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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 548, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO
TELEMEDICINE.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on Senate Bill No. 548, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Telemedicine.

The purpose of this measure is to enhance accessibility to medical services for members of the armed services in Hawaii by allowing certain individuals to provide direct telemedicine support or services to neighbor island beneficiaries within a Hawaii National Guard armory on the islands of Kauai, Hawaii, Molokai, and Maui.

For your information, Representative K. Mark Takai, Chair of the Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts, has requested that the Department, the Board of Psychology, the Marriage and Family Therapists Licensing Program, the Mental Health Counselors Licensing Program, and the Tripler Army Medical Center (“Tripler”) continue its discussion regarding this matter. Representative Takai has tasked us to draft language which would exempt from the appropriate licensing laws psychologists, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors employed by the United States Department of Defense and credentialed by Tripler from the licensing requirements to practice the respective scopes of practice in the State while providing services to neighbor island beneficiaries within a Hawaii National Guard armory on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Molokai, and Maui.

Given this information, the Department, while supportive of Representative Takai’s wishes, would like to express its concern with the title of the bill “Relating to Telemedicine”, if it were revised to include psychologists, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors. The title “Relating to Telemedicine” should only apply to those who are legally able to engage in the practice of medicine (e.g. allopathic and osteopathic physicians).

In accordance with the State of Hawaii Constitution, Article III, Section 14, each law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title. A title must include a distinct reference to the subject matter to which it relates and also cover but one subject. Therefore, the scope of the title telemedicine cannot be narrower than the scope of the subject matter.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 548, S.D. 1, H.D. 1
Wednesday, March 20, 2013
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 548,
S.D. 1, H.D. 1., Relating to Telemedicine.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 548 SD1 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO TELEMEDICINE

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL
March 20, 2013

Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Health Committee:

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 548 SD1 HD1.

SB 548 SD1 HD1 will allow for enhanced medical services to neighbor island beneficiaries at Hawaii National Guard armories on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai and Kauai.

The medical and health professionals who will provide these medical services are employed by the U.S. Department of Defense and credentialed by Tripler Army Medical Center.

The bill's direct and long term impact will better the health care for these beneficiaries.

I strongly urge you to pass SB 548 SD1 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: Carmelaub@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 12:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: espero2 - Venus
Subject: RE: sb548

RE: SB 548-sd1-hd1

The Maui County Veterans Council urges you to support this bill. We are in desperate need of qualified doctors and this bill will help relieve the problem by eliminating superfluous double vetting and useless red tape. A question to ask is did the old method have any evidence of eliminating non competent doctors?

Thank You,
Paul Laub
President
Maui County Veterans Council



Headquarters: Department of State of Hawaii
438 Hobron Lane, Suite 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

March 19, 2013

**Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 548, S.D. 1, H.D.1
Relating to Telemedicine
Before the
House Committee on Health
Hearing On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 8:30 A.M.
In Conference Room 329**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Committee Members,

The Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), represents more than 3,800 members in 20 Posts located throughout the State of Hawaii. VFW is a federally chartered national association of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have served the United States of America in wars, campaigns, and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters.

S.B. 548 Exempts from licensing requirement to practice medicine in the State any commissioned medical officer employed by the U.S. Department of Defense, who is credentialed by Tripler Army Medical Center, while providing direct telemedicine support or services to neighbor island beneficiaries within a Hawaii national guard armory on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Molokai, or Maui. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB548 HD1)

This measure will ensure that service members seeking medical services at Hawaii National Guard Armories on the islands of Kauai, Hawaii, Molokai, or Maui can be furnished telemedicine support by fully qualified medical and behavioral health professionals at Tripler Army Medical Center. VFW Hawaii members are grateful for your efforts to extend telemedicine support from health professionals credentialed at Tripler Army Medical Center to service members seeking medical services at Hawaii National Guard Armories on the islands of Kauai, Hawaii, Molokai, or Maui.

VFW Hawaii members urge this Committee to make this measure effective upon its approval by the Governor of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 548, S.D. 1, H.D. 1.

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: Dale Wilson [docdale6@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 10:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: espero2 - Venus
Subject: Bill SB548 SD1 HD1 (Military; Telemedicine)

Aloha!

I am writing in support of Bill SB548 SD1 HD1 (Military; Telemedicine). As a retired army officer who has lived in Mountain View on the Big Island for the past 13 years, this legislation hits close to home. I personally benefited from the skills of military medical practitioners at Schofield Barracks and Tripler Army Medical Center--as a staff sergeant back in the mid-'70s and later as a 100% service-connected, combat-disabled veteran, I can honestly say that passing this bill will ease the minds of those of us both in and out of uniform who require these doctors' services.

Mahalo nui loa in advance for your support for this legislation.

Me ka `oia`i`o,

dale

Dale E. Wilson, Ph.D.
Major, U.S. Army (Ret.)

He who knows nothing is closer to the truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors.

--Thomas Jefferson



<http://army.togetherweserved.com/sbv/DaleWilson>