

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Monday, March 24, 2014
2:10 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2465, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO
CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Carol L. Nowak, Ph.D., Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Psychology ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2465, S.D. 2, H.D.1, Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists. The Board reviewed and discussed this bill at its meeting on March 21, 2014. This bill is very similar to the proposed draft bill submitted to the Legislature on behalf of the Board and the Hawaii Psychological Association ("HPA"). Based on the similarities with the proposed draft bill, the Board strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2465, S.D. 2, H.D.1, and proposes a non-substantive amendment. Specifically, the Board proposes the following language:

- Page 2, line 17, inserting "**by**" before "submission of documentation of continuing education compliance..."

This would make it parallel to the language on page 2, line 16 "by payment of the renewal fee".

The purpose of the bill is to require licensed psychologists in Hawaii to complete a minimum of eighteen (18) continuing education credit hours beginning with the renewal for the licensing biennium July 16, 2016, through June 30, 2018.

By way of background, the Board and HPA were requested pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 201, H.D.1, which was adopted by the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session 2013, to submit a proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement, and monitor continuing education requirements for all licensed psychologists in the State. As such, and after several months of discussion and compromise between the parties, a proposed bill was submitted to the State of Hawaii Legislature on December 13, 2013.

The Board supports this bill as it will ensure that licensed psychologists maintain their professional competency and keep abreast of the latest developments in their profession. It is estimated that approximately nine hundred eighty-nine (989) licensed psychologists will be required to obtain continuing education credits as proposed in this bill. Similar to other professions that require continuing education, the Board, in consultation with the HPA, agreed to perform post-renewal random audits of 5% to 10% of its licensees who renew their psychology licenses biennially. By choosing to perform post-renewal random audits, there will be minimal impact on the workload of the administrative staff.

Furthermore, the bill will no longer place the program in the minority as one (1) of six (6) jurisdictions that do not require continuing education credits as part of its licensing laws.

Thank you for opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2465, S.D. 2., H.D.1.



Hawai'i Psychological Association

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Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

March 21, 2014

Monday, March 24, 2014, 2:10 p.m., Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2465, SD2, HD1

Honorable Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair Derek S.K. Kawakami and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Nancy Sidun. I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, former Chair of Argosy University's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program and currently the Supervising Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Psychology Postdoctoral Residency Program at Kaiser Permanente-Hawaii. Additionally, I am the President of our state psychology association, the Hawaii Psychological Association (HPA). I would like to provide testimony in support of SB 2465, SD2, HD1.

Education does not end for psychologists when they graduate with their doctorate degree. Given that psychology is a science, it is constantly transforming and developing. Psychologists *must* be life long learners to stay current with the emergent practices and knowledge in our field.

The majority of states require continuing education as part of the license renewal process. In fact, in 2006 American Psychological Association (APA) State Provincial Continuing Education in Psychology Requirements did a survey and found that 43 states plus the District of Columbia have continuing education requirements for psychologists. Unfortunately Hawaii is one of few remaining states that do not require continuing education for our licensed psychologists. It is imperative that this be changed. We need to ensure that competent psychologists are serving the citizens in the state of Hawaii. SB 2465, SD2, HD1 is a valiant and necessary movement to make that a reality.

In thoughtful deliberation with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Psychological Association SB 2465, SD2, HD1 continuing education proposal was developed. SB 2465, SD2, HD1 "Requires psychologists in the State, beginning July 1, 2016, to

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
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complete a minimum of eighteen credit hours of continuing education courses for each licensing renewal biennium”.

I thank you in advance for considering my testimony in support of SB 2465, SD2, HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Sidun, Psy.D., ABPP, ATR
President
Hawai‘i Psychological Association



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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TO:

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 24, 2014

TIME: 2:10 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association

Dr. Walton Shim, MD, President

Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair

Dr. Ron Kienitz, MD, Legislative Co-Chair

Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

RE: 2465 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

Position: Strong Support.

The HMA is in strong support of continuing education for all healthcare providers. The practice of medicine changes dramatically year to year and it is of the utmost importance that providers develop life-long learning as a demonstration to the public of professional responsibility in maintaining competence, performance and improving outcomes.

The HMA would also like to offer our assistance, should it be needed, in the development of CE. The HMA accredits most of the state's CME for physicians and would be happy to assist the development of CE for psychologists.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Officers

*President - Walton Shim, MD President-Elect – Robert Sloan, MD
Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD Immediate Past President – Stephen Kemble, MD
Treasurer – Brandon Lee, MD Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO*



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

March 24, 2014

TO: Representative Agnus L. K. McKelvey, Chair ~ Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Representative Derek S. K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
and
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Date: March 24, 2014 at 2:10 p.m. Location: Conference Room 325

FROM: Marty Oliphant, Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SB 2465, SD2, HB1 Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists - **SUPPORT**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, my name is Marty Oliphant. I serve as the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter (NASW). I strongly support SB 2465 Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists.

Consumer Protection ~ Requiring continuing education courses for Psychologist who are renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawai'i's consumers that Psychologist are current with the latest developments and practices in their field. NASW views continuing education as an essential activity for ensuring quality services for clients. Psychologists provide needed services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to an array of clients. Knowing the best practices and innovations in the field will assist in protecting consumers in getting the best services as possible.

The language of the proposed measure, SB 2465, seems to appropriately address the need for Psychologists to secure continuing education as a means of enhancing their professional knowledge, attitudes, and competencies in the field of psychology. In addition, continuing education serves the needs of clients to receive the most effective services.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 2465.

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

Rep. Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Derek S. K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
1833 Kalakaua Ave. Suite 908
Honolulu, HI 96815

Friday, March 21, 2014

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami, and esteemed members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, in regards to **SB 2465, SD2 HD1** that requires psychologists to complete a minimum of 18 continuing education credit hours beginning with the renewal for the licensing biennium July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018, I am **STRONGLY in favor** of the bill as it addresses a serious need for mandated continuing education, ensuring that licensed psychologists remain current with empirically supported treatments, culturally adapted treatments and changes in knowledge and practice in psychology.

My name is Dr. Jeffrey Stern and I am a psychologist who was raised here in Honolulu. I am a Past President of the HPA and have been a member of HPA for more than 25 years. I am also the chair of the Mandatory Continuing Education subcommittee of the Legislative Committee of the Hawaii Psychological Association and therefore assisted in the drafting of this legislation.

While president of the Hawaii Psychological Association two years ago, I attended a meeting with the DCCA in which the issue of mandatory continuing education (heretofore referred to as "MCE") was addressed and the idea was embraced.

In preparation for that meeting, I conducted a literature review on MCE and identified two consistent findings; first, the criticism that continuing education fails to impact treatment outcome is not because of a lack of effect. Rather, it is because research methods are not well suited to measuring this effect. There are so many factors that impact treatment outcome – it is virtually impossible, methodologically, to design research that can tease out the effect of continuing education on patient outcome. Simply put, absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. Second, licensed psychologists and allied health professionals from states requiring continuing education reported strong satisfaction with their CE experiences.

That being said, the key concerns raised by DCCA in that meeting included access to CE opportunities and cost/expense.

Over the past year, I oversaw the creation of an MCE subcommittee within the HPA; recruited membership participation from those in favor and those in opposition, surveyed HPA members and non-member psychologists in regards to their opinions and concerns about MCE, generated draft legislation with these and the concerns of the DCCA in mind, met with the Board of Psychology and listened to their concerns, and worked collaboratively with the Board of Psychology and the DCCA on the legislation that is before you. Over 50 hours of meetings and work went into this collaborative effort.

Psychologists' ethical guidelines implicitly mandate a commitment to continuing development of its knowledge base and the practice of clinical psychology should be guided not only by previously established facts and treatments, but also by relevant and more recent additions to our knowledge base. In an age of ever-growing accountability, we have an obligation to

consumers and our colleagues to be current with our knowledge in our field (broadly) and our specialties (if applicable).

In a 1990 article by VendeCreek, Knapp, and Brace in *Professional Psychology Research and Practice*, the authors reviewed the literature on effectiveness of CE *across allied health professions* in enhancing quality of services in health professions and concluded that if properly implemented, CE can positively impact health care in the face of ever- and rapidly-increasing knowledge base and technology. Note, this article is nearly 25 years old, covering research conducted up to 50 years ago. Since then, CE programs have improved and are implemented in a manner that is accessible (including to those living on the Neighbor Islands and in rural communities), reasonably priced, and directly addresses accountability. I emphasize the age of the article as evidence that the time has come for Hawai'i to move forward and mandate continuing education for psychologists.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my mana'o.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Stern', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.

ROBIN E. S. MIYAMOTO, PSY.D.
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2465
Relating to Continuing Education

March 21, 2014

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Robin Miyamoto. I am a Clinical Psychologist and Past-President of Hawai'i Psychological Association. I would like to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2465 SD 2 HD 1 requiring mandatory continuing education for Psychologists.

As a founder and the previous Director of Training of I Ola Lāhui, a non-profit committed to increasing the availability and quality of services available across the State of Hawai'i, particularly rural and underserved areas, I am very familiar with the delivery of mental health services to diverse populations. Additionally, I have made a commitment to lifelong learning, for my role as teacher and mentor requires that I must be up to date on current evidence based practices.

Of course, a commitment to lifelong learning needs to take into account the changing world in which we live. Multicultural experts have pointed to changing demographics in the United States, particularly Hawai'i, and suggest that practitioners must make substantive revisions in their curriculum, training, research and practice to address issues of race and ethnicity, culture, gender and sexual orientation. To maintain minimal competency in working with these diverse populations, we must understand the cultural context of these populations, be aware of potential bias in our practices and be familiar with culturally adapted treatments.

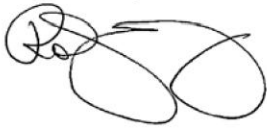
The majority of states require continuing education as part of the license renewal process. In fact, in 2006 American Psychological Association (APA) State Provincial Continuing Education in Psychology Requirements did a survey and found that 43 states plus the District of Columbia have continuing education requirements for psychologists. Unfortunately Hawai'i is one of few remaining states that do not require continuing education for our licensed psychologists. It is imperative that this be changed. We need to ensure that competent psychologists are serving the citizens in the state of Hawai'i. SB 2465 SD 2 is a valiant and necessary movement to make that a reality.

In thoughtful deliberation with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Hawai'i Psychological Association SB 2465 continuing education proposal was developed. SB 2465 "Requires psychologists to complete a minimum of eighteen continuing education credit hours beginning with renewal for the licensing biennium July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018".

We all must maintain the ability to learn how to learn, be able to adapt to change and access new knowledge to improve our competencies and performance. The goal is to constantly recharge our batteries to motivate self-renewal. Keeping abreast of new knowledge, skills and relevant attitudes is an important strategy for us all. I feel that SB 2465 SD 2 HD 1 is an important step in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of SB 2465 SD 2 HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin E. S. Miyamoto', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Monday, March 24, 2014, 2:10 p.m., Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2465, SD2, HD1
Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists

Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Jill Oliveira Gray. I am a Licensed Hawai'i Clinical Psychologist and work in several roles to provide and promote psychological services and training in our state. I am currently the Director of Training and one of the Clinical Supervisors at I Ola Lāhui, a rural behavioral health psychology training program. I also hold a Staff Psychologist position at the Waimānalo Health Center and am a past president of the Hawai'i Psychological Association.

I would like to provide testimony in strong support of SB 2465, SD2, HD1.

Due to my professional roles, I firmly believe that continuing education is not only a means to stay abreast of relevant information to provide high quality patient care but it is also an *ethical obligation* for professionals who engage in health care delivery. Many of the psychologists I know, including myself, actively seek out continuing education each year. I regularly attend professional conferences at least twice a year. These conferences provide ample CE opportunities and the question is not *will* I attend a CE workshop, but *which* shall I choose as there are often multiple relevant workshops to participate in and it's often difficult to decide on which to attend.

The Hawai'i Psychological Association has worked closely with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to address relevant concerns regarding continuing education for psychologists. SB2465, SD2, HD1 is the result of this collaborative process.

The time has come for Hawai'i to join the other 43 states and the District of Columbia where mandated continuing education units have been established as part of their psychology licensing laws. Psychologists must maintain the practice of adapting to changes in our professional landscape and access new knowledge on a regular basis to continually improve our competencies and performance. SB 2465, SD2, HD1 is a vital step in this direction.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in strong support of SB 2465, SD2, HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Oliveira Gray, Ph.D.