

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Friday, March 15, 2013
8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 608, S.D.1, RELATING TO MEDICINE.

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, 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.

Senate Bill No. 608, S.D.1, adds two new sections to Hawaii's medical licensing law to require that the Board (1) periodically disseminate information and educational material regarding prevention and treatment of chronic disease, through the application of changes in nutrition and lifestyle behavior, to each licensed physician and surgeon and to each hospital in the state; and (2) set content standards for continuing education requirements concerning chronic disease.

With regard to providing information and educational materials to licensed physicians and surgeons and to hospitals regarding prevention and treatment of chronic disease, the Board notes that because the Board's primary function as a licensing board is to protect consumers through implementation of

the applicable licensing law and rules, its educational focus relates primarily to updating its licensees regarding changes to the existing law and rules, and providing licensees with information about specific board actions and interpretations that may impact licensee conduct.

With regard to setting content standards for continuing medical education ("CME") requirements, the Board feels that physicians should obtain CME within their specialty and prefers to give physicians the latitude to determine what those CME would be. Requiring content-specific CME may be burdensome, especially to Board-certified physicians. This is because these physicians must meet their specialty board CME requirements for recertification and CME in chronic disease might not be accepted towards recertification in specialties such as surgery, OB-GYN, etc. This being the case, physicians would need to take additional CME (in chronic disease) in order to renew their licenses. For these reasons, the Board has concerns with this measure.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. No. 608, S.D.1.