

LATE

To all Legislators of the State House of Representatives,

Aloha my name is Pomaika'i Anduha and I am a Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) in the state of California. I am in support of SB 1074, which will finally License PTA in Hawai'i as the Last State in the Union. In doing so, PTAs will be regulated by graduating from a professional university that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE, Physical Therapy's National Accreditation Body), pass a National Exam governed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), and attain continuing education to ensure continued excellence in and delivery of Physical Therapy treatment to the people of Hawaii.

As a Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Hawaii, having to leave in 1995 to complete my education and now finally returning to Hawai'i I want to advocate for the implementation of licensure for Physical Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. I would like to assist in being a voice from a neighbor island to improve the quality of treatment given by skilled, educated, and licensed PTA.

SB 1074 will regulate and promote highly trained PTAs who have graduated from Hawaii's only Physical Therapy School, Kapi'olani Community College, an accredited CAPTE institution from the early 200's. This will keep local PTAs home in Hawai'i and will allow them to fulfill Medicare guidelines to have only Licensed PTA treat their patients.

Finally, with Licensure of PTAs in Hawaii this will decrease overall medical costs for Hawai'i's people while maintaining the highest quality of Physical Therapy Treatment.

Mahalo for your time and patience.

Sincerely,

Pomaika'i Anduha PTA

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I am writing in support of Bill SB 1074 regarding licensing of Physical Therapist Assistants.

Hawaii is the only state in the union that does not license or regulate Physical Therapist Assistants.

Medicare requires that all PTA's who graduated after 2008 must be licensed in order to treat Medicare patients. Medicare will not reimburse for treatments performed by unlicensed PTAs. Skilled nursing facilities rely heavily on PTA staff to treat their residents and Hawaii has a large, rapidly growing, aging population.

As there is already a Licensing Board for PTs at the Department of Consumer Affairs, it would not require a great expense to add PTA licensing to that board. Presently Hawaii PTA's are licensed in other states and that money is going out of state. Average yearly licensing fees in other states is around \$200.00 per year and there are approximately 200 PTAs working in the State of Hawaii.