

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Thursday, March 28, 2013
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1074, S.D. 2, RELATING TO PHYSICAL
THERAPY.**

TO THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, 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 Senate Bill No. 1074, S.D. 2, 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. Forty-one 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, we are requesting that an appropriation of \$40,000 from the compliance resolution fund be reinserted into Section 8 of the bill. 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 also request that the effective date be inserted, so that Section 10 reads as follows: “This Act shall take effect on December 31, 2014; provided that Section 8 of this Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.”

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



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

Testimony by:

Avis Sakata, OTR

SB 1074sd2, Relating to Physical Therapy

House Finance Hearing – Thurs, March 28, 2013

Room 308 – 2:00 pm

Position: Support Intent

Chair Luke and Members of the House Finance 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 the intent of SB1074sd2 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 note all PTAs who have graduated from the program, after January, 2010, must have graduated for a CAPTE approved curriculum and passed a national examination for PTAs in order to provide services reimbursed by Medicare and/or Medicaid, if their employer is a participating provider with Medicare or Medicaid. Most providers are Medicare or Medicaid participating providers.

Medicare will not reimburse for services provided by the individuals who have not met the requirements. This is a Code of Federal Regulation requirement (Reference 42CFR 484.4), which establishes the guidelines under which Medicare and Medicaid operates. In summary, the Medicare guidelines indicates that in order for PTA's to provide services to Medicare beneficiaries, the PTA must have

- o graduated on or before December 31, 2009, from a 2-year college-level program approved by the APTA or CAPTE; or
- o effective January 1, 2010, those PTAs must have both graduated from a CAPTE approved curriculum and passed a national examination for PTAs.

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



**Testimony by Herbert Yee, PT
House Committee on Health
SB 1074 Relating to Licensure of Physical Therapist Assistants
Wednesday, March 13, 2013**

Position: Support

Chair Sylvia Luke and members of the House Finance 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 SB 1074, 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.

The cost for this measure is built into it with a fee for the initial registration of the Physical Therapy Assistants in the first few years of its implementation. Therefore little if any budgeting is expected.

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 SB 1074, 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

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 also a practicing physical therapist on the Big Island of Hawaii.

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

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal & Government Relations Consultant

Before:

House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

March 28, 2013
2:00 pm
Conference Room 308

Re: SB 1074, SD2 - Relating to Physical Therapy

Chair, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1074, SD2, relating to licensure of physical therapist assistants.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

Physical therapist assistants (PTAs) work under the direction and supervision of licensed physical therapists, and provide treatment in settings that include hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers, home care, school systems and outpatient physical therapy offices. According to the United States Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook for 2010-2011, employment for PTAs is projected to “grow much faster than average.” With the aging of Americans including the transition of baby boomers into retirement and older adulthood, the need for physical therapy services are expected to increase.

Hawaii is currently the only state in the country that does not regulate PTAs. 41 states currently license PTAs, and 8 states certify PTAs. Hawaii stands alone as the only state with no public protection mechanism to protect against unqualified PTAs working in Hawaii. The public is dependent upon the state to evaluate and affirm the qualifications for licensure of physical therapist assistants to ensure consumer safety. Additionally, licensure will increase the accountability of PTAs by making complaints and subsequent disciplinary actions available through the Board of Physical Therapy. Currently, there is no mechanism to hold the PTA responsible for unprofessional or incompetent behavior and therefore, it is absolutely necessary to implement a grievance process with the Board to maintain integrity within the PTA industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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

S.B. 1074, S.D.2, RELATING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY
House Committee on Finance
March 28, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
Room 308

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 S.B. 1074, S.D.2, 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 therapist 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 health care in Hawaii.

The Queen's Medical Center urges you to pass S.B. 1074 S.D.2, 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.



Ho'okahi Leo Physical Therapist Assistants of Hawai'i

Email: ptasofhawaii@gmail.com

Address: P.O. Box 2, Aiea, HI 96701

Aloha.

Mahalo plenty for the opportunity to address you in **SUPPORT of SB1074.**

Currently I am a Colorado Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant at Tripler Army Medical Center and Palimomi Medical Center. For the past 18 Years I have practiced in the State of Hawaii and served MY home and islands in the highest standard of Physical Therapy.

It is timely that Hawaii regulate this field. January 2013 laws for medicare reimbursement and Federal hiring status for PTAs have mandated already the need for License providers in Physical Therapy. All federal government employees at this time will require a license. This will obstruct hiring PTAs of Hawaii because license for this state is not a requirement.

PTAs for Hawaii will only benefit from joining the work ethics the APTA hold for the other 49 states so Hawaii will be just as marketable as any other state, rightfully so. The state to regulate keeping the latest technology to Therapist is a need to not allow lack of the current techniques to be offered in this state so our island people can benefit from the latest Rehabilitation modalities. Without regulation our home will become a haven for the unlicensed and substandard therapist who could not pass their state license and out of country license regulations because we are the last state to not mandate it so.

2012 the PTAs of Hawaii created a non profit committee to educate and assist in this need. The following individuals/PTA left their names for "Ho'okahi Leo (one voice) PTAs of Hawaii" to list them in support of the movement to License all PTAs in Hawaii:

Rebecca Thomas rebeccawsthoras@hawaii.rr.com

Pasion, Albert albert.pasion@palimomi.org

Jeff Le jeffie25811@gmail.com

Fujinaka, Randall randall.fujinaka@palimomi.org

Karen Sato satokare@yahoo.com

Massey, Kevin Kevin.j.massey@us.army.mil

Lorine Chai lorindell@gmail.com

Ho, Ed Edloho@hawaii.rr.com

Michele Ikei sugar89994@aol.com

Giddens, Paul plgiddens@yahoo.com

Jerlene Shimizu jerlene_shimizu@yahoo.com

Gionson, Joseph lonala1@yahoo.com

Jay Mastumoto jmatsumoto@hhsc.org

Chang, Wilfred wachangjr@yahoo.com

Allen Ulep abulep@yahoo.com

Bataluna, Loki labataluna@gmail.com

David Hodosh dhodosh@gmail.com

Abreu, Yvonne ivyabreu@gmail.com

Charles Walthall cwathall71@yahoo.com

Everette, Cody codyeverette@hotmail.com

Andrea Conti dconti1@hawaii.rr.com

Kinerney, Yvette ykinerney@yahoo.com

Phuong Le phongie121285@gmail.com

Santoro, Anna anna.santoro@gmail.com

Barrie Saribay barrito@yahoo.com

Geringer, Jacquelyn sw33tdreamsentertainment@yahoo.com

Altez, Emeilia em_altez@hotmail.com

Doctolero, Maylani Maylani.doctolero@us.army.mil

Dizon, Fely jdp131427@yahoo.com

Pula, Alex pulamonster@gmail.com

Watanabe, Ann ann.watanabe@palimomi.org

Mahalo for your attention in this matter,

Samorano, Tina tinamariapt@yahoo.com

Cris Kani'aupi'o, LPTA jus4cris@me.com

Our mission is to represent the physical therapist assistants of Hawaii by uniting under one voice and standing together to support and promote the physical therapy industry. Our united voice of Ho'okahi Leo services its members through education and legal representation to uphold our profession to the highest of ethical and professional standards.

I am a Physical Therapist Assistant for the last 15 years. The last four years I have had a license in another state while living in Hawaii. I choose to be licensed because I consider myself to be a professional health care provider. I am able to perform most of the duties of a Physical Therapist except certain mobilization, evaluations or reports. I continue to input notes, see patients and treat them when therapists have a booked schedule. I am able to make decisions within my scope as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

In the academic world is not fair to those who study hard as a professional and not be acknowledged as one. It is unfortunate that we do not have a Physical Therapist program at our Hawaii Colleges (yet) but having to pursue an assisting degree shows commitment. Having to be licensed helps both employer and employee in fulfilling a job and being able to keep a company. In having a license, employers are able to get properly reimbursed from private insurances for the services that the employer has put out with team work of the Physical Therapist and the Physical Therapist Assistant. PTA's are the professional extended hands of a PT. Companies are not able to generate enough revenue without our educated services.

Please consider in favor for the Bill #SB1074. Physical Therapist Assistant is a great addition to be "recognized" as a professional in the State of Hawaii. We are well educated enough as professionals to assist and discuss patient care with a Physical Therapist.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kyle.osaki@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1074 on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM

SB1074

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Osaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kailyn.osaki9@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1074 on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM

SB1074

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kailyn Osaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill!!!!!!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: celestevto_@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1074 on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM

SB1074

Submitted on: 3/25/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Celeste Van Treese-Osaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support this measure. It has been a long time coming it should also take effect in 2014.

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Mathew Yamamoto
99-794 Meaala Street
Aiea, HI 96701
myamamoto@ilwulocal142.org

March 25, 2013

Hawaii State House Committee on Finance (FIN)

Re: In Support of Senate Bill 1074, pertaining to Physical Therapy

Dear Legislative Representatives,

Aloha! I am writing to you in support of SB 1074 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.

SB 1074 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 SB 1074 stand firm on its Degree requirement from an accredited college program.

I urge you all to support this bill and pass it with an effective date of 2014!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of SB 1074.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathew Yamamoto

Hawaii Resident and Registered Voter

Date: March 26, 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

March 26, 2013

House Committee on Finance

Re: In support of S.B. 1074 pertaining to Physical Therapy

Dear Representatives,

Aloha! I am writing to you in support of S.B. 1074. As an elder in the community and one of your constituents I am writing to you to urge you to hear and pass the physical therapy bill S.B. 1074. I live in a care home and this bill is very important to me as the quality of physical therapy for myself and other elderly people is of vital importance. My safety and the safety of others receiving physical therapy could rest upon the licensing and regulation of physical therapist assistants. You should know that physical therapist assistants (PTAs) usually work with patients without the personal supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist (PT). It is important that PTAs be accountable to the State of Hawaii and that the State watch over the safety of its residents.

Thank you for reading my letter. Please continue supporting S.B. 1074 so that it passes in this legislative session with an effective date of 2014.

Sincerely,

Flora Murakami

918 Lunalilo Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Fernando Marrero
707 Wiliwili Street #1
Honolulu, HI 96826
Fernandomarrero808@gmail.com

March 26, 2013

Re: In Support of SB 1074, pertaining to Physical Therapy

Dear Legislative Members of the House Committee on Finance (FIN),

Hello!

As one of your constituents, I am writing to you to encourage you to support the passing of Senate Bill 1074 (SB 1074) pertaining to Physical Therapy. It is very important that the State protect the safety and welfare of its people by requiring the Licensing of Physical Therapist Assistants. Also, please see that the effective date of 2014 is restored to the bill.

Please expedite this bill to reduce the chances of unnecessary accidents by unlicensed Assistants! I hope we can see SB 1074 passed in this legislative session.

Thank you very much for your attention and effort in this important matter!

Sincerely,

Fernando Marrero

Vita Muty
707 Wiliwili Street
Honolulu, HI 96826
Vitamuty1999@gmail.com

March 26, 2013

In Support of SB 1074: Physical Therapy

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance,

Aloha! I am a resident in your district and I am writing to you to ask you to support the passing of Senate Bill 1074 (SB 1074) pertaining to Physical Therapy.

It is very important that the State protect the safety and welfare of its people by requiring the Licensing of Physical Therapist Assistants. I hope you all make sure that this bill is enacted as soon as possible and has an effective date of 2014.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter!

Sincerely,

Vita Muty

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Cc: nhbcm@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1074 on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 10:59:01 AM

SB1074

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ann Nakamichi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of SB 1074 pertaining to Physical Therapy. Please support this bill to help protect the public by requiring licensure of Physical Therapy Assistants. Practicing therapy assistants would then be held accountable for services provided according to an approved treatment plan and be assured a voice in their profession. Licensure would also ensure that services are consistent with approved Medicare guidelines and allow Hawaii to be competitive in providing qualified health care services. Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill. Sincerely, Mary Ann Nakamichi 1415 Victoria St #1210 Honolulu, HI 96822

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Cc: chargedup808@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1074 on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 10:48:55 AM

SB1074

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jose Miramontes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to you in support of SB 1074 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. SB 1074 protects the public by requiring PTAs to license with Hawaii instead of some other State or jurisdiction. SB 1074 also takes care of experienced and credentialed PTAs currently in practice. I also consider it of importance that SB 1074 maintain the education requirement (from an accredited college or training program) for licensure in Hawaii. Thank you very much for your time and support of SB 1074. Sincerely, Jose Miramontes Makakilo Drive 96707

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Dear Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of SB 1074 regarding Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Licensure. I have been practicing as a PTA in Hawai'i for 10+ years. State licensure for PTAs ensures public protection, accountability, and job security. Hawai'i is currently the only state that does not regulate PTAs. PTAs provide treatment to patients in many practice settings, including hospitals, schools, businesses and homes. PTAs also service many different patient populations, including children, athletes, work force, and the elderly. Licensure is essential for physical therapist assistants in Hawai'i to protect the public and ensure consumer safety.

According to the Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Title 16, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Chapter 110 Physical Therapy, the definition of a 'physical therapist assistant' is cohesive with SB 1074's written language. Passing of this bill will protect against unqualified persons working as a PTA, and protect against persons relocating to work in Hawai'i as PTAs because licensure does not currently exist. In addition, licensure will increase the accountability of PTAs by allowing complaints to be reportable to the Board of Physical Therapy where disciplinary action against PTAs who violate the law or cause patient harm can take place.

Licensure will also generate income to our state through federally funded programs. As of 2008, these programs require service providers to be licensed. Since Hawai'i does not yet have licensure for PTAs, it is very difficult to know how many of them are working in Hawai'i and generating income for the state. With the increased number of qualified providers, comes generated income via reimbursement for services provided. It is crucial that this bill be passed and goes into effect as of January 2014, so that as we become licensed professionals, we can fully take advantage of federal health programs' privileges, and continue to provide the best physical therapy services to our patients, family and friends.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration for SB 1074.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ulibas, PTA, LMT
Mililani Resident and Registered Voter

SB1074

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Santoro	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am a Hawaii resident that holds a PTA California license, #9300. Having PTA's licensed here would greatly improve quality of care throughout all disciplines. Acknowledging the PTA license here in Hawaii would create jobs throughout the state and would increase the value of the PTA for all hospitals, clinics, and private practices. I urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for considering!

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SB1074

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for FIN on Mar 28, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Weyand Hart Kuboyama, PTA	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to ask for your support of SB 1074. This important legislation would provide for licensure of physical therapist assistants (PTAs). The Hawaii Physical Therapy Association strongly SUPPORTS SB 1074. Hawaii is currently the only state that does not regulate physical therapist assistants. PTAs work under the direction and supervision of licensed physical therapists, and provide treatment to patients in many practice settings, including 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. Licensure is needed for physical therapist assistants in Hawaii to protect the public and ensure consumer safety. The legislation 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 will allow for disciplinary action of physical therapist assistants by the Board of Physical Therapy. Again, please vote YES on SB 1074 – it's time for Hawaii to join the other 49 states in regulating PTAs

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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SB1074

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April Labtingao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Legislators, I am writing to you IN SUPPORT of SB 1074, with an effective date of 2014. It is very important to license and regulate physical therapist assistants (PTAs) in Hawaii. Please support and pass SB 1074 this year. Thank you very much for reading my testimony!

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