

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310

P.O. Box 541

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2014

Tuesday, April 1, 2014  
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2472, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, RELATING TO  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE.**

TO THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Sandra Matsushima, Executive Officer for the Occupational Therapy Program of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"), Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice.

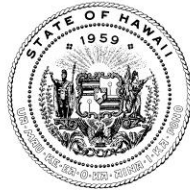
The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, is to improve the regulation of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants by establishing an occupational therapy program and licensing requirements for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

In order to implement the licensure of approximately 600 occupational therapists and licensure of approximately 100 occupational therapy assistants, we are requesting that an appropriation of \$70,000 from the compliance resolution fund be inserted into Section 8 of the bill. The appropriation is being requested to cover operating expenditures such as office supplies, postage, and other current expenses to carry out and maintain this new regulatory area within the purview of the Director of the Department. Upon the issuance of a new license and at each license renewal period, every licensee will be assessed a \$100 surcharge in addition to the normal licensing fees. Once the collection of \$70,000 is received, the assessment of the surcharge shall cease.

We are also requesting that the Act shall take effect upon approval.

The Department has worked in collaboration with the proponents of the bill and we support Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
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KEALI`I S. LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**REGULAR SESSION, 2014**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014**  
**2:00 P.M.**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2472 S.D.2 H.D.2**  
**RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE**

TO THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR,  
AND TO THE HONORABLE AARON LING JOHANSON, VICE-CHAIR,  
AND TO THE HONORABLE SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, VICE-CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2472 S.D.2 H.D.2, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice. My name is Daria Loy-Goto, Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO offers the following testimony in support of the bill.

Senate Bill No. 2472 S.D.2 H.D.2 creates an occupational therapy program within the Department and provides for the licensure of occupational therapists and

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2472 S.D.2 H.D.2  
April 1, 2014  
Page 2

occupational therapy assistants. RICO worked collaboratively with the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii on several amendments to improve RICO's enforcement of the new licensing provisions and those amendments were adopted in the House Draft 2. RICO believes that Senate Bill No. 2472 S.D.2 H.D.2 will allow it to investigate and prosecute violations of Chapter 457G, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2472 S.D.2. H.D.2. I will be happy to answer any questions that the members of the Committee may have.



March 30, 2014

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke – Chair, Finance

Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2014 – Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.

RE: SB2472, SD2, HD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am Avis Sakata, OTR, President of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii (OTAH) which represents over 560 occupational therapists (OTR) and 125 occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, skilled nursing facilities, Veterans Administration, Tripler Army Medical Center, mental health and community-based programs to name a few.

Occupational Therapy is a science driven, evidence-based health care profession that focuses on helping people of all ages, regain, develop, or maximize everyday skills in order to live independent and productive lives. Occupational Therapy services are provided for the purpose of promoting health and wellness to those who have or are at risk for developing an illness, injury, disease, disability or condition. Occupational therapy also addresses the physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory and other aspects of performance to support engagement in everyday life activities.

Occupational Therapy practitioners are recognized members of the healthcare rehabilitation and/or educational team which may be comprised of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, social workers, case managers, teachers and others. As a healthcare provider, occupational therapy practitioners :1) assess and evaluate our patients/clients needs and develop an appropriate treatment plan; 2) interventions are focused on daily living skills, work readiness, play or educational performance skills; 3) and interventions include sensorimotor, neuromuscular, cognitive or psychosocial components.

Occupational therapists possess either Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate degrees while occupational therapy assistants graduate with an Associates Degree. Both the occupational therapist and assistant work collaboratively in providing rehabilitation services to their patients and clients.

Occupational therapists (OTR) are currently regulated by Chapter 457G – registration, however, licensure would ensure the highest degree of government regulation that would safeguard the public’s health, safety and welfare. Hawaii is the last state to gain licensure regulation for occupational therapists and the last of three states for occupational therapy assistants. Licensure will also protect your constituents from incompetent persons and persons who are not qualified to perform occupational therapy services and require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of the occupational therapy practitioners. In addition, the intent of this bill is taking a proactive approach in protecting the consumer via providing government oversight versus being reactive and moving forth with legislation only after harm or unethical practices have occurred. Lastly, licensure would ensure the consumer access to occupational therapy benefits or services as the majority of health insurance carriers recognize services provided by “licensed” professionals.

We strongly support SB2472, SD2, HD2 that will provide for licensure of both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and would further define the scope of practice of Occupational Therapy. OTAH has worked in collaboration with Sandra Matsushima, Executive Officer for Occupational Therapy and Daria Loy-Goto, Regulated Industries Complaint Office on this bill. The bill has been amended per recommendations from DCCA and RICO and OTAH is in agreement as this would provide further clarification and enforcement of the bill.

We ask that your committee look favorably on passage of SB 2472, SD2, HD2. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (808) 522-4602.

Sincerely,

Avis Sakata, OTR  
President, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii  
(808) 522-4602



March 31, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee of Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 427

The Honorable Scott Nishimoto  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 421

**RE: Senate Bill 2472, SD 2 HD 2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

Dear Representatives Luke, Johanson and Nishimoto;

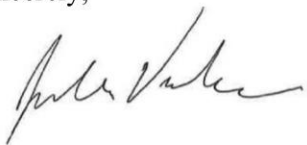
On behalf of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) I am writing in support of SB 2472, to revise the state occupational therapy practice act. The purpose of the bill is to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare; protect the public from incompetent, unethical or unauthorized persons; assure a high level of professional conduct on the part of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants; and assure the availability of high quality Occupational Therapy services to persons in need of such services.

We are hopeful that Hawaii will become the 50th and final state to license occupational therapists should the bill be signed into law in 2014. Occupational therapists are currently licensed in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico while occupational therapy assistants are licensed in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. AOTA fully supports this licensure effort and urges your committee to join with your Senate colleagues in supporting and passing SB 2472.

AOTA is the national professional association representing the interests of more than 140,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students of occupational therapy. The practice of occupational therapy is science-driven, evidence-based, and enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by promoting health and minimizing the functional effects of illness, injury, and disability.

Thank you for supporting this important legislation. Please contact me at [jveverka@aota.org](mailto:jveverka@aota.org) if you have questions or need additional information about AOTA's position on this legislation or the practice of occupational therapy.

Sincerely;



Josh Veverka  
State Policy Analyst





## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

**S.B. 2472, SD2, HD2**  
**Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**  
**House Committee on Finance**  
**April 1, 2014; 2:00 p.m.**

### **In support of S.B. 2472, SD2, HD2 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

My name is Lucy Lessard, I am the Manager of Inpatient Rehabilitation Services at The Queen's Medical Center. I would like to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2472, SD2, HD2, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice.

The Queen's Medical Center is the leading medical referral center in the Pacific Basin and offers a comprehensive range of primary and specialized care services, including acute care physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language therapy. As the only Level II Trauma Center and only The Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Center and Hip and Knee Joint Replacement Center in the State of Hawaii, we specialize in the care of complex trauma, stroke, and orthopedics patients.

The Queen's Medical Center employs occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistants throughout our acute care and skilled nursing units. They provide a valuable service to our patients and work alongside other professionals as part of the multidisciplinary team.

Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license occupational therapists and is one of 3 remaining states that do not license occupational therapist assistants. The State of Hawaii educates occupational therapist assistants; however all occupational therapists are educated on the mainland. The licensure of these professionals is necessary to ensure the highest form of oversight in order to protect the public from unqualified individuals, employers from hiring those individuals and to raise the quality of occupational therapy services to equal that which is found on the mainland.

We understand that there are ongoing discussions between the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii in revising the proposal. The Queen's Medical Center is supportive of that dialog and urges passage of S.B. 2472, SD2, HD2 so that those exchanges may continue to further develop this measure. I am available to respond to questions and can be reached at 691-8940 or [llessard@queens.org](mailto:llessard@queens.org).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Lucy Lessard, PT  
Manager, Rehabilitation Services  
The Queen's Medical Center

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



March 28, 2014

To: Representative Sylvia Luke– Chair, Finance

Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2014 – Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.

Re: SB2472, SD2, HD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an occupational therapist employed at Kaiser Permanente in Wailuku, Hawaii. I strongly support SB 2472, SD2, HD2 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

Currently, Hawaii is the only state that does not license occupational therapists. In addition, Hawaii is the one of 3 remaining states that does not license occupational therapy assistants.

At Kaiser Permanente, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral role in the rehabilitation of patients with a variety of diagnoses. I work with people who are trying to regain their independence after stroke, burns, bone fracture, head injury, cardiac events, spinal cord injury and many more. I provide care for every age group from newborns to our most elderly members. We keep people in their homes and as independent and as active in their communities as possible.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare along with protecting those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons or persons not qualified to perform these services. Licensure will also require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of OT practitioners in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

I hope that your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill. If you have any questions, I can be reached at [Nancy.Zionkowski@KP.org](mailto:Nancy.Zionkowski@KP.org). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Nancy Zionkowski, OTR  
Kaiser Permanente  
Maui Lani Elua Clinic  
75 Maui Lani Parkway  
Wailuku, HI 96793

March 29, 2014

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair Finance

Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2014 – 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

RE: SB2472, SD2, HD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are occupational therapy practitioners employed at Straub Clinic & Hospital and we support SB 2472, SD1, HD2 which would license both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

At Straub, the occupational therapists play an integral role in the rehabilitation of our patients many of whom have sustained an injury or illness such as strokes, burns, amputations, hip/knee replacements, neurological injuries, arm and shoulder injuries or fractures. Our services encompass both on the acute inpatient units as well as outpatient services.

Occupational therapy services include: 1) assessment and evaluation of our patients followed by development of a treatment plan, 2) interventions focusing on activities of daily living, work readiness, return to hobbies/sports, 3) therapeutic exercises, therapeutic activities, physical agent modalities, cognitive or psychosocial components, 4) education of family members or significant others in carrying out appropriate interventions, 5) adaptation or recommendations for home modifications or other environments to allow our patients to return home safely.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of three remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA). Licensure would protect the public from incompetent practitioners from practicing in Hawaii and would require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of both OT's and OTA's. This bill would also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

We hope that your committee will look favorably upon passage of SB2472, SD2, HD2. If you have any additional questions, we can be reached at 522-4602. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Avis Sakata, OTR

Tisha Taba, MS, OTR

Ashley Bagorio, MOT, OTR

Katie Tam, MS, OTR

Quiara Cruel, MA, OTR

Andrea Muraoka, MA, OTR

Farrah Dimagiba, OTR

Mari Wood, MA, OTR

Andrea Fong, MA, OTR

Bernice Oishi, COTA

Melissa Pang, MOT, OTR, CHT



Date: March 29, 2014

House Finance Committee – Honorable Rep. Sylvia Luke (Chair)

Tuesday, April 01, 2014 - 2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

RE: SB 2472 SD2, HD2 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are occupational therapists employed at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services. We strongly support SB 2472 sd2 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in providing skilled rehabilitation services to patients with hand, wrist and elbow injuries to increase their ability to return to being a productive, functional member of the community. The occupational therapists help pts improve the motion, strength and coordination of their hand to resume their roles as employees, students, parents, grandparents...

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, we can be reached at 593-2830. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Sheri Azama, OTD, OTR, CHT  
Kelli Higuchi, OTR, CHT  
Tammy Momohara OTR, CHT  
Bonnie Moy, OTR  
Arlene Ono, OTR, CHT  
Michele Sugiyama, MS, OTR, CHT  
Carol Yee, MPH, OTR, CHT

Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services  
1401 S. Beretania Street, Suite 730  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
593-2830

**Date: March 31, 2014**

**To: Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, *Chair, Committee on Finance and Committee Members***

**Hearing:**

**Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2014,**

**Time: 2:00 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: *SB2472, SD2, HD2 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice***

We strongly support ***SB2472, SD2, HD2*** to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. At Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

The occupational therapy practitioners provide services to Outpatients and outpatients who suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations and other neurological and/or orthopedic related conditions. They optimize each patient's ability to perform life skills at home, at school, at work and in the community.

Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will protect the consumer's health, safety and welfare. Insurance payers also recognize licensed individuals and reimburse services provided by these licensed individuals. Medicare and Medicaid recognize the qualified occupational therapy practitioners and reimburse their services. This bill expands and clarifies the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii. Thus, consumers will be able to receive services that are clinically necessary during their occupational therapy visits and for which occupational therapists are educated and trained

We ask you and your committee's support by passing this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapists and the 49<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapy assistants. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

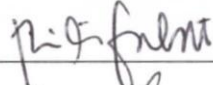


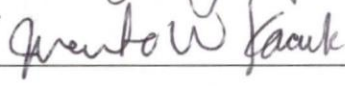
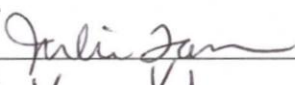
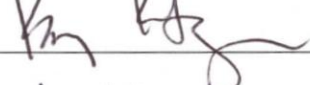


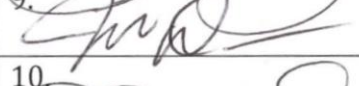

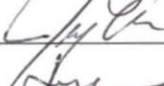
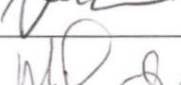
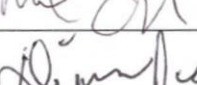

Sincerely,

Outpatient Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

Please see page 2.



SB2472, SD2,HD2 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice  
 Committee: House Committee on Finance  
 Hearing date: Tuesday, April 1, 2014  
 Time: 2:00PM  
 Room: Conference Room 308  
 Page 2 of 2

Signature	Print Name	Address
1. 	Philina Galzote	1236 Lola P Mall Kailua, HI 96734
2. 	Shival Miranda	102 RO subank Pl Hon HI 96817
3. 	Kori Mizuta Yamamoto	226 N Kuakini St Hon HI 96817
4. 	Juanita W Kawaken	"
5. 	Julie Taniguchi	"
6. 	Kay Kitazumi	"
7. 	Nelson	"
8. 	John Kawaken	226 N. Kuakini St
9. 	Jill Dietmyer	226 N. Kuakini St HNL
10. 	Dan Uyeaster	"
11. 	Jerry Ono	22 "
12. 	Deane Amemiya	"
13. 	Miko Iwamoto	"
14. 	Diana Lee	"

Outpatient Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

**Date: March 30, 2014**

**To: Honorable Representative *Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance and Committee Members***

**Hearing:**

**Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2014,**

**Time: 2:00 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: SB2472, SD2,HD2, *Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice***

I am an occupational therapist who is employed at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. I strongly support SB 2472, SD2, HD2 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

At the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in the rehabilitation process of those who suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations and other neurological and/or orthopedic related conditions.

Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will continue to: protect the public's health, safety and welfare. Insurance payers recognize licensed professionals as providing safe and quality care based on patient/client needs and the scope of practice of the profession. Thus, payers reimburse services provided by the licensed individuals. This bill will also further define and clarify the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii. Consumers will be able to receive clinically necessary occupational therapy services from occupational therapists who are educated and trained to provide the prescribed services.

I request that you and your committee support passage of this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapists and the 49<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapy assistants. If you have any additional questions, I may be reached at [vtully@rehabhospital.org](mailto:vtully@rehabhospital.org) or 544-3336. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Virginia Tully, OTR, MBA  
Director, Continuous Improvement and Compliance  
Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific



**REHABILITATION HOSPITAL**  
OF THE PACIFIC

Rebuilding Lives Together

**Date: March 31, 2014**

**To: Honorable Representative, *Angus McKelvey Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce and Committee Members***

**Hearing:**

**Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2014**

**Time: 2:00 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: *SB2472,SD2, HD2 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice***

I strongly support SB2472, SD2, HD2 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. At Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are an integral part in the rehabilitation process.

The occupational therapy practitioners provide services to inpatients and outpatients who suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations and other neurological and/or orthopedic related conditions. They optimize each patient's ability to perform life skills at home, at school, at work and in the community.

Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will protect the consumer's health, safety and welfare. Many insurance payers also recognize licensed individuals and reimburse services provided by these licensed individuals. Medicare and Medicaid recognize the qualified occupational therapy practitioners and reimburse their services. This bill also expands the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

I request you and your committee's support by passing this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapists and the 49<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapy assistants. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Roe, MD

President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 30 2014

To: Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair –House Finance Committee

Hearing: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Rm. 308

RE: SB 2472, SD2, HD2

We are occupational therapists currently employed at Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health. We strongly support SB 2472 SD2 HD1 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR), and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At the behavioral health hospital where we are currently employed, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral role in each patient's recovery. We work with patients (ages 4 through adult) who are struggling to deal with their life circumstances, while managing the symptoms of a mental illness. We teach important life skills and coping skills to support their successful reintegration into the community. It is only through our knowledge and the application of evidenced based OT principles as it relates to psychosocial functioning, that we are able to provide the most effective care and treatment.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon the passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, please contact Lorene Nakagawa at naklt@yahoo.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our testimonies.

Sincerely,

Lorene Nakagawa, OTR  
Rehab Services Manager

Dawn Noguchi-Lui, OTR

Judy Suarez, OTR

Leonora Ching, OTR

Jacque Cadiz, COTA

## finance1

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**From:** Donna Lee <smilingheart@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2014 6:26 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** SB 2472, SD2, HD2

To: Rep. Luke (Chair, Finance Committee), Vice Chairs and Committee members Hearing Date: April 1, 2014, 2:00 p.m., Conference room 308  
Re: House Bill, SB2772, SD2, HD2

Good Morning,

I am an occupational therapist. Your Committee on Finance has received SB2472, SD2, HD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy which would provide licensure of both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. Licensure will not only safe guard the health and safety of our clients/patients, but also keep incompetent practitioners from other states from practicing in Hawaii. Licensure will also ensure insurance coverage for our patients and your constituents from receiving Occupational Therapy services. During the Senate hearings and more recently hearings in the House Health and Consumer Protection committees more than 40 testimonies were provided and were in favor of this measure. In addition, the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii has worked in collaboration with the DCCA and both parties are in agreement with this bill. I hope that you will look favorably upon this bill SB 2472, SD2, HD2. If you have any questions, I can be reached via this email or at 285-5660 (cell). I thank you for your time and look forward to a favorable outcome!

Thank you!  
Sincerely,  
Donna Lee, OTR

House of Finance Committee-Representative Sylvia Luke Chairperson

Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2014 2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

**RE: SB2472, SD2, HD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

My name is Jeannette Ing Uemura, and I am an employed Occupational Therapist in the State of Hawaii. I humbly ask you to support SB2472, SD2, HD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice. The purpose of this bill is to provide licensure of both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. Licensure will not only safe guard the health and safety of our patients and your constituents, but also keep incompetent practitioners from other states from practicing in Hawaii. Licensure will also ensure insurance coverage for our patients and your constituents from receiving Occupational Therapy services. During the Senate hearings and more recently hearings in the House Health and Consumer Protection committees more than 40 testimonies were provided and were in favor of this measure. In addition, the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii has worked in collaboration with the DCCA and both parties are in agreement with this bill. I hope that you will look favorably upon supporting SB 2472,SD 2, HD 2. If you have any questions, I can be reached via this email or at 949-0451.

March 24, 2014

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke - Chair, Finance

RE: SB2472, SD2, HD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2014 – 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

My name is John A. Giuliano, M.D. and I am a board certified Orthopedic Hand and Upper Extremity Surgeon. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients many of which have sustained injuries ranging from hand and wrist fractures, tendon injuries, amputations, joint replacements, nerve injuries and microvascular reconstruction in both children and adults.

The occupational therapists have demonstrated competency by adhering to my rehabilitation protocol in guiding my patients to have the best functional recovery which in turns leads them to returning to their daily activities without significant complications or impairments.

Due to the varying degrees of injury and severity with my patients, I feel that licensure is imperative in ensuring that qualified occupational therapists continue to provide my patients, your family members and your constituents with optimum care. For the sake of my patients and your constituents, I urge you and your committee members to pass this SB2472, SD2, HD2.

Sincerely,

John A. Giuliano, M.D.  
1329 Lusitana Street, Suite 501  
Honolulu, HI. 96813  
(808) 522-9633



**Date: March 31, 2014**

**To: Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, *Chair, Committee on Finance and Committee Members***

**Hearing:**

**Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2014,**

**Time: 2:00 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: *SB2472, SD2, HD2 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice***

We strongly support ***SB2472, SD2, HD2*** to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. At Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

The occupational therapy practitioners provide services to inpatients and outpatients who suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations and other neurological and/or orthopedic related conditions. They optimize each patient's ability to perform life skills at home, at school, at work and in the community.

Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will protect the consumer's health, safety and welfare. Insurance payers also recognize licensed individuals and reimburse services provided by these licensed individuals. Medicare and Medicaid recognize the qualified occupational therapy practitioners and reimburse their services. This bill expands and clarifies the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii. Thus, consumers will be able to receive services that are clinically necessary during their occupational therapy visits and for which occupational therapists are educated and trained

We ask you and your committee's support by passing this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapists and the 49<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapy assistants. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Inpatient Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

Please see page 2.

SB2472, SD2,HD2 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice  
 Committee: House Committee on Finance  
 Hearing date: Tuesday, April 1, 2014  
 Time: 2:00PM  
 Room: Conference Room 308  
 Page 2 of 2

Signature	Print Name	Address
1.	Korane DeRyke	6013 Kawakoa Pl. Honolulu, HI 96825
2.	Denise Morimoto	920 Lawelawe St Honolulu HI 96821
3.	Danae Meier	46-318 Hauku Rd #1 Kaneohe, HI 96744
4.	Nicole Morimoto	94-623 Kaulakapuu Loop Mililani HI 96759
5.	Catharine Julian	1190 Kaeleku St. Honolulu, HI 96825
6.	Scott Yasumoto	7088 Hawaii Kai Pr #71 Honolulu HI 96825
7.	Nathalie Ching	91-134 Puhiaumilo Place Ewa Beach, HI 96706
8.	Wendee Waki	1745 J. Ala Ananua St. Honolulu, HI 96819
9.	Jennifer Frost	PO BOX 362 Kaneohe HI 96744
10.	Kristy Shimabukuro, PT, DPT	2235B Aali St Honolulu HI 96817
11.	Vivien Lenny	3275 Kalua Place Hon. HI 96816
12.	Justin Chun	3050 Wadsey Pl. Hon HI 96822
13.	Dawn Nakamura	47-619 Hui Kela St Kaneohe, HI 96744
14.	Shelby McDonald	1251 Akiakala St. Kailua, HI 96734

Inpatient Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

March 28, 2014

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair - Finance

RE: SB2472, SD2, HD2 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Tuesday, April 1, 2014 – 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

My name is Edna Noda and I have been a consumer of Occupational Therapy services at Straub Clinic and Hospital. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I injured all of my fingers in both hands while trying to prevent an iron gate from falling off its track. Needless to say, I had to undergo surgery by an orthopedic surgeon to place pins in my fingers to repair all of the broken bones. After surgery, my doctor referred me to Straub where the occupational therapist had to design and make two special hand splints to not only protect the pins, but to allow healing of all of the bones. After one month, I was sent back to see my occupational therapist and under her guidance I was taught exercises that would help me regain the motion and strength in my hands. One takes things for granted, but the simplest things like brushing your teeth, washing your hair, cutting with a knife and even driving were challenges that I faced. My occupational therapist encouraged me and provided step-by-step instructions and I have now “graduated” from O.T. Without rehabilitation professionals like the occupational therapists, I would probably have not been able to regain my hand function.

For the sake of consumers like myself, I ask that your committee look favorably upon licensing Occupational Therapists and Assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Edna Noda  
Occupational Therapy Patient  
(808) 342-1726

**finance8-Danyl**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2014 11:04 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** hui-i.chen@hawaiipacifichealth.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2472 on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM

**SB2472**

Submitted on: 3/31/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hui-I Chen	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I am Hui-I Chen and am an occupational therapist. Your Committee on Finance has received SB2472, SD2, HD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy which would provide licensure of both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. Licensure will not only safe guard the health and safety of our clients/patients, but also keep incompetent practitioners from other states from practicing in Hawaii. Licensure will also ensure insurance coverage for our patients and your constituents from receiving Occupational Therapy services. During the Senate hearings and more recently hearings in the House Health and Consumer Protection committees more than 40 testimonies were provided and were in favor of this measure. In addition, the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii has worked in collaboration with the DCCA and both parties are in agreement with this bill. We hope that you will look favorably upon scheduling a hearing within the coming weeks for SB 2472,SD 2, HD 2. If you have any questions, I can be reached via this email or at 522-4477

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)