



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Thursday, February 20, 2014
9:00 a.m.

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL NO. 2472, S.D.1, RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE.

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, 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 provide written comments in support of Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D.1, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D. 1, 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.

The Department worked in collaboration with the proponents of the bill and we have agreed to the attached Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D.1.

We respectfully request your support for this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D.1.

Date: February 18, 2014

**To: Honorable Senator *David Ige*, *Committee on Ways and Means*
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Hearing:

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014,

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

RE: *SB2472,SD1 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice*

We are occupational therapists who are employed at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. We strongly support SB2472, SD1 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 reimburse services provided by licensed individuals. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

We request that you and your committee support passage of this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50th State to license occupational therapists and the 49th State to license occupational therapy assistants. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

SB2472, SD1
 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice
 Senate Ways and Means Committee
 Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014
 Place: Conference Room 211
 Time: 9 AM
 Page 2 of 2

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

Signature	Print Name	Address
1.	Nathalie Chung	91-134 Puhilaumilo Place Ewa Beach, HI 96706
2.	Aili Loke	94-623 Kaulakapu Dr. Miliama HI 96759
3.	Wendee Waki	1745 J. Ala Anuaa St. Honolulu, HI 96819
4.	Danae Meier	46-318 Huikele Rd #1 Kaneohe 96744
5.	Jennifer C. Frost Nakasone	P.O. Box 362 Kaneohe HI 96744
6.	Kisty Shimabukuro, PT, OTR	2235B Aalii St Honolulu HI 96817
7.	Kimberly Nagun	3130 A Magnolia Place Honolulu, HI 96816
8.	Denise Morimoto	920 Laurelawe St Honolulu 96821
9.	Robin Palame	47-429 Hui Kele St Kaneohe, HI 96744
10.	Scott Yasumoto PT, DPT	7088 Hawaii Kai Dr. #71 Honolulu, HI 96815
11.	Jon Fleming	228 N. Kuakini
12.	Dale Natsumoto OTR/L	7088 Hawaii Kai Dr #71 Honolulu, HI 96825
13.	Man Wa Shing OTR/L	3 Ziahi St. Apt. A Honolulu, HI 96817
14.	Whitney-Reigh Asao, OTR	3680 1546 Hoolana St. Pearl City, HI 96782
15.	Dawn Nakamura	47-619 Hui Kele St Kaneohe, HI 96744
16.	Kari Oki	239 Kilea Pl. Wahiawa, HI 96786
17.	Vivien Tang	300 Morserrat Ave. Hon. HI 96815
18.	Nalani Kunishige	2333 Kapulani Blvd #1503 Hon. HI 96826
19.	Kenamari Denton	3134 Morserrat Ave #3 Hon. HI 96815



February 18, 2014

TO: Senator David Ige and Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair & Vice Chair
Ways & Means Committee

RE: SB 2472, SD1 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Decision Making – Thursday, February 20, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 211

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 of our patients/clients needs and develop an appropriate treatment plan; 2) provide interventions that focus on daily living skills, work readiness, play or educational performance skills; 3) and interventions that include sensorimotor, neuromuscular, cognitive or psychosocial components.

Occupational therapists possess either a 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. Lastly, licensure will also ensure insurance payor reimbursement from private insurers such as HMSA. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid recognize the qualifications of the occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in SB 2472, SD1 to provide occupational therapy services to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

We strongly support SB 2472, SD1 that will provide for licensure of both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and would further define the practice of Occupational Therapy. Our association has worked collaboratively with Sandra Matsushima, DCCA Executive Officer for Occupational Therapy on this bill. In addition, there was overwhelming testimony in favor of this bill during the Senate Health and Consumer Protection hearings.

We ask that you and your committee look favorably on passage of SB 2472, SD1. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 522-4602.

Sincerely,

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

Date: February 18, 2014

**To: Honorable Senator *David Ige*, *Committee on Ways and Means*
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Hearing:

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014,

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

RE: *SB2472,SD1 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice*

We are staff who are employed at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific's Outpatient Clinic. We strongly support SB2472, SD1 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 reimburse services provided by licensed individuals. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

We request that you and your committee support passage of this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50th State to license occupational therapists and the 49th State to license occupational therapy assistants. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

SB2472, SD1

Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Senate Ways and Means Committee

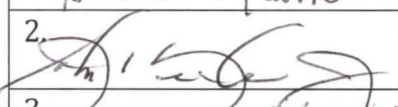
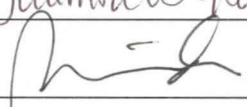
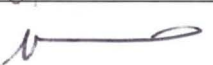

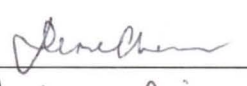

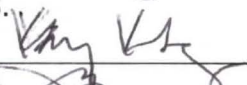

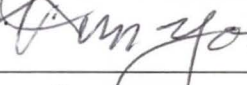
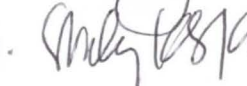
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Page 2 of 2

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

Signature	Print Name	Address
1. Selma 2 Ram	Selma T. Rosa	47-553 Alawki St. Kaneohe, HI 96744
2. 	John Kameakua	2319 Taunala Dr Hon. HI 96813
3. Juanita W Kaauai	Juanita W Kaauai	95-2035 Waihualani Pl MILWAUKEE HI 96789
4. 	Shival Miranda	102 Rosabank Pl 96817
5. Julie Taniguchi	Julie Taniguchi	1817 Aupuni Hon 96817
6. Diana Lee	Diana Lee	6000 N. Kukui St Honolulu HI 96817
7. 	Nelson Oshiro	3582 Kumuoka St Honolulu, HI 96822
8. 	Jill Dietmeyer	PO Box 1647 Pearl City 96782
9. 	Deane Ahnen	95-977 Ukumai St. #3103 Milwaukee HI 96789
10. Monalisa Hc	Monalisa Hc	2266 NORTH KUKIINI ST Honolulu, HI 96817
11. Sharon Masaki	Sharon Masaki	1243 Ala Alii St #125 Hon. HI 96818
12. 	MIEKO IWAMOTO	98-132 Keanea St. Aiea, HI 96701
13. 	Kay Kitazumi	170 Niwaki Circle Hon. HI 96821
14. 	James Low	2439 Makiki Hrs Dr Honolulu HI 96822
15. 	Kim Young	226 N. KUKIINI ST. HON. HI 96817
16. 	Wendy K Kondo	n

Date: February 18, 2014

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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.

A task group of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii (OTAH) worked closely with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), which resulted in SB2472, SD1. OTAH is in agreement with SB2472, SD1.

Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will continue to: protect the public's health, safety and welfare. Insurance payers reimburse services provided by licensed individuals. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

I request that you and your committee support passage of SB2472, SD1, which would make Hawaii the 50th State to license occupational therapists and the 49th State to license occupational therapy assistants. If you have any additional questions, I may be reached at vtully@rehabhospital.org or 544-3336. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Virginia Tully, OTR, MBA,