

## Senate Bill SB2465 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

To the Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to you for SB2465. This measure proposes Continuing Education (CE) for psychologists. Although I support the intent of the bill to ensure that psychologists are current on training to renew their license, there are sections I have concerns about.

### **Concerns**

Although I support the intent of the bill it lacks a significant requirement for ethics training as part of the continuing education requirement for license renewal. Many providers are required to include ethics training in their continuing education training for renewal of their license. It is unclear why psychologists are exempt. Most recently, social workers were required to comply with continuing education with mandatory ethics training. The bill also does not require that courses offered have been reviewed for approval as a continuing education course for psychologists by a national credentialing organization. The department of commerce currently holds the responsibility for auditing compliance with continuing education and switching this responsibility may create confusion. This measure does not update FY 2014 DCCA Geographic report for current licenses.

### **Amendment Considerations**

If the Committee wishes to proceed with this bill, it may benefit from amendments to ensure ethical treatment, patient safety, approved courses and continuity in auditing for compliance. This measure may benefit from the following amendments:

#### **SECTION 1**

- Amend Page 1, lines 10-13 to read” The purpose of this Act is to require licensed psychologists in Hawaii to complete a minimum of eighteen credit hours of continuing education courses for the licensing renewal period beginning July1, 2014 through June 30, 2016, three credit hours of which shall be in ethics courses.

#### **SECTION 2**

- Amend page 1, lines 17-18 and page 2, lines 1-2 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, and insert at line 5 (after “Credit hours”): “Ethics courses” include ethic theory, ethical reasoning, ethical principles, ethical dilemmas, scientific ethics and professional ethics. This aligns with current licensing requirements for training in ethics and professional standards.

### **SECTION 3**

- Amend Page 3, line 9 (2) and line 10, after biennium, to read “provided that a minimum of three credit hours shall be in ethics courses”.
- 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 retains audit responsibility.

### **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 aligns with current exemptions.
- 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 testimony for your consideration in amending SB2465.

Dr. Cynthia Dang



February 11, 2014

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair ~ Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
and Committee Members

February 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Conference Room 211

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

RE: SB 2465, SD 1 Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists - **SUPPORT**

Senator David Y. Ige Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani 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.



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**Cc:** [dgkahalas@gmail.com](mailto:dgkahalas@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2465 on Feb 13, 2014 09:30AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 3:20:28 PM

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**SB2465**

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 13, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tyler Ralston	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Chair Ige and Vice Chair Kidani, I write to kindly ask that you please oppose SB2465. While continuing education is vital to maintaining best practice as a psychologist, there is no evidence either in the scientific literature nor my professional experience that supports the notion that Mandating CE will have any positive effect. It simply seems like it will have a positive effect, and it will match other disciplines that have mandated CE, but beyond that there is no valid reason to support this bill. Mandating CE may even have a negative effect in that many may construe getting their 18 CE credits as sufficient to keep them current and providing best care, and this would not be good. I attended an all day conference yesterday at the Hyatt Hotel, presented by a very famous researcher and clinician who is commonly referred to, and billed as, the worlds leading expert in the field of trauma and its treatment. I earned 6 CE credits. I also walked out of the conference at the end of the day having had an interesting experience, but learning absolutely nothing new, and nothing of any value to advancing my career or expertise. In other words, it was a huge waste of my time to attend this conference all day. There are other and better ways to insure competency and best practice...but mandating CE is not one of them. Please do not support SB2465. Thank you. Sincerely, Tyler Ralston, PsyD  
Hawaii License #975

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