

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 548
A BILL RELATING TO TELEMEDICINE

PRESENTATION TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS
BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL
March 13, 2013

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

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

SB 548 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

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

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

TO THE HONORABLE K. MARK TAKAI, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Danny M. Takanishi, Jr. and I am the Chairperson of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). The Board thanks you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Board has not had an opportunity to review Senate Draft 1 of the bill but will be discussing it at its Board meeting tomorrow. Therefore, it is not able to take a position at this time.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 548, S.D. 1.

House Committee on Veterans, Military, and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts
Representative Mark Takai, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair
March 13, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
Room 312

RE: SB 548 SD1 Relating to Telemedicine
Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in opposition to certain language in this measure.

The Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association applauds the legislature's efforts to improve access to good medical care, as well as to good psychological and marital therapy, especially in rural areas of Hawaii. Telemedicine and Telebehavioral Health are in practice already in many states including here. However, as written, SB 548 SD1 blurs a significant distinction between the two.

Behavioral health professionals include marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, and psychologists. SB 548 SD1 includes language exempting behavioral health specialists from licensing requirements to practice medicine, which could be misconstrued as to allow these professionals to practice not just counseling, but medicine, remotely, despite having no medical training nor license.

Given the potential for such an unintended consequence, we respectfully request that the committee remove references to behavioral health specialists, or that this measure be held.

Thank you for your consideration of our concern regarding this measure.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Akaka, M.D.
Legislative Committee Chair, Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, &
CULTURE AND THE ARTS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

TO THE HONORABLE K. MARK TAKAI, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ahlani K. Quiogue and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology ("Board"). The Board has not had an opportunity to review this bill, but will do so at its meeting on March 15, 2013. Therefore, it is not able to take a position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 548,
S.D. 1.



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

March 11, 2013

**Testimony in Support of SENATE BILL 548
Relating to Telemedicine
Before the
House Committee On Veterans, Military, & International Affairs,
& Culture and the Arts
Hearing On Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 8:30 A.M.
In Conference Room 312**

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito 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 or commissioned or civilian behavioral health professional 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. Specifies that those civilian behavioral health professionals employed by the U.S. Department of Defense and who are credentialed by Tripler Army Medical Center must also be otherwise licensed as marriage and family therapists under chapter 451J, HRS, mental health counselors under chapter 453D, HRS, or psychologists under chapter 465, HRS. (SD1)

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.

We 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 the S.B. 548

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
VFW Hawaii State Legislative Liaison