

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Monday, February 24, 2014
2:10 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1882, H.D. 1, RELATING TO PODIATRISTS.

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Constance Cabral, and I am one of the Executive Officers of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1882, H.D. 1, Relating to Podiatrists.

The Board respectfully asks that amendments be made to this measure.

On February 12, 2014, the companion bill, S.B. 2468, was heard by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and passed with amendments. Chair Baker requested that the Board and its Podiatry Advisory Committee provide her with language for the S.D. 1 that would address podiatrists who completed only a twelve-month residency. Because twelve-month residencies were the norm at one time, Chair Baker did not want to exclude those applicants from practicing in Hawaii and, therefore, carved out a reasonable provision for experienced podiatrists who completed twelve-month residencies.

The Board agrees with her position, and on February 19 sent her a draft for her consideration. We respectfully ask that the House Committee also consider the draft which amends paragraph (2) of the bill in the following manner:

- (2) The applicant has completed at least twenty-four months in an accredited podiatric residency, as approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education, prior to applying for licensure, provided that an applicant who has graduated from an approved college before January 1, 2004, shall:
- (a) have completed at least twelve months in an accredited podiatric residency;
 - (b) have at least ten years of active licensed experience in podiatric medicine in another state; and
 - (c) hold a current, unencumbered license in podiatric medicine in another state.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1882, H.D. 1.

Testimony to: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Subject: HB1882-Relating to Podiatrists
Presented by: Dr. Robert LaReaux, President, Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association
Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr Robert LaReaux, representing the Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association and we support this bill.

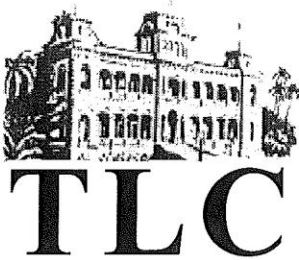
The standard for the last ten years is that all podiatrists complete a 36 month residency program.

Licensure for MD's and DO's in Hawaii requires completion of an approved 12 month residency (24 months if foreign trained). The podiatry residency requirement, as written in Hawaii state law, is unenforceable and needs revision.

The new bill we are proposing will require podiatrists to complete at least a **24** month accredited residency program for licensure. The Senate version of this bill SB2468 has added language that would allow podiatrists with 12 month residency training to apply, if they have ten years of experience. We worked with the Hawaii Medical Board on this amendment and we approve of the changes.

44 states have residency requirements of either 12 or 24 months, similar to the revisions we are proposing for Hawaii.

Thank you.



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February 24, 2014

Testimony To: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, Legislative Liaison
Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association

Subject: H.B. 1882, HD 1 - RELATING TO PODIATRISTS

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Legislative Liaison for the Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association and we support this bill.

This bill as well needs an amendment in order to accommodate individuals that may have been in practice but for whatever reason left practice and now wished to re-enter.

We believe that the wording has been provided by the Hawaii Medical Board and we concur with that amendment.

With that amendment, we recommend your favorable adoption.

Thank you.

February 20, 2014

Testimony to: Chair McKelvey
Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Subject: HB 1882 — Residency requirement of state licensure

Presented by: Liane Lin-Watanabe, DPM
New PMSR/RRA graduate

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

I am Liane Lin-Watanabe, DPM, a November 2013 graduate of a three-year podiatric medicine and surgery residency program with the added reconstructive rearfoot and ankle credential, and I support these bills.

Regarding the residency requirement for state licensure, please consider how podiatric medical education and training are lead by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education.

The CPME is an autonomous accrediting agency for podiatric medical education. Deriving its authority from the House of Delegates of the American Podiatric Medical Association, the Council is empowered to develop and adopt standards and policies as necessary for the implementation of all aspects of its accreditation, approval, and recognition purview.¹

Note that on July 1, 2011, the CPME formally increased the national residency standard from two-year and three-year residencies in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery (PM&S-24 and PM&S-36) to a single three-year residency—the Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residency (PMSR). Furthermore, as dictated by the CPME, “residencies that can provide a sufficient volume and diversity in reconstructive rearfoot and ankle (RRA) procedures may grant an added RRA credential.”²

Therefore, adopting the national residency training standard or at least a minimum requirement for state licensure will help to maintain and attract well-trained podiatrists to Hawaii.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you for allowing my testimony.

Sincerely,
Liane Lin-Watanabe, DPM

¹ cpme.org

² cpme.org

Sandra Au, DPM
Aloha Foot Centers

Testimony to: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair, House Consumer Protection and Commerce

Date and time of hearing: February 24, 2014 2:10pm

In support of HB 1882 – Relating to Podiatrists

Chair Angus McKelvey and members of the Committee:

My name is Sandra Au, I am a podiatrist practicing on the Windward side of the island and I support this bill.

I graduated from a 3 year residency and the current standard for podiatric graduates is a 36 month residency. A few years ago the minimum was a 24 month residency but currently all podiatric residencies are 36 months. I support the change to require a residency in order to obtain a Hawaii state license. A residency requirement is the standard in state laws across the nation and this will ensure that only well trained graduates will be able to practice in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration and allowing my testimony.

Sincerely,
Sandra Au, DPM
Aloha Foot Centers

Chair McKelvey

Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Re: Relating to Podiatry: HB 1880/1882 and SB 2467/2468

Position: Support

Healthcare is changing. Medical care has become more specialized and focused in order to create and maintain a level of care that is required to continually deliver the highest quality care to every patient.

Podiatrists have become the primary providers of foot and ankle surgery. Training has changed over the past 20 years to create an environment where podiatrists are an essential part of a well-rounded healthcare team. The ever increasing diabetes population relies on the specialized foot and ankle care that podiatrists provide to ensure comprehensive care for hospital and outpatient care.

I moved back home to Kauai in 1999 and joined Kauai Medical Clinic and became a part of the Allied Healthcare Staff at Wilcox Memorial Hospital. After establishing myself to be an essential part of the healthcare team, hospital policy was revised to allow podiatrists to become part of the medical staff of Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Together with several orthopedic surgeons and a physiatrist, in 2004 we established the Bone and Joint Center at Kauai Medical Clinic to provide comprehensive care for the people of Kauai as well as our large visitor population.

Current Hawaii state law does not reflect the current standard of training and ability of podiatrists. Current law restricts podiatrists from doing “any amputation, except for digital amputation”. Obviously, this law is outdated and does not reflect the current standard for the rest of the country. I know that I am the best trained and qualified to treat my diabetic patients, and I believe my colleagues on the medical staff at Wilcox Memorial Hospital know that no one is more passionate about healing these complicated wounds than myself.

The proposed bills allow podiatrists to perform to the level of the foot and ankle as they are trained. In fact, **45** states allow podiatrists to provide comprehensive foot and ankle care. In the esteemed orthopedic journal, Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery America in 2012, Augusto Sarmiento, MD from the University of Miami School of Medicine wrote:

“...podiatrists, who for generations had limited their work to minor surgeries of the toes, managed, over a very short period of time, to become doctors/surgeons who currently care for patients with all types of musculoskeletal conditions below the knee. They treat traumatic injuries as well as degenerative, infectious, and congenital diseases with clinical and surgical means. They perform internal fixation of fractures of the tibia, ankle, os calcis, hindfoot, and forefoot. In addition, they perform total ankle

arthroplasties and tendon transfers. In the process, they have become experts in the field to the point that it is ludicrous to argue that their qualifications do not allow them to cover such a wide territory.”

Even locally, Dr Cass Nakasone of Straub Hospital submitted testimony regarding HB1880 on February 5, 2014:

“We certainly do not have enough fellowship trained orthopedic foot and ankle surgeons in Hawaii. There is a huge amputation burden due to our large diabetic population. Amputation are simple operations when compared to most foot and ankle surgeries. If the podiatrists want more surgical freedom, then with it should come more surgical responsibility. Allow them to perform amputations mid tibia and below so that they can help with the burden of the diabetic foot population and also have the privilege to perform a drastic surgery to resolve incurable complications of foot and ankle surgery.”

I am the only full time resident podiatrist on Kauai and I have an overwhelming population of patients in need of care. It is not unusual for a patient with foot pain to wait 3 months for a consultation. I would like to have a skilled surgical foot and ankle partner, but the best trained podiatrists find the Hawaii state law to be prohibitive and restrictive. In fact, my group has tried for several years to hire an orthopedist interested in the foot and ankle, but that has proved very difficult.

I have dedicated my professional life to providing the best podiatric foot and ankle care to the residents and visitors of Kauai. I was raised on Kauai and graduated from Kauai High School. Coming home to serve the people of Kauai has been wonderful, and I plan to continue to work to keep medical care on Kauai and in Hawaii up to the standards of modern medicine in 2014.

Hawaii is one of the last 5 states restricting the ability of skilled podiatrists to care for patients appropriately, and it is time to revise our state standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tyler Akira Chihara, DPM, FACFAS

Bone and Joint Center at Wilcox Health
Medical Staff, Wilcox Memorial Hospital
Treasurer, Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association

Dear Chair McKelvey and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

I am Linda Ho practicing podiatrist and I support this bill. I was born and raised here, a proud graduate of Pearl City High School Class of 2002, and I studied in the mainland, always with the intent of going home to bring back and contribute what I was able to find as my purpose in life back home. As fate would have it, the path led to podiatric medicine. Podiatric medicine is a profession that is an untapped resource whose potential can only bring benefit to the people of Hawaii. With Hawaii's population of growing diabetic patients, Hawaii's population of increasingly active seniors with the baby boomers, our generalized population of proudly barefooted walkers, it is our profession that helps keep our nation healthy and on their feet. These two bills HB 1880 and 1882 will assist with fortifying our profession's goal to uphold the quality of care that Hawaii's people deserve to keep them on their feet: to ensure that qualified and trained podiatrists can fully demonstrate what we were trained to do from an either 24 month or 36 month residency. I have colleagues who are also Kama'aina who are training in the mainland, with the intention to return home to indeed serve our home. I am hopeful that these bills will enable them to fill the constant brain drain that this state is suffering from.

In addressing the concerns presented at the last hearing, the main point I would like to drive home is the opportunity that these bills offer is to increase the chance for newly trained podiatrists to demonstrate what further training and skills that have been developed to improve the care of the people of Hawaii. Innovation brings the SINGLE chance of improvement and change...fear and apathy established with the status quo promises no offer of change and improvement. If it is the opinion that the current foot care for the people of Hawaii is of contention, closing the doors on bringing new talent only fosters this negative attitude. It is not an issue of self interest that I offer this testimony: rather it is from bearing witness to multiple hands other than mine that offer the skill and care that we all want for our community. I want to give that opportunity to those I've seen heal, and I don't want the people of Hawaii to be robbed of that opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Ho DPM

Testimony to: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Subject: HB1882-Relating to Podiatrists
Hearing on 2/24/14 2:10pm
Presented by: Dr. Sowers

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Nathalie Sowers and I support this bill.

Our MD and DO colleagues are only required to complete at least a one-year residency. HRS § 453-4 (2013). I support this bill with the amended change to a 12 month residency minimum.

Thank you

Testimony to: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Subject: HB1882-Relating to Podiatrists
Hearing on 2/24/14 2:10pm
Presented by: Dr. Morris

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Greg Morris and I support this bill.

House Bill 1882 is simply asking to add a requirement of completing an accredited residency program in order to obtain a license for podiatric medicine for the state of Hawaii. All but a handful of states have a similar requirement in place. This will help set a baseline consistent with our allopathic colleagues.

Thank you



**SURGICAL
ASSOCIATES, INC.**

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February 7, 2014

Hiroji Noguchi, MD, FACS

642 Ulukahiki Street, #207

Kailua, HI 96734

RE: HB 1880 and 1882

To the members of the House Committee,

I am Dr. Hiroji Noguchi, general and transplant surgeon with Surgical Associates, Inc.

I am writing in support of House Bill 1880 and 1882 regarding podiatric medicine.

I feel it is important for Hawaii to keep up with national standards as it pertains to the level of required residency prior to licensure. Podiatrists receive extensive surgical training and should be allowed to practice accordingly.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Hiroji Noguchi, MD, FACS

Alan H.S. Cheung, MD, FACS • Fong-Liang Fan, MD, FACS • Whitney M.L. Limm, MD, FACS
Hiroji Noguchi, MD, FACS • Macoto Ogihara, MD, FACS • Linda L. Wong, MD, FACS • Jon S. (Gai) Yamaguchi, MD, FACS
Livingston M.F. Wong, MD, FACS, *Emeritus*