



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

SB 1124, SD 1, Relating to the Dietitian Licensure Special Fund

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

March 28, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** Strong Support.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Decreases General Fund dependency.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill is part of the Governor's Administrative Package. SB 1124 SD1
4 is a housekeeping bill that establishes expenditure limits necessary for the department to expend these
5 funds to offset operational costs. Current statute does not adequately identify expenditure limits.

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7 The Dietitian Licensure Special Fund is an existing fund into which fees for profession licensing are
8 deposited. The State's dietitian licensure program was implemented by the department in August 2012
9 and issued licenses to 30 dietitians as of January 15, 2013, with more applications in process. Licensure
10 fees totaling \$7,825 were collected and deposited in the Special Fund during this time. Once this bill
11 becomes law, the department will be able to expend moneys in support of the licensure program.

12

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Measure: SB 1124 – Relating to the Dietitian Licensure Special Fund
House Committee on Finance
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2013
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 308

Dear Representative Luke and Representative Nishimoto,

I am Ann Ditzler, President of the Hawaii Dietetic Association which represents approximately 308 members throughout the state of Hawai'i, Guam and Saipan. The Hawai'i Dietetic Association is in strong support of SB1124 which authorizes the Department of Health to expend fees from the Dietitian Licensure Special Fund to offset the expenses incurred relating to the licensing of dietitians

As an association of food and nutrition professionals, we believe it is important that our Hawai'i community have access to important nutrition services to ensure the health and safety of our residents. Dietitian licensure has made it possible for the Hawai'i health consumer to identify and distinguish qualified licensed nutrition professionals. The Hawai'i Dietetic Association wishes to recognize the Hawai'i State Department of Health for implementing and administering the Hawai'i dietitian licensure program. The dietitian special fund allows for continued administration and continuing education to ensure the highest level of nutrition services are provided to the people of Hawai'i.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Dietetic Association respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this bill and its passage in an effort to facilitate licensing of dietitians.

Respectfully Yours,

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