

# SB 1075

Measure Title: RELATING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY.  
Report Title: Physical Therapy; Continuing Competence  
Description: Amends chapter 461J, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by mandating that physical therapists practicing in the State of Hawaii shall submit evidence of continuing competence at each renewal period.  
Companion: [HB844](#)  
Package: Gov  
Current Referral: CPN  
Introducer(s): KIM (Introduced by request of another party)

<b><u>Sort by</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>		<b>Status Text</b>
1/24/2013	S	Introduced.
1/24/2013	S	Passed First Reading.
1/24/2013	S	Referred to CPN.
1/29/2013	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 02-07-13 9:00AM in conference room 229.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013**

**Thursday, February 7, 2013  
9:00 a.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1075, RELATING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY.**

**TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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. 1075, Relating to Physical Therapy, which is an Administration bill.

The purpose of this bill is require a total of thirty continuing competence units for physical therapists at every renewal period, beginning with the December 31, 2016, renewal period. This will be accomplished by adding new sections to chapter 461J, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), and amending sections 461J-1 and 461J-10, HRS. The nature of physical therapy practice is such that it requires clinical decision making in the choice of treatment with the intent of improving a person's physical functioning and wellbeing. Inherent in this decision making process are treatment options which may be helpful, harmful, or neutral with regard to the impact on a person's physical functioning and wellbeing. Minimizing the practice of ineffective or potentially harmful techniques requires an awareness of the current clinical research and methods.

The availability of direct access to physical therapy services without the requirement of physician referral was adopted in Hawaii in December of 2010. As a result, physical therapists may now function as a first point of contact with patients. This places greater responsibility on the physical therapy practitioner and increases the importance of the need for ensuring continuing competence in the practice of physical therapy.

Currently, there are only a few states that do not have either a continuing education ("CE") or a continuing competence ("CC") requirement. The only three states that do not have statutory language authorizing the state boards of physical therapy to require either CE or CC of its licensees are Hawaii, South Dakota, and Maine.

This bill requires that, beginning with the December 31, 2016 license renewal cycle, licensees must accumulate thirty units of approved continuing competence units in each two-year license cycle. This requirement will ensure that the physical therapy professional remains current and up-to-date in the practice. It will also ensure that the physical therapy professional will practice in a safe, ethical, and legal manner that minimizes risk to all patients, the public consumer, fellow clinicians, and the practitioner.

The Board is in full support of this bill and we respectfully request your support for this Administration bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Testimony by Ann Frost, PT  
SB 1075  
Senate Consumer Protection Committee  
Thursday, February 7, 2013  
Room 229, 9:00 a.m.**

**Position: Support**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Senate Consumer Protection Committee:

I am Ann Frost, PT, Chair of the HAPTA Legislative Committee – Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. HAPTA represents 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.

**HAPTA supports SB 1075**, which paves the way for continuing competence standards for the physical therapy profession in Hawaii. Continuing competence is a lifelong process of learning and professional development. It ensures that physical therapy professionals will remain current, relevant, and actively engaged in practice, and that they will practice in a safe, ethical, and legal manner which minimizes risk to patients and consumers. Physical therapy is a dynamic healthcare profession. Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants have an increasing role in the public health arena, and play a vital role in development of standards of practice and health care policies. In today's world of quickly changing healthcare, consumers and patients have a right to assume and expect that their healthcare provider's license means competence to practice.

Hawaii is one of only three states that do not have statutory language authorizing the state board of physical therapy to require either continuing education or continued competence of its licensees. In late 2012 we conducted a poll of our members, private practice clinic owners, and rehab facilities to determine if this measure would be supported. 94% of the respondents were in favor.

HAPTA urges you to pass SB 1075, and appreciates the opportunity to express our support. I am available to respond to questions and can be reached at 382-2655 or [annfrost.pt@gmail.com](mailto:annfrost.pt@gmail.com).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ann Frost, PT  
Chair, HAPTA Legislative Committee

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Oppose	No