

Hawaii State Legislature
State House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

LATE

State Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
State Representative Derek S. K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 3:30 p.m. Room 325
House Bill 1381 HD 1 Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing

Honorable Chair Angus L. K. McKelvey, Vice Chair Derek S. K. Kawakami and
members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

My name is Russel Yamashita and I am the legislative representative for the Hawaii Dental Association (HDA) and its 960 member dentists. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on of House Bill 1381 HD 1 Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing. The bill before you today would seek to provide for the licensure by credential and reciprocity for all licenses issued by the State of Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Professional and Vocational Licensing Division with exclusions of doctors, dentists and CPAs.

Since this bill and ones similar to it have been introduced this session, the HDA believes that this issue needs to be deferred so all the professions and vocations affected by this legislation have an opportunity to meet and discuss these issues at length during the interim. With over 125,000 licensees affected by this legislation, I would hope that any drastic changes affecting their licensure should be fully explained to them before the Legislature makes significant changes to the law affecting their licensure. Therefore, the HDA request that this bill be held and that all parties meet during the summer on this very important issue.



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Hawaii

LATE

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February 26, 2013

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 27, 3:30 p.m., Conference Room 325

Honorable Representatives Angus McKelvey, Chair; Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Subject: Testimony in Opposition

HB 1381 HD1, Relating to Professional and Vocational Licensing

Dear Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH) represents almost 70 member firms with over 1,300 employees throughout Hawaii. ACECH's member firms are comprised of engineers who are at the forefront of their particular disciplines, and who have specialized experience in the geography, resources, and design requirements of Hawaii and the Pacific region. Projects designed by Hawaii design professionals directly affect the quality of the water we drink and the food we eat; the safety of our buildings, highways, bridges, and infrastructure; and the quality of the environment in which we work and play. Licensed design professionals have the expertise and experience to develop viable solutions to society's problems.

ACECH supports the intent of the bill to facilitate members of the military and their spouses in finding employment. However, we are concerned that the bill may allow the granting of professional engineering licenses without licensure exam.

We note that, under the current laws for the licensing of design professionals, the bill is unnecessary. The Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects already allows the granting of Hawaii licenses by endorsement to engineers who have passed the licensure exam in another state.

Our concern is that the bill, by stating "for licensure by endorsement... shall consider relevant education, training, licensure examinations, or service..." (emphasis added), may allow for the waiver of the requirement for licensure examination when an applicant seeks licensure by endorsement. The requirement for licensure examination must be strictly upheld, as a matter of protecting public safety.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF HAWAII

Terrance Arashiro, P.E.
President