

SB 548

Measure Title: RELATING TO TELEMEDICINE.

Report Title: Telemedicine; Behavioral Health; License Exemption; Military Patients

Description: 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.

Companion: [HB162](#)

Package: Military

Current Referral: PSM/HTH/TEC, CPN

Introducer(s): ESPERO, BAKER, Slom

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/18/2013	S	Introduced.
1/22/2013	S	Passed First Reading.
1/22/2013	S	Referred to PSM/HTH/TEC, CPN.
1/28/2013	S	The committee(s) on PSM/HTH/TEC has scheduled a public hearing on 01-31-13 2:45PM in conference room 224.
1/31/2013	S	The committee(s) on PSM recommend(s) that the measure be PASSED, UNAMENDED. The votes in PSM were as follows: 4 Aye(s): Senator(s) Espero, Baker, Galuteria, Slom; Aye(s) with reservations: none ; 0 No(es): none; and 1 Excused: Senator(s) Green.
1/31/2013	S	The committee(s) on HTH deferred the measure until 02-01-13 1:15PM in conference room 229.
1/31/2013	S	The committee(s) on TEC will hold a public decision making on 02-07-13 1:15PM in conference room 414.
2/1/2013	S	The committee(s) on HTH recommend(s) that the measure be PASSED, UNAMENDED. The votes in HTH were as follows: 3 Aye(s): Senator(s) Green, Baker, Nishihara; Aye(s) with reservations: none ; 0 No(es): none; and 2 Excused: Senator(s) Chun Oakland, Slom.
2/7/2013	S	The committee(s) on TEC recommend(s) that the measure be PASSED, UNAMENDED. The votes in TEC were as follows: 3 Aye(s): Senator(s) Wakai, Nishihara, Tokuda; Aye(s) with reservations: none ; 0 No(es): none; and 2 Excused: Senator(s) Gabbard, Slom.
2/14/2013	S	Reported from PSM/HTH/TEC (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 294) with recommendation of passage on Second Reading and referral to CPN.
2/14/2013	S	Report adopted; Passed Second Reading and referred to CPN.
2/15/2013	S	The committee(s) on CPN will hold a public decision making on 02-20-13 9:30AM in conference room 229.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
9:30 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 548, RELATING TO TELEMEDICINE.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 supports this bill with the exception of the inclusion of "behavioral health professionals". This term is not defined and the Board feels that it may lead some to believe that professionals such as social workers, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, etc. are exempt from the licensing law. If exempt, these non-physicians would then be allowed to practice telemedicine as provided for in Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 453-1.3. This provision clearly sets out guidelines for physicians and their patients in the practice of medicine and exempting non-physicians would, in essence, allow them to practice medicine.

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Furthermore, the Board is not aware that this group can be credentialed by a hospital.

For the reasons above, the Board requests that "behavioral health professional" be deleted from the bill.

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

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013**

**Wednesday, February 20, 2013
9:30 a.m.**

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 548, RELATING TO TELEMEDICINE.

**TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Carol Nowak, Ph.D., Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Psychology ("Board"). The Board had an opportunity to review this bill at its meeting on February 15, 2013, and would like to provide the following comments.

In particular, the Board would like clarification as to what constitutes a "behavioral health professional" as referenced in Section 2 of the bill. The Board is under the impression that a "behavioral health professional" may include, but not be limited to psychologists, social workers, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, etc. If this is the case, these behavioral health professionals are not regulated under Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 453. As such, it would not be appropriate to refer to "behavioral health specialists" in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments.