elsewhere by professional testing services, Our concern is with possibly jeopardizing our examination process and thereby inviting problems. With the test being administered here in Hawaii by our division of DOH or by a local professional testing services, we have the means of insuring that the course truly is sufficient, confidential and properly administered. This is not a possibility with out of state exams.

*TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2398 ONLY WITH TWO REVISIONS.

RE: SB 2398

I am a licensed tattooist (#911) and a tattoo shop owner here on Oahu.

My first suggested revision is in reference to Tattoo Regulations [§321-373.5] d (1) in our current statutes dealing with temporary permits for trade shows and conventions.

In 2009 the coalition behind SB1263 polled over a hundred licensed tattooists as to what a safe cap is on the number of participating artists at any given event. Some limit must be in place to make monitoring the booths for safety precautions a feasible task. Recently it was determined that the limit on participating artists that we thought was in place is NOT being interpreted as such. I would like to see this corrected and the original intent recognized and honored in a revision clarifying the language of that section, although a somewhat higher number; perhaps more is more suitable to meet the economic needs of convention promoters, but a limit is necessary to ensure public safety. The smaller the number of participating artists the smaller risk of cross-contamination and exposure to the public.

If conventions with as many as two hundred participating tattooists are hosted here **there IS a health risk**. Multiply 200 artists by an average of 6 clients per artist and you have the possibility of as many as 1200 people bleeding in a communal space. Although the new tattoos are bandaged, most clients remove the bandage in order to show off their new tattoo. This is a tremendous health risk when you consider how easily Hepatitis B is transmitted. Also monitoring that many booths for safety measures is impossible, whereas a small number of booths can feasibly be monitored.

Please consider a revision of SB2398 to clarify this. The original intent of the updated regulations is quite clear (40 tattooer limit) and that not implementing that maximum number is a MAJOR health concern. We urge to you realize the risks in having a very large number of participating tattooists.

The second concern with SB2398 is in allowing for out-of-state testing. I feel section 1 of the bill is fine, but would like a revision to REMOVE the option of out-of-state exams. With the increased popularity of tattooing in recent years, numerous "courses" and "tests" are offered in various locations on the mainland that are of very little substance. Many tattoo "schools" are offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. Also there are many online courses and tests being offered that require less than 30 minutes, yet

provide one with a "certificate". The issue is that there is absolutely no means of determining if an out-of-state test is sufficient. Could it be simply a one hour Red Cross course, a 10 minute online test or could it be a legitimate tattoo specific OSHA approved course? Our current exam was revised in 2009 to be up-to-date and industry specific. It sets the standard for state tattoo exams across the USA.

As for the Hawai'i State Exam being administered elsewhere by professional testing services, I believe we would be jeopardizing our examination process and inviting problems. With the test being administered here in Hawai'i by either our division of DOH or by a professional testing service, we have the opportunity to insure that the course truly is sufficient, confidential and properly administered. This is not a possibility with out of state exams. I ask that you revise and remove the out-of-state option.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Peggy Sucher

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 4:55 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: pacifcisoultattoo@gmail.com
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:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sulu'ape-Steve.Looney
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pacifcisoultattoo@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:

I am a licensed tattoo artist in Honolulu and also own my own tattoo shop. I have been tattooing in the state of Hawaii for the last 11 years. I have owned my own business since 2004. I was a part of the coalition of Hawaii Tattoo artists in 2009 to help update the Hawaii tattoo exam at that time. Also helping to promote the statutes that are currently in place now for tattoo conventions. I also am heavily involved in the promotion of traditional style of polynesian tattooing and have been trained by master tufuga tatatau form Samoa, Su'a-Sulu'ape. Alaiva'a-Petelo.

I am writing to submit my testimony about the current issue of a tattoo convention being held here on Oahu in the near future. Although I am not against a convention being held here, but I am extremely concerned of health and infectious issues that concern holding a convention here. There should definitely be a cap on how many tattoo artists that may be enrolled to tattoo at this convention. In my opinion there should only be at the most 50 tattoo artists tattooing at any given time during the duration of the convention. Also that they have completed and passed the Hawaii State exam for a tattoo License. This is so our Department of Health staff which is currently short staffed and under budget are able to monitor these activities.

Also, the fact that the tattoo industry here in Hawaii is already saturated with non-licensed and untrained home tattooers that could possibly attend and tattoo at this convention, only promotes these concerns. Hawaii is already a model for other states as far as our rules and regulations go for the tattoo industry. Lets please help to keep it this way!

I am also firmly against any type of out of state or online testing for temporary or permanent licensing for tattoo artists, and or piercing. This is a potential disaster waiting to happen.

In regards to the tattoo and or piercing conventions being held here in the State of Hawaii, I believe there should definitely be an oversight committee made up of long time resident tattoo artists at least 10 yrs plus tattooing experience in the State of Hawaii. This coupled with health and infectious disease control experts, to work hand in hand with the Department of Health to better over see the tattooing and any tattoo convention related activities in the State of Hawaii. I firmly believe this will help controlling any big business tattoo convention organizers from holding a tattoo convention and or piercing convention with a cap of no more than 50 tattoo artists and or piercers enrolled to perform tattooing and or piercing at the convention.

Again my position is to keep a cap of no more that 50 tattoo artists at any given time tattooing during the convention period. Also that there be no out of state and online testing for temporary and or permanent tattooing and or piercing in the State of Hawaii. Thank you very much for your time, and hope that this helps with helping regulate Hawaii's rule and relations regarding these concerns.

Mahalo,
Sulu'ape-Steve.Looney

Pacific Soul Tattoo
320 Ward Ave. #215
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808)589-1996

Testimony SB2398

Tricia Allen has written comprehensively on this subject and I concur with her on all points.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2398 WITH TWO REVISIONS.

#1). We would like to see a maximum number of participating artists at any given event clarified in the language (see below). We think having no limit is a major health risk.

#2). We are against any testing out-of-state and feel all testing should be here in Hawaii to guarantee proper administration of such exams.

Reasoning:

My first suggested revision is in reference to [§321-373.5] d (1) in our current statutes dealing with temporary permits for trade shows and conventions. In 2009 the coalition behind SB1263 polled over a hundred licensed tattooists as to what a safe cap is on the number of participating artists at any given event. Some limit must be in place to make monitoring the booths for safety precautions a feasible task. Recently it was determined that the limit on participating artists that we thought was in place is NOT! I would like to see this corrected and the original intent recognized and honored in a revision clarifying the language of that section, although a somewhat higher number; perhaps more is more suitable to meet the economic needs of convention promoters, but a limit is necessary to ensure public safety. The smaller the number of participating artists, the smaller risk of cross-contamination and exposure to the public. I believe a maximum of 50 artists is reasonable, a slight increase from what was initially intended to be in the statutes.

If conventions with as many as two hundred participating tattooists are hosted here, there IS a health risk. Multiply 200 artists by an average of 6 clients per artist and you have the possibility of as many as 1200 people bleeding in a communal space. Although the new tattoos are bandaged, most clients remove the bandage in order to show off their new tattoo. This is a tremendous health risk when you consider how easily Hepatitis B is transmitted. Also monitoring that many booths for safety measures is impossible, whereas a small number of booths can feasibly be monitored.

Please consider a revision of SB2398 to clarify this. The original intent is quite clear, and that not implementing that maximum number is a MAJOR health concern. Raising that cap slightly is acceptable, but we urge to you realize the risks in having a very large number of participating tattooists.

The second concern with SB2398 is in allowing for out-of-state testing. I feel section 1 of the bill is fine, but would like a revision to REMOVE the option of out-of-state exams. With the increased popularity of tattooing in recent years, numerous "courses" and "tests" are offered in various locations on the mainland that are of very little substance. Many tattoo "schools" are offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. Also there are many online courses and tests being offered that require less than 30 minutes, yet provide one with a "certificate". The issue is that there is absolutely no means of determining if an out-of-state test is sufficient. It could be simply a two-hour Red Cross course or 20 minute online test, or it could be a legitimate OSHA approved course. As for the Hawai'i State Exam being administered elsewhere by professional testing services, I believe we may be jeopardizing our examination process and inviting problems. With the test being administered here in Hawai'i by either our division of DOH or by a professional testing service, we have the opportunity to insure that the course truly is sufficient, confidential and properly administered. This is not a possibility with out of state exams. Please consider revision and removing the out-of-state option.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marlene Uesugi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 9:13 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: h20wahine@yahoo.com
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: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bonnie Alapai
Organization: Individual
E-mail: h20wahine@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2012

Comments:

The maximum number of participating artists at any given event clarified in the language needs to be revised. I think having no limit is a major health risk.
I am also against any testing out-of-state and feel all testing should be here in Hawaii to guarantee proper administration of such exams

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 4:05 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: gcrule@msn.com
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: Kapu Tattoo Company
Organization: Kapu Tattoo Company Kauai
E-mail: gcrule@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:
We oppose this legislation. Thank you!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am testifying against S.B.2398, for the following reasons: With the increased popularity of tattooing in recent years, numerous "courses" and "tests" are offered in various locations on the mainland that are of very little substance. Many tattoo "schools" are offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. Also there are many online courses and tests being offered. As an experiment, I recently took a course and test that cost \$40.00 and took just under 30 minutes and provided me with a downloadable "certificate". Another licensed tattooist here found a course for only \$17.00 which he completed in under 10 minutes. The issue is that there is absolutely no means of determining if an out-of-state test is sufficient. It could be simply a two-hour Red Cross course or 20 minute online test, or it could be a legitimate OSHA approved course. As for the Hawai'i State Exam being administered elsewhere by professional testing services, I believe we are jeopardizing our examination process and inviting problems. With the test being administered here in Hawai'i by our Department of DOH or by professional testing services, we have the option of investigating to see if the course truly is sufficient, confidential and properly administered. This is not a possibility with out of state exams.

I have been a licensed tattooist in Hawai'i since 1992,
License #262.

Most respectfully,
Tricia Allen, tattooist
Kaneohe, Oahu
(808) 734-8677

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 2:17 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: rodwell541@gmail.com
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: Rodney Powell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rodwell541@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

Please do NOT pass this bill. It is a detriment to te safety and health of Hawaii residents.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 6:14 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: kenjiishida@verizon.net
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: Kenji Ishida
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kenjiishida@verizon.net
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:
I strongly oppose SB2398 for health concerns.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 4:16 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: unclletimtattoo@msn.com
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: Don Heitkotter
Organization: Individual
E-mail: unclletimtattoo@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

I am licensed tattoo artist in the State of Hawaii who opposes this bill. The whole agenda here is to get out of state interests to come in and completely disrupt our licensing processes and make it easier for anyone who wishes to come in and wrecklessly throw tattoo conventions and attract people from states that do not have stringent guidelines like our own. This will open the door to all kinds of dangerous health related issues. These people are not interested in anything other than finding ways to circumvent our laws for their own personal gain. Meanwhile these conventions generate TONS of biohazardous waste that will add to our already stressed landfills. This bill is a wolf in sheeps clothing. The DOH is understaffed and undertrained about critical issues concerning tattooing and certainly tattoo conventions and these promoters KNOW this. Allowing this bill to go through will only add more problems to an already stressed Health Department as well. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL AND ALLOW THESE LEECHES TO BLIND YOU TO THE REAL AGENDA. This is only about making money off of our state for their own pockets with little or no concern for public health issues or local tattooists. Thank you for your consideration. I will be happy to discuss this in committee if given enough time to schedule a meeting. Aloha..Don T. Heitkotter aka Uncle Tim (808) 826-0114

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 4:03 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: kaputattoo@gmail.com
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: Cory Mckeown
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kaputattoo@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

I oppose this legislation. I am a licensed tattoo artist here in Hawaii. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:59 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: truegrit13@msn.com
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: Garrett Casse
Organization: Individual
E-mail: truegrit13@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:

I oppose SB2398. I firmly believe this is a step backwards in health regulations for tattooing in Hawaii. I would be there in person to voice my opinion, however I live on Kauai and cant make it over for the conference. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 1:13 AM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: pjordn@gmail.com
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: Peggy Jordan
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pjordn@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2012

Comments:

I am a Hawaii Licensed Tattooer & out of state testing is not acceptable. We must monitor what is going on in our state and take the health & safety of the people here seriously. Hawaii is at an advantage with the licensing laws & regulations on tattooing. We must continue this & keep our testing in state & to proper standards. There are tattoo "schools" on the mainland offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. I believe we are inviting many problems if the test is administered out of state.

Thank you

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 7:56 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: adamsiehr@gmail.com
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: Adam
Organization: Individual
E-mail: adamsiehr@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2012

Comments:

We are testifying against S.B.2398 for the following reasons:
With the increased popularity of tattooing in recent years, numerous "courses" and "tests" are offered in various locations on the mainland that are of very little substance. Many tattoo "schools" are offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. Also there are many online courses and tests being offered. The concern is that there is absolutely no means of determining if an out-of-state test is sufficient. It could be a two-hour Red Cross course or simply a 20 minute online test, or it could be a legitimate 8-hour OSHA approved course. As for the Hawai'i State Exam being administered elsewhere by professional testing services, Our concern is with possibly jeopardizing our examination process and thereby inviting problems. With the test being administered here in Hawai'i by our division of DOH or by a local professional testing services, we have the means of insuring that the course truly is sufficient, confidential and properly administered. This is not a possibility with out of state exams.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 1:06 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: jeremymichaelmurphy@hotmail.com
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: Jeremy Murphy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jeremymichaelmurphy@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2012

Comments:

I miss read the bill, and would like to retract my support. I feel the artists applying for a temporary tattoo licence in Hawaii should be tested in Hawaii prior to approval. As to ensure testing quality and standards.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 2:08 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: Kujostat2s@gmail.com
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: Sergio
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Kujostat2s@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 2:11 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: Bryceluning@gmail.com
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: Bryce luning
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Bryceluning@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 4:12 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: Pacificsoulattoo@gmail.com
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: Tiafau Looney
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Pacificsoulattoo@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2012

Comments:
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2398 ONLY WITH TWO REVISIONS.

I am a licensed tattooist and have been since 2000;

My first suggested revision is in reference to [§321-373.5] d (1) in our current statutes dealing with temporary permits for trade shows and conventions.

In 2009 the coalition behind SB1263 polled over a hundred licensed tattooists as to what a safe cap is on the number of participating artists at any given event. Some limit must be in place to make monitoring the booths for safety precautions a feasible task. Recently it was determined that the limit on participating artists that we thought was in place is NOT! I would like to see this corrected and the original intent recognized and honored in a revision clarifying the language of that section, although a somewhat higher number; perhaps more is more suitable to meet the economic needs of convention promoters, but a limit is necessary to ensure public safety. The smaller the number of participating artists, the smaller risk of cross-contamination and exposure to the public.

If conventions with as many as two hundred participating tattooists are hosted here, there IS a health risk. Multiply 200 artists by an average of 6 clients per artist and you have the possibility of as many as 1200 people bleeding in a communal space. Although the new tattoos are bandaged, most clients remove the bandage in order to show off their new tattoo. This is a tremendous health risk when you consider how easily Hepatitis B is transmitted. Also monitoring that many booths for safety measures is impossible, whereas a small number of booths can feasibly be monitored.

Please consider a revision of SB2398 to clarify this. The original intent is quite clear, and that not implementing that maximum number is a MAJOR health concern. Raising that cap slightly is acceptable, but we urge to you realize the risks in having a very large number of participating tattooists.

The second concern with SB2398 is in allowing for out-of-state testing. I feel section 1 of the bill is fine, but would like a revision to REMOVE the option of out-of-state exams. With the increased popularity of tattooing in recent years, numerous "courses" and "tests" are offered in various locations on the mainland that are of very little substance. Many tattoo "schools" are offering inexpensive condensed courses that are far from sufficient on the hygiene front. Also there are many online courses and tests being offered that require less than 30 minutes, yet provide one with a

"certificate". The issue is that there is absolutely no means of determining if an out-of-state test is sufficient. It could be simply a two-hour Red Cross course or 20 minute online test, or it could be a legitimate OSHA approved course. As for the Hawai'i State Exam being administered elsewhere by professional testing services, I believe we may be jeopardizing our examination process and inviting problems. With the test being administered here in Hawai'i by either our division of DOH or by a professional testing service, we have the opportunity to insure that the course truly is sufficient, confidential and properly administered. This is not a possibility with out of state exams. Please consider revision and removing the out-of-state option.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.