



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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S.B. 1075, RELATING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY
House Committee on Health
March 13, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
Room 329

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 SB 1075 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 a large number of physical therapists throughout our acute care and skilled nursing units. They provide a necessary service to our patients and are valuable members of the multidisciplinary team. However, Hawaii is one of only three states that do not have statutory language which authorized the state board of physical therapy to require some form of continued competence for licensees. This means that there is no regulation which ensures that physical therapists maintain current, relevant, and competent while working as physical therapists. The physical therapy profession continues to evolve and change and newer, better and more efficient treatment options continue to be developed. At The Queen's Medical Center, we strive to be the leading edge of health care in the state, and ensuring continued physical therapy competence and education will support our goal.

The Queen's Medical Center urges you to pass S.B. 1075, 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.



**Testimony by Ann Frost, PT
SB 1075
House Health Committee
Wednesday March 13, 2013
Room 329, 8:30 a.m.**

Position: Support

Chair Au Belatti and Members of the House Health 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. Additionally, a poll taken of Hawaii physical therapists and physical therapist assistants showed 95% in favor of continuing competence standards in Hawaii.

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.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1075, 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 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.