

Honolulu, Hawaii  
February 15, 2013

RE: H.B. No. 843  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which  
was referred H.B. No. 843, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the licensing of  
physical therapist assistants.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from Tripler Army Medical Center, the Hawaii Chapter of the  
American Physical Therapy Association, the Board of Physical  
Therapy, the Queen's Medical Center, the Occupational Therapy  
Association of Hawaii, Ho'okahi Leo: Physical Therapist Assistants  
of Hawaii, and thirty-one individuals.

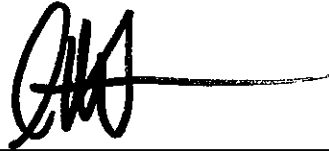
Your Committee finds that Hawaii is the only state that does  
not regulate physical therapy assistants by means of licensure or  
certification. Your Committee notes that Medicare requires  
licensed personnel to perform all physical therapy treatment.  
Consequently, physical therapy assistants trained and residing in  
the State must travel to another jurisdiction to obtain a license  
necessary for employment in Hawaii facilities that treat Medicare  
patients. This unnecessary burden causes some properly trained  
physical therapy assistants to forgo obtaining a license or remain  
on the mainland after obtaining a license, causing a drain on  
skilled physical therapy assistants in Hawaii and compounding the  
current shortage of skilled physical therapy assistants. Your



Committee finds that licensure of physical therapy assistants will help to address the personnel shortage while also protecting the public by providing definite guidelines for regulation, increasing accountability, and providing a framework for disciplinary action by the Board of Physical Therapy.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 843, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Consumer  
Protection & Commerce,



---

ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair



