

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Friday, February 1, 2013
8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 843, RELATING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY.

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Michael Turner, PT, Vice Chair for the Board of Physical Therapy (“Board”). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 843, Relating to Physical Therapy, which is an Administration bill.

The purpose of the bill is to regulate physical therapist assistants (“PTAs”) and to limit the use of certain titles. The bill also requires that the regulated PTAs obtain the appropriate education and training background and obtain a license to work in the State. This will be accomplished by adding two new sections to chapter 461J, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), and amending sections 461J-1, 461J-2, 461J-3, 461J-4, and 461J-6(a), HRS.

The Board is in full support of this bill. The Board feels that licensure is appropriate for PTAs because it is the highest form of regulation that guarantees public protection for consumers.

Hawaii is currently the only state in the country that does not regulate PTAs. 41 states currently license PTAs, and eight states certify PTAs. Licensure will ensure that

physical therapist (“PT”) and PTA regulations are consistent with other states. PTAs are already recognized in the existing PT rules and supervision and scope of practice is addressed in the current rules. The specific licensure of PTAs will ensure that the practice of PTAs is subject to regulatory oversight to ensure compliance with existing laws and rules. It is estimated that there are approximately 1,400 PTs and 200 PTAs working in Hawaii.

A sunrise review on a proposal to regulate PTAs was conducted in 1995 by the Auditor’s Office, as mandated by section 26H-6, HRS. In 1995, 41 other states regulated physical therapist assistants. The analysis concluded that regulation of PTAs was not warranted because they found no documented evidence of harm to the public caused by PTAs in Hawaii. However, since the time of the sunrise study, PTA involvement in patient care has grown and is likely to continue to grow. Because PTAs are being used more to provide health care services, the Board believes that licensure is appropriate at this time.

In order to implement the licensure of approximately 200 physical therapist assistants, an appropriation of \$40,000 from the compliance resolution fund is being requested. Upon the issuance of a new license and at each license renewal period, each licensee will be assessed a \$100 surcharge in addition to the normal licensing fees. Once the collection of \$40,000 is received, the assessment of the surcharge shall cease.

We respectfully request your support for this Administration bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Testimony by Herbert Yee, PT
HB 843 House Health Committee
Friday, February 1, 2013 Room 329, 8:30 AM

Position: Support

Chair Au Belatti and Members of the House Health Committee:

I am Herbert Yee, PT, Member of the Legislative Committee – Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) representing 275 physical therapists (PT's) and physical therapist assistants (PTA's) employed in hospitals, nursing homes, the Armed Forces, the Department of Education and Department of Health systems, and private clinics throughout our community. We provide rehabilitative services everyone, from infants to the elderly, to restore and improve function and quality of life. These services are a vital part of restoring optimal function after neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association is in full support of HB 843, licensing physical therapist assistants. This is an issue that has been long in coming. Hawaii is currently the only jurisdiction that does not regulate this aspect of physical therapy care.

A 1995 Auditors report concluded that there was no need for the regulation citing little potential harm because physical therapist assistants could only work under the supervision of a physical therapist and that the numbers practicing at the time were few. Since that time the scope of physical therapy practice has expanded to include allowing physical therapists to treat patients without a physician referral. In addition, the number of physical therapist assistants in practice has grown from about 30 at that time to well over 200 today. The number of patients being followed by physical therapists and physical therapist assistants has also increased due to a growing elderly population. All of the above factors contribute to an increased potential for mishap and the need for oversight. Licensing physical therapist assistant will increase their accountability by making complaints reportable to and allow for disciplinary action by the Board of Physical Therapy.

Medicare, the major payer for eldercare, has required all treatment be performed by licensed personnel. By not licensing physical therapist assistants in Hawaii we've made it necessary for personnel to seek licensure in other jurisdictions creating both another hurdle for employment as well as a "bottle neck" in the efficiency of the service delivery.

HAPTA urges you to pass HB 843, and appreciates the opportunity to express our support. I am available to respond to questions and can be reached at 348-3763 or yeeherb@gmail.com

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 4:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jus4cris@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM
Attachments: 2012 ho`okahi leo test flyer5 FINAL.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HB843

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cris T Monis Kani'aupi'o, LPTA	Ho'okahi Leo PTAs Hawaii/ Tripler AMC- PT	Support	Yes

Comments: Graduates from prior to my class of 1995 of Kapiolani Community College; Associates in Science-PTA Program have long awaited this for over 17 years to be the last of all the other 49 states to License a field of study. From this action wounded warriors, island communities, our patients benefit from us bringing to them the latest technology that PT field can offer with the highest standards. Hawaii Education and Leaders of our State have always lead us to believe we (the children of Hawaii) are just as marketable as any other STATE's Professionals. This licensing will bring the Federal Job positions for PT to be offered to those graduates from Hawaii; to hire within our islands instead of filling jobs with those license in ever other state except Hawaii.

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THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Health Committee

February 1, 2013 – 8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In support of H.B. 843, Relating to Physical Therapy

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lucy Lessard, I am a physical therapist and the Manager of Inpatient Rehabilitation Services at The Queen's Medical Center. I would like to provide testimony in support of H.B. 843, Relating to Physical Therapy.

The Queen's Medical Center is the leading medical referral center in the Pacific Basin and offers a comprehensive range of primary and specialized care services, including acute care physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language therapy. As the only Level II Trauma Center and only The Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Center and Hip and Knee Joint Replacement Center in the State of Hawaii, we specialize in the care of complex trauma, stroke, and orthopedics patients.

The Queen's Medical Center employs physical therapist assistants throughout our acute care and skilled nursing units. They provide a valuable service to our patients and work alongside physical therapists and other professionals as part of the multidisciplinary team. Hawaii has a school that trains physical therapy assistants, but there is an island-wide shortage of these therapists. We currently have 4 unfilled positions for physical therapist assistants in our department.

Hawaii is the only state in the nation where physical therapist assistants are not licensed. Nation-wide Medicare rules require that only licensed personnel treat Medicare patients. Without local licensing, we can only hire physical therapist assistants who are licensed in other jurisdictions – for example, California. This prevents our local new graduates from accessing work in our state unless they seek licensing in a state where they potentially will not practice. Unfortunately, it is felt that this leads to a drain of talent to other states and compounds our shortage of personnel. Further, without oversight of the Hawaii state licensing board of physical therapy, there is risk for potential harm if our jurisdiction does not have authority over the personnel who provide care in Hawaii.

The Queen's Medical Center urges you to pass H.B. 843, and appreciates the opportunity to express our support. I am available to respond to questions and can be reached at 691-8940 or llessard@queens.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lucy Lessard, PT
Manager, Rehabilitation Services
The Queen's Medical Center

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

Aloha. My name is Janet Crosier, PT, DPT, MEd and I am the lead physical therapist assistant/academic services specialist in the department of Academic Affairs at the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). APTA is the national professional association representing more than 84,000 physical therapists, physical therapists assistants, and students of physical therapy in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. The Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association is the Hawaii Physical Therapy Association.

I am writing to express the American Physical Therapy Association's strong SUPPORT for HB 843 which will provide for licensure of physical therapists assistants (PTAs). Hawaii is the **only state** that does not currently regulate PTAs. PTAs are licensed in 40 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and certified in 9 states.

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) are health care providers that deliver physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of physical therapists. PTAs are responsible for providing, progressing, and, where appropriate, modifying physical therapy interventions to maximize patient/client safety, comfort, and response within the plan of care established by the supervising physical therapist. Additionally, PTAs use value-based behaviors in carrying out the plan of care, including communicating with the supervising physical therapist regarding patient/client status, treatment outcomes, and any other information that may impact the plan of care.

PTAs are graduates of Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education accredited 2-year PTA education programs and must pass the National Physical Therapy Examination – PTA as a minimum requirement for licensure/certification in all jurisdictions *except Hawaii*. In states where PTAs are regulated, PTAs must comply with all legal requirements of the jurisdictions regulating the practice of physical therapy, and with the American Physical Therapy Association's Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant.

PTAs work in many practice settings, including hospitals, private practices, schools and home health, and to many different patient populations, including children and the elderly. Some treatment provided by PTAs could cause harm to patients if not done correctly; therefore licensure is needed for physical therapist assistants in Hawaii to protect the public and ensure consumer safety.

HB 843 will protect against unqualified physical therapist assistants working in Hawaii or relocating to work here from other states requiring licensure. In addition, licensure will increase the accountability of physical therapist assistants by making complaints reportable to the Board of Physical Therapy. Licensure for PTAs will allow for disciplinary action of physical therapist assistants by the Board of Physical Therapy.

Again I urge your support for HB 843 – its time Hawaii joined the rest on the country in regulating PTAs. Mahalo.

Janet Moffitt Crosier, PT, DPT, MEd

American Physical Therapy Association
Resident: Kailua Kona, Big Island, Hawai'i



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Testimony by:

Avis Sakata, OTR

HB 843, Relating to Physical Therapy
House HLT Hearing – Friday, Feb. 1, 2013
Room 329 –8:30 am

Position: Support with Proposed Amendment

Chair Belatti, and Members of the House Health Committee:

I am Avis Sakata, OTR and president of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, (OTAH), which represents 507 occupational therapists (OTs) licensed in Hawaii. OT's work in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, prisons, skilled nursing to private facilities and community-based programs.

Occupational Therapists are recognized members of the Healthcare Rehabilitation team which is comprised also of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists, social workers and others. As a healthcare provider, OTs provide, but are not limited to: 1) assessment and evaluation of our patients/clients needs and development of an appropriate treatment plan, 2) interventions focused on daily living skills (including self-care), work readiness, play or educational performance skills, 3) and interventions that include sensorimotor, neuromuscular functioning, cognitive or psychosocial components.

OTAH supports HB 843 which seeks to regulate the use of physical therapist assistants (PTAs) and to ensure completion of appropriate education, training and national examination for licensure in Hawaii. This assures Hawaii consumers that they receive care from appropriately trained and educated PTAs under the supervision of the licensed physical therapist.

We suggest use of Medicare's criteria to more clearly define the PTAs licensure credentials so that there is consistency in federal and state requirements. Medicare follows the Code of Federal Regulation 484.4 Personnel qualifications, which states:

“Physical therapist assistant . A person who is licensed, unless licensure does not apply, registered, or certified as a physical therapist assistant, if applicable, by the State in which practicing, and meets one of the following requirements:

- (a) (1) Graduated from a physical therapist assistant curriculum approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association; or if educated outside the United States or trained in the United States military, graduated from an education program determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist assistant entry level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or identified at 8 CFR 212.15(e); and
(2) Passed a national examination for physical therapist assistants.
- (b) On or before December 31, 2009, meets one of the following:
 - (1) Is licensed, or otherwise regulated in the State in which practicing.
 - (2) In States where licensure or other regulations do not apply, graduated on or before December 31, 2009, from a 2-year college-level program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and, effective January 1, 2010 meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this definition.
- (c) Before January 1, 2008, where licensure or other regulation does not apply, graduated from a 2-year college-level program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association.
- (d) On or before December 31, 1977, was licensed or qualified as a physical therapist assistant and has achieved a satisfactory grade on a proficiency examination conducted, approved, or sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.

I can be reached at 522-4602 if further information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Date: January 29, 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Hawaii Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) licensure

It has come to our attention the state of Hawaii does not currently license Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs). A significant percentage of our state is made up of the military, its dependents and military retirees. Our medical care, to include physical therapy, is received at Tripler Army Medical Center. A member of our family received excellent physical therapy aftercare– given with much Aloha – at Tripler. The Department of Defense (DOD) has taken it under advisement to require all PTAs be state licensed in the DOD medical system. Jobs in Hawaii should be filled by resident Hawaiians . However, our PTAs are not licensed!

This email is to express our full support for a speedy passing of legislation establishing a licensing requirement for Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) professionals. Our commitment to this effort is unwavering.

Please feel free to contact us should any questions arise.

Sincerely,

June Hart
John Hart Jr. Maj. (ret USA)

98-351 Koauka Loop
C-1202
Aiea, HI 96701

Cell: 347-721-6139
Cell: 917-952-6268

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:24 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: waianaeplayboy@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM

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HB843

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Monis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass HB843

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Mathew Yamamoto
99-794 Meaala Street
Aiea, HI 96701
yamaz808@gmail.com

January 29, 2013

Hawaii State House Committee on Health
Della Au Bellati, House Representative and Committee Chair
Dee Morikawa, House Representative and Committee Vice Chair
Rida T.R. Cabanilla, House Representative
Mele Carroll, House Representative
Lauren K. Cheape, House Representative
Jo Jordan, House Representative
Bertrand Kobayashi, House Representative
Justin H. Woodson, House Representative

Re: In Support of House Bill 843, Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Licensing

Dear House Health Committee members,

I am writing to you in support of HB 843 Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Licensing. It is of great importance to the safety and welfare patients in the physical therapy industry that PTAs be licensed and regulated by the State of Hawaii. I injured my back a few years ago and I witnessed a large number of treatments and conditioning done by PTAs. PTAs are trusted with the one-on-one treatment of injured and recovering patients without the direct supervision of a Licensed Physical Therapist. With so many people needing physical therapy and our aging population we need the State of Hawaii to safeguard the public and regulate Physical Therapist Assistants through licensing with the DCCA.

The House Bill 843 is well written and takes care of many issues, including "grandfathering" of experienced and credentialed PTAs currently in practice. The bill also takes into account a PTA appointee on the DCCA Physical Therapy Board for representative purposes. It is also important that HB 843 stand firm on a Degree requirement from an accredited college program.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of HB 843.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathew Yamamoto

Hawaii Resident and Registered Voter

Sheryl K.O. Kozuma
45-509 Waikalua Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
(808) 382-7683

January 29, 2013

I am writing in support of licensure of PTAs because as a former PTA and graduate of KCC in 1991, I had to fly to California in order to be considered licensed. This was done at great expense, and time for a new graduate from college. Licensure creates a standard by which patients can be assured of basic competency levels.

Please consider the safety of our people by passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Kozuma

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 7:44 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: maildarren@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM

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HB843

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darren Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a PTA working in Honolulu but licensed in New Mexico. I support this bill because it is the best way to protect the public and protect my profession.

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morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:18 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tavaresmd@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM

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HB843

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Damien Tavares, MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: I support bill HB843. All health care providers that provide services to the people of Hawaii should have a license. It ensures proper training and ongoing education of the provider. Damien Tavares, MD Licensed Hawaii Physician

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morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM

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HB843

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Registered PT Assistants deserve the recognition and protection of the title earned through training and testing. I urge you to support this action. Teresa Parsons APRN-BC

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Jose Miramontes
92-783 Makakilo Drive #18
Kapolei, HI 96707
Chargedup808@yahoo.com

January 30, 2013

Hawaii State House Committee on Health

Della Au Bellati, House Representative and Committee Chair
Dee Morikawa, House Representative and Committee Vice Chair
Rida T.R. Cabanilla, House Representative
Mele Carroll, House Representative
Lauren K. Cheape, House Representative
Jo Jordan, House Representative
Bertrand Kobayashi, House Representative
Justin H. Woodson, House Representative

Re: Support of House Bill 843, Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Licensing

Dear Chairperson Bellati, Vice Chair Morikawa and all House Health Committee members,

I am writing to you in support of HB 843 Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Licensing. It is of great importance to the safety and welfare patients in the physical therapy industry that PTAs be licensed and regulated by the State of Hawaii. Hawaii is the only State without licensing of PTAs.

The House Bill 843 protects the public by requiring PTAs to license with Hawaii instead of some other State or jurisdiction. HB 843 also takes care of experienced and credentialed PTAs currently in practice. I also consider it of importance that HB 843 maintain the education requirement (from an accredited college or training program) for licensure.

Thank you very much for your time support of HB 843.

Sincerely,

Jose Miramontes

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:36 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: matthewnhamilton@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM*

HB843

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Hamilton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Dear House Health Committee members,

I am writing to you in support of HB 843 Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Licensing. I have been practicing as a PTA in Hawai'i for 10 years. Licensure for PTAs is long overdue. State licensure for PTAs ensures public protection, accountability, and will bring Hawaii in-line with the rest of the country. Hawaii is currently the only state that does not regulate physical therapist assistants. PTAs provide treatment to patients in many practice settings, including schools and home health, and to many different patient populations, including children and the elderly. Licensure is needed for physical therapist assistants in Hawaii to protect the public and ensure consumer safety. According to the Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 16, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Chapter 110 Physical Therapy, the definition of a 'physical therapist' supports HB 843's written language. Passing of this bill will protect against unqualified physical therapist assistants working in Hawaii or relocating to work here from other states that require licensure. In addition, licensure will increase the accountability of physical therapist assistants by making complaints reportable to the Board of Physical Therapy. Licensure will allow the State Board of Physical Therapy to take disciplinary action against physical therapist assistants who violate the law or cause patient harm.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of HB 843.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ulibas, PTA, LMT
Hawai'i Resident and Registered Voter

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:40 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: h.kaigr@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM

HB843

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Shimogawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 843, licensing of Physical Therapist Assistants. Friend of a PT assistant

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morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 7:59 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM

HB843

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support HB 843.

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To all concerned: House Committee on Health

Della Au Belatti, Dee Morikawa, Rida Cabanilla, Mele Carroll, Jo Jordan, Bertrand Kobayashi, Justin Woodson, and Lauren Cheape

Aloha!

My name is Lisa Isono and I have been working as a Physical Therapist Assistant for 21 years. I would just like to inform you that Hawaii is THE last state to license PT assistants. For those who may not be familiar with our profession, we work directly with patients providing hands on care.

We use electrical current to treat patients for pain, neuromuscular education, and edema control. We dose medications such as dexamethasone, perform joint mobilizations to name a few. Such treatments performed from an untrained person could cause harm. Through licensing, you must graduate from an accredited college, and will be required to have continued education units to maintain your license. Physical Therapy is a science based field. Science and technology are constantly evolving and we/ physical therapist assistants need to stay informed of the latest most beneficial and effective treatments for our patients. By requiring continued education units, consumers/patients will receive the best care and

should feel reassured that their care providers are regulated.

I obtained my license for the state of California when I graduated from KCC in 1992. Since then I have been paying upwards of \$200.00 every 2 years to maintain my license. Mind you, a state in which I don't even practice in. I would much rather have this money go to my state of Hawaii.

FYI: The DOD has announced that they will no longer hire non licensed PT assistants. Ka Puna Wai Ola, a skilled nursing facility in Kapolei, has already implemented hiring only licensed PT assistants as of last year.

I hope you understand my concerns and vote yes to HB 843.

Much Mahalo'z,

Lisa Isono

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 10:44 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: taytaygirl808@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM

HB843

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Isono	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 843, licensure of PT assistants. Daughter of a PT assistant

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Jill Wakabayashi
45-119 Pookela Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5707

January 30, 2013

Dear Representative Ito and Senator Tokuda and Committee members,

As your constituent and a member of the Hawai'i Physical Therapy Association, I urge you to support HB 843/SB 1074. This important legislation would provide licensure of Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) in the profession of Physical Therapy.

Hawai'i is currently the only state that does not regulate/license physical therapist assistants. PTAs work under the direction and supervision of licensed Physical Therapist in the provision of physical therapy treatment to patients in a variety of settings such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes and home health with a range of ages from infants to the elderly. Some physical therapy interventions (treatments) have the potential to cause adverse reactions if done incorrectly. Licensure is needed for PTAs in Hawai'i to protect the public and ensure consumer safety.

The legislation will safeguard that only qualified graduated PTAs working in or relocating to Hawai'i are providers of physical therapy along with the Physical Therapist. Licensure will protect the consumer to receive the proper care following all ethical and legal statutes of the state of Hawai'i and Medicare. In addition, licensure will increase the accountability of PTAs by making complaints reportable to the Board of Physical Therapy including disciplinary action as needed.

Again, I urge you to support HB 843/SB 1074. It is time to be compliant with Medicare (CMS) regulation and unite with all 49 states in the US. Let's keep licensure in Hawai'i rather than have Hawai'i PTAs licensed in another state.

Mahalo for your support,

Jill M. Wakabayashi, PTA, MPH
Physical Therapist Assistant
PTA Program Director at Kapi'olani Community College

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 6:50 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: ivyaabreu@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB843 on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM

HB843

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for HLT on Feb 1, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Abreu	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a licensed physical therapy assistant at TAMC. I give my full support!

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House Committee on Health
HB 843 Relating to Licensure of Physical Therapist Assistants

Chairperson Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa,
Representatives Rida Cabanilla, Mele Carroll, Jo Jordan,
Bertrand Kobayashi, Justin Woodson, and Lauren
Cheape

Aloha!

My name is Celeste VanTreese-Osaki, and I am a Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant (LPTA). I am speaking on behalf of Ho'okahi Leo: Physical Therapist Assistants of Hawaii, the official professional organization for PTAs (Physical Therapy Assistants). We respectfully request your support of this measure to recognize and require the licensure of PTAs.

- Currently, Hawai'i is the ONLY State not requiring PTA licensure
- We are asking that our profession be regulated through legislative mandate for proper schooling and continuing professional education to uphold the integrity of the practice of Physical Therapy.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of this important legislation,

Celeste Van Treese-Osaki, LPTA
Ho'okahi Leo: Physical Therapist Assistants of Hawaii