

# SB 2465

Measure Title: RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS.

Report Title: Psychologists; Continuing Education Credits; Licensure

Description: Requires psychologists to complete a minimum of eighteen continuing education credit hours beginning with renewal for the licensing biennium July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018.

Companion: HB2030

Package: None

Current Referral: CPN, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, Taniguchi

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

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

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2014**

**Friday, January 31, 2014  
9:00 a.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2465, RELATING TO CONTINUING  
EDUCATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

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

My name is Carol L. Nowak, Ph.D., Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Psychology ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2465, Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists. The Board has not had an opportunity to discuss this final version of the bill, but will do so at its February 21, 2014 meeting. This bill, however, is very similar to the proposed draft bill submitted to the Legislature on behalf of the Board and the Hawaii Psychological Association ("HPA"). Based on the similarities with the proposed draft bill, the Board's testimony at this time is to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2465.

The purpose of the bill is to require licensed psychologists in Hawaii to complete a minimum of eighteen (18) continuing education credit hours beginning with the renewal for the licensing biennium July 16, 2016, through June 30, 2018.

By way of background, the Board and HPA were requested pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 201, H.D.1, which was adopted by the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session 2013, to submit a proposed draft for

a bill to establish, implement, and monitor continuing education requirements for all licensed psychologists in the State. As such, and after several months of discussion and compromise between the parties, a proposed bill was submitted to the State of Hawaii Legislature on December 13, 2013.

As written, the Board supports this bill as it will ensure that licensed psychologists maintain their professional competency and keep abreast of the latest developments in their profession. It is estimated that approximately nine hundred eighty-nine (989) licensed psychologists will be required to obtain continuing education credits as proposed in this bill. Similar to other professions that require continuing education, the Board, in consultation with the HPA, agreed to perform post-renewal random audits of 5% to 10% of its licensees who renew their psychology licenses biennially. By choosing to perform post-renewal random audits, there will be little to no impact on the workload of the administrative staff.

Furthermore, the bill will no longer place the program in the minority as one (1) of six (6) jurisdictions that do not require continuing education credits as part of its licensing laws.

Thank you for opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2465.



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

January 27, 2014

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
and Committee Members

January 31, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 229

FROM: Marty Oliphant, Executive Director  
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SB 2465 Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists - **SUPPORT**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Chair, Senator Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Marty Oliphant. I serve as the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter (NASW). I strongly support SB 2465 Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists.

Consumer Protection ~ Requiring continuing education courses for Psychologist who are renewing their licenses will give assurance to Hawai'i's consumers that Psychologist are current with the latest developments and practices in their field. NASW views continuing education as an essential activity for ensuring quality services for clients. Psychologists provide needed services in prevention, intervention, and treatment to an array of clients. Knowing the best practices and innovations in the field will assist in protecting consumers in getting the best services as possible.

The language of the proposed measure, SB 2465, seems to appropriately address the need for Psychologists to secure continuing education as a means of enhancing their professional knowledge, attitudes, and competencies in the field of psychology. In addition, continuing education serves the needs of clients to receive the most effective services.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 2465.



# Hawai'i Psychological Association

*For a Healthy Hawai'i*

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Phone: (808) 521-8995

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

January 29, 2014

Friday, January 31st, 9:00 a.m., Room 229

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2465

Honorable Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Brian Taniguchi and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Nancy Sidun. I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, former Chair of Argosy University's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program and currently the Supervising Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Psychology Postdoctoral Residency Program at Kaiser Permanente-Hawaii. Additionally, I am the President of our state psychology association, the Hawaii Psychological Association (HPA). I would like to provide testimony in support of SB 2465.

Education does not end for psychologists when they graduate with their doctorate degree. Given that psychology is a science, it is constantly transforming and developing. Psychologists must be life long learners to stay current with the emergent practices and knowledge in our field.

The majority of states require continuing education as part of the license renewal process. In fact, in 2006 American Psychological Association (APA) State Provincial Continuing Education in Psychology Requirements did a survey and found that 43 states plus the District of Columbia have continuing education requirements for psychologists. Unfortunately Hawaii is one of few remaining states that do not require continuing education for our licensed psychologists. It is imperative that this be changed. We need to ensure that competent psychologists are serving the citizens in the state of Hawaii. SB 2465 is a valiant and necessary movement to make that a reality.

In thoughtful deliberation with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Psychological Association SB 2465 continuing education proposal was developed. SB 2465 "Requires psychologists to complete a minimum of eighteen continuing education credit hours beginning with renewal for the licensing biennium July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018".

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
January 29, 2014  
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I thank you in advance for considering my testimony in support of SB 2465.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Sidun, Psy.D., ABPP, ATR  
President  
Hawai'i Psychological Association



**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

DATE: Friday, January 31, 2014  
TIME: 9:00 am  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

TO: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association  
Dr. Walton Shim, MD, President  
Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair  
Dr. Ron Keinitz, DO, Legislative Co-Chair  
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director  
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

RE: SB 2612 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SB 2465  
RELATING TO SB 2465 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR  
PSYCHOLOGISTS

Position: Strong Support.

The HMA commends the introducers of this bill.

The HMA is in strong support of continuing education for all healthcare providers. The practice of medicine changes dramatically year to year and it is of the utmost importance that providers develop life-long learning as a demonstration to the public of professional responsibility in maintaining competence, performance and improving outcomes.

The HMA would also like to offer our assistance, should it be needed, in the development of CE. The HMA accredits most of the state's CME for physicians and would be happy to assist the development of CE for psychologists.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

*Officers*

*President - Walton Shim, MD President-Elect - Robert Sloan  
Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD Immediate Past President - Stephen Kemble, MD  
Treasurer - Brandon Lee, MD Executive Director - Christopher Flanders, DO*

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SENATOR ROSALYN H BAKER, CHAIR

SENATOR BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
1833 Kalakaua Ave. Suite 908  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Monday, January 27, 2013

Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and esteemed members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, in regards to **SB 2465** that requires psychologists to complete a minimum of 18 continuing education credit hours beginning with the renewal for the licensing biennium July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018, I am **STRONGLY in favor** of the bill as it addresses a serious need for mandated continuing education, ensuring that licensed psychologists remain current with empirically supported treatments, culturally adapted treatments and changes in knowledge and practice in psychology.

My name is Dr. Jeffrey Stern and I am a psychologist who was raised here in Honolulu. I am a Past President of the HPA and have been a member for more than 25 years, though I am submitting this testimony as an individual (not representing HPA). I am also the chair of the Mandatory Continuing Education subcommittee of the Legislative Committee of the Hawaii Psychological Association.

While president of the Hawaii Psychological Association two years ago, I attended a meeting with the DCCA in which the issue of mandatory continuing education (heretofore referred to as "MCE") was addressed and the idea was embraced.

In preparation for that meeting, I conducted a literature review on MCE and identified two consistent findings; first, the criticism that continuing education fails to impact treatment outcome is not because of a lack of effect. Rather, it is because research methods are not well suited to measuring this effect. There are so many factors that impact treatment outcome – it is virtually impossible, methodologically, to design research that can tease out the effect of continuing education on patient outcome. Simply put, absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. Second, licensed psychologists and allied health professionals from states requiring continuing education reported strong satisfaction with their CE experiences.

That being said, the key concerns raised by DCCA in that meeting included access to CE opportunities and cost/expense.

Over the past year, I oversaw the creation of an MCE subcommittee within the HPA; recruited membership participation from those in favor and those in opposition, surveyed HPA members and non-member psychologists in regards to their opinions and concerns about MCE, generated draft legislation with these and the concerns of the DCCA in mind, met with the Board of Psychology and listened to their concerns, and worked collaboratively with the Board of Psychology and the DCCA on the legislation that is before you. Over 50 hours of meetings and work went into this collaborative effort.

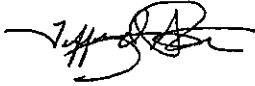
Psychologists' ethical guidelines implicitly mandate a commitment to continuing development of its knowledge base and the practice of clinical psychology should be guided not only by previously established facts and treatments, but also by relevant and more recent additions to



our knowledge base. In an age of ever-growing accountability, we have an obligation to consumers and our colleagues to be current with our knowledge in our field (broadly) and our specialties (if applicable).

In a 1990 article by VendeCreek, Knapp, and Brace in *Professional Psychology Research and Practice*, the authors reviewed the literature on effectiveness of CE *across allied health professions* in enhancing quality of services in health professions and concluded that if properly implemented, CE can positively impact health care in the face of ever- and rapidly-increasing knowledge base and technology. Note, this article is nearly 25 years old, covering research conducted up to 50 years ago. Since then, CE programs have improved and are implemented in a manner that is accessible (including to those living on the Neighbor Islands and in rural communities), reasonably priced, and directly addresses accountability. I emphasize the age of the article as evidence that the time has come for Hawai'i to move forward and mandate continuing education for psychologists.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my mana'o.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Stern', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.

SENATE BILL SB2465, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS  
Companion Bill: HB2030

To the Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to you for SB2465, which proposes Continuing Education (CE) for psychologists. Although I support the intent of the bill to ensure that psychologists are current on training there are sections I have concerns about. As a past Continuing Education Administrator, I understand the significance of lifelong learning. An amended version of this bill will bring Hawai'i into substantial compliance with other professions providing essential services and national standards. This provides an assurance of ethical treatment, continuity in licensure requirements and patient safety.

### **Background**

In Hawai'i, to qualify for licensure, an applicant must hold a doctoral degree in psychology or educational psychology from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or a doctoral degree from an American Psychological Association (APA) approved program in clinical psychology, and successfully pass an examination administered by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). Both the APA and ASPPB are national organizations recognized for extensive experience in credentialing and accrediting. The APA requires that CEs build on doctorate training and has a CE Sponsor approval program for organizations meeting APA requirements for CE courses offered for psychologists. In 2010, the American Psychological Association adopted a new definition of psychologist as policy.

### **Amendment Considerations**

Although this measure provides an assurance that reliable standards for ethical treatment, continuity in licensure standards, substantial compliance with national standards and patient safety are adhered to, it may benefit from the following amendments:

### **SECTION 2**

- Amend Page 1, lines 15-16 to read “amended by updating the definition of psychologist and adding three new definitions”.
- Amend Page 2, and insert at line 3, to read “Psychologist means (a) any person licensed as a psychologist and (b) any general applied psychologist whose practice areas are currently exempted under HRS 465 and includes a person representing himself or herself to be a psychologist if that person uses any title or description of services incorporating the words psychology, psychological or psychologist or if he or she used any term that implies that he or she possesses expert qualification in any area of psychology, or if that person offers to the public or renders to individuals or groups of individuals services defined as the practice of psychology in HRS 465. This amended definition brings Hawai'i into substantial compliance with policy adopted in 2010 by the American Psychological Association on the definition of psychologist and provides consistent interpretation throughout.

- Amend Page 2, insert after updated definition of psychologist. Amend this to read “Continuing Education Courses” means courses offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education or an accredited American Psychological Association sponsor. This amendment will provide continuity with current licensure training requirements and aligns with national standards of organizations recognized for extensive experience in credentialing.
- Amend Page 2, insert after “Continuing Education Courses. Insert an amendment at this part to read “Ethics courses” include ethic theory, ethical reasoning, ethical principles, ethical dilemmas, scientific ethics and professional ethics. By including ethics this aligns with current licensing requirements for training in ethics and professional standards and aligns with ethics requirements for other professions providing essential services.
- Amend Page 3, lines 9-10. Amend this to read “(2) Complete a minimum of eighteen credit hours of continuing education courses within the renewal period; provided that a minimum of three credit hours shall be in ethic courses”. This aligns with current licensing requirements for ethics and professional training thereby building on the doctorate training.
- Amend Page 4, lines 14-20. Amend this to read “(g) the director of commerce and consumer affairs may conduct random audits of licensees to determine compliance with the continuing education requirement. The director shall provide written notice of an audit to a licensee randomly selected for audit. Within sixty days of notification, the licensee shall provide the director with documentation verifying compliance with the continuing education requirement established by this section.” By authorizing the director of commerce and consumer affairs authority to conduct random audits, the director and licensing administrator have a standardized process to audit licensed professions they oversee.

#### **SECTION 4**

- Amend Page 6, lines 20-21 to read “Aiding or abetting any unlicensed person, other than doctoral trainees working for psychologists, to directly or indirectly use the title psychologist to engage in the practice of psychology; This amendment recognizes the training exemption and provides consistent interpretation of the current APA definition of psychologist.
- Amend Page 7, line 12 to read “or patients; Conviction of any crime or offense in this state or any other state in the United States or any territory or possession under the jurisdiction of the United States”. This recognizes the State of Hawaii FY 2014 DCCA Geographic Report for current licenses – Hawai‘i: 987; Mainland: 269; Foreign: 4.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide comments for your consideration in amending SB2465.

Dr. Cindi Dang  
 Past Hawai‘i Psychological Association Continuing Education Program Administrator  
 American Psychological Association Member

ROBIN E. S. MIYAMOTO, PSY.D.  
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HONOLULU, HI 96813  
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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2465**  
Relating to Continuing Education

January 27, 2014

Honorable Chair Baker Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Robin Miyamoto. I am a Clinical Psychologist and Past-President of Hawai'i Psychological Association. I would like to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 2465 requiring mandatory continuing education for Psychologists.

As a founder and the previous Director of Training of I Ola Lāhui, a non-profit committed to increasing the availability and quality of services available across the State of Hawai'i, particularly rural and underserved areas, I am very familiar with the delivery of mental health services to diverse populations. Additionally, I have made a commitment to lifelong learning, for my role as teacher and mentor requires that I must be up to date on current evidence based practices.

Of course, a commitment to lifelong learning needs to take into account the changing world in which we live. Multicultural experts have pointed to changing demographics in the United States, particularly Hawai'i, and suggest that practitioners must make substantive revisions in their curriculum, training, research and practice to address issues of race and ethnicity, culture, gender and sexual orientation. To maintain minimal competency in working with these diverse populations, we must understand the cultural context of these populations, be aware of potential bias in our practices and be familiar with culturally adapted treatments.

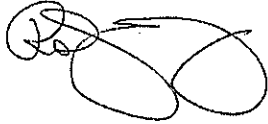
The majority of states require continuing education as part of the license renewal process. In fact, in 2006 American Psychological Association (APA) State Provincial Continuing Education in Psychology Requirements did a survey and found that 43 states plus the District of Columbia have continuing education requirements for psychologists. Unfortunately Hawai'i is one of few remaining states that do not require continuing education for our licensed psychologists. It is imperative that this be changed. We need to ensure that competent psychologists are serving the citizens in the state of Hawai'i. SB 2465 is a valiant and necessary movement to make that a reality.

In thoughtful deliberation with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Hawai'i Psychological Association SB 2465 continuing education proposal was developed. SB 2465 "Requires psychologists to complete a minimum of eighteen continuing education credit hours beginning with renewal for the licensing biennium July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018".

We all must maintain the ability to learn how to learn, be able to adapt to change and access new knowledge to improve our competencies and performance. The goal is to constantly recharge our batteries to motivate self-renewal. Keeping abreast of new knowledge, skills and relevant attitudes is an important strategy for us all. I feel that SB 2465 is an important step in that direction.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of SB 2465.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin E. S. Miyamoto', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.

*Annie H. Nguyen, Psy.D.*

P.O. Box 640  
Kailua, HI 96734  
(808) 381-1838

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2465**  
Relating to Continuing Education

Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and esteemed members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, in regards to **SB 2465**, my name is Annie Nguyen and I am **STRONGLY** in favor of the bill.

I am currently the Secretary of the Hawaii Psychological Association and I served on the subcommittee on Mandatory Continuing Education. Over the past year, many hours went into surveying HPA members on the issue of MCE, researching what is done in other states, territories, and provinces, and collaborating with DCCA to address this issue. The majority of states require continuing education and the modal number of CEs required is 20 per licensing period.

It is critically important that psychologist continue to maintain their competency in providing evidence based treatment, but that they also grow in their profession by deepening their knowledge and skills. Lifelong learning needs to be a part of every professionals' journey. If we do not keep abreast of changes and new developments within our field, we run the risk of harming our patients by providing treatments that may no longer be effective or beneficial. In fact, the treatment could even be harmful. Without the state mandating CEs, some psychologists may have little motivation to engage in continuing education while other psychologists are required to maintain CE as a condition of employment. In a field where many psychologists practice independently and often in isolation, MCE offers the psychologists an opportunity to engage in learning, to think critically about what they are doing, and to consider how they might improve their service delivery. SB 2465 is an important step in protecting the public and the psychologist by encouraging lifelong learning.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of SB 2465.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Nguyen' with 'psyD' written below it.

Annie H. Nguyen, Psy.D.

**SB2465**

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for CPN on Jan 31, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPN Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dckahalas@gmail.com](mailto:dckahalas@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2465 on Jan 31, 2014 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 9:45:10 AM

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**SB2465**

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for CPN on Jan 31, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Ralston	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: "Dear Senators Baker and Taniguchi, I am a clinical psychologist in private practice in Honolulu who is opposed to SB2465. I write to ask that you please do NOT support SB2465. The research shows that mandating psychologists to acquire CEs does not help clients have better therapeutic outcomes. My own professional experience also supports this as almost 100% of CE related trainings that I have attended may be interesting in the moment, but do not translate to any substantial changes in practice nor client outcomes. Furthermore, clients do not care if psychologists have a certain number of CEs per month or year (and most don't even know what CEs are). Clients come in wanting their symptoms gone and their lives improved. This is best accomplished by providers continuing to hone their knowledge and skills in ways that are appropriate for their style of learning. Of all professions, it is psychologists who know best that people have diverse ways of learning and therefore require diverse means to match those learning styles. To ram mandatory CEs down the throats of all psychologists across the board, is not only ineffective, it's inconsistent with what we know as psychologists. The psychological community here in Hawaii is not interested in mandatory CEs. It would be a shame if efforts of those interested in passing this bill, (primarily to satisfy their own perception of how the community perceives psychologists), resulted in a cumbersome, unnecessary, ineffective, costly, and ultimately wasteful practice of mandated CEs affecting all the rest of us. Please do not support SB2465. Sincerely, Tyler Ralston, PsyD Hawaii license PSY 975 "

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)