



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
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www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
8:30 a.m.

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

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, 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, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice.

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

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D. 2

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Page 2

The Department has worked in collaboration with the proponents of the bill and we have agreed to the attached Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D. 2, which defines the occupational therapy practice and provides licensure for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

We respectfully request your support for this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2472, S.D. 2.

March 10, 2014

The Honorable Della Au Belatti
Chair, House Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 331

The Honorable Dee Morikawa
Vice Chair, House Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 310

RE: Senate Bill 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Dear Representative Belatti and Representative Morikawa;

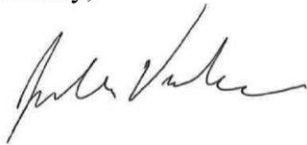
On behalf of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) I am writing in support of SB 2472, to revise the state occupational therapy practice act. The purpose of the bill is to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare; protect the public from incompetent, unethical or unauthorized persons; 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 your support of this important legislation. Please contact me at 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



March 10, 2014

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti – Chair, Committee on Health

RE: SB2472, SD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Conference Room 329 – 8:30 a.m.

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.

House Committee Commerce & Consumer Protection
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – 2:10 p.m.
Conference Room 229
RE: SB 2472, SD1

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 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 also worked in collaboration with Sandra Matsushima, Executive Officer for Occupational Therapy on this bill.

We ask that you and your committee look favorably on passage of SB 2472, SD2. 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

March 10, 2014

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 8:30 a.m. – Conference Room 329

RE: SB2472, SD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are occupational therapy practitioners employed at Straub Clinic & Hospital and we support SB 2472, SD2 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 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 SB 2472, SD2. 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



S.B. 2472, SD2
Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice
House Committee on Health
March 12, 2014; 8:30 a.m.

In support of S.B. 2472, SD2, 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, 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 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.

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

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



Date: 03/10/14

To: Honorable Chair Representative Della Au Bellati of the House Health Committee

Hearing: Wednesday, 03/12/14
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Re: SB2472, SD2
Relating to Occupational Therapy

We are Occupational Therapists employed at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center Outpatient Services. We strongly support SB2472, SD2 to license both Occupational Therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

Hawaii is the only state in the nation that does not license Occupational Therapists. Hawaii is one of three states that do not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At Kaiser Outpatient Rehabilitation Services, the Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants provide vital therapy services to patients who are recovering from traumatic orthopedic injuries, delicate and specific post-operative procedures, brain injuries, strokes, etc. We also provide work simulation services to those workers who were injured on the job and are in need of learning to safely return to their jobs.

We face constant challenges on a daily basis and require providers of Occupational Therapy services to anticipate the probabilities of developing and managing post-op surgical tissue healing, avoiding any development of infection, neurological changes that would indicate that there might be something more occurring in the brain, etc.

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 the 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. The bill will further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

Please support the passage of SB 2472, SD2 which would provide full licensure for both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. If you have any

Kaiser Manunapuna Clinic
2828 Pa'a Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 432-6770

questions, feel free to contact Cathy Collado, OT, at catherine.collado@kp.org. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in favor of SB 2472, SD2.

Sincerely,

Cathy Collado, OT

Kathy Taira, OT

Wendy Aruga-Goto, OT

Kara Crosson, OT

Sarah Yokote, OTA

Jeffrey Chang, OTA



Kuakini Health System

A Health Care Organization

Date: March 11, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: March 12, 2014, 8:30 AM, Room 329

RE: SB2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are Occupational Therapists employed at Kuakini Medical Center. We strongly support SB2472 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 Kuakini Medical Center, Occupational Therapy practitioners play an integral part in helping patients reach their highest level of function and independence through the use of functional tasks and therapeutic exercise.

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) Ensure public access to OT services and benefits as insurers look towards using licensed professionals to provide services. 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 547-9128. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Joan Kawai, OTR, Manager
Rehabilitation Services, Kuakini Medical Center

KUAKINI HEALTH SYSTEM

Myra Nishimoto, OTR
Myra Nishimoto, OTR

Sheila Bosque-Barez, OTR
Sheila Bosque-Barez, OTR

Cindy Odo, COTA
Cindy Odo, COTA

Catherine Sakai, OTR
Catherine Sakai, OTR

Amanda Habermann, OTR/L
Amanda Habermann, OTR

Lisa Mann, COTA
Lisa Mann, COTA



REHAB Hospital of the Pacific

226 N. Kuakini Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 544-3336
Fax: (808) 566-3425

Fax

To: State Capilto **From:** Outpatient Staff at Rehabilitaiton Hospital of the Pacific

Fax: 5586-6281 **Date:** March 11, 2014

Phone: 586-9425- **Pages:** 3

Re: SB2472, SD2 Testimony **CC:**

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

Attached is testimony for
SB2472, SD2 relating to Occupational therapy practice
Committee: Committee on Health
Hearing Date: March 12,2014
Time 8:30 AM
Place: Conference Room 329
Mahalo,
Outpatient Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

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Date: March 11, 2014

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

Hearing:

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014,

Time: 8:30 AM

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

RE: SB2472, SD2, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We strongly support **SB2472, SD2** 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. 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.

We request you and your committee's support by passing 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

Please see page 2.

SB2472, SD2, Relation to Occupational Therapy Practice
 Committee: House Committee on Health
 Hearing date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
 Time: 8:30 AM
 Room: Conference Room 329
 Page 2 of 2

Signature	Print Name	Address
1. Selma T. Raga	Selma T. Raga	47-553 Alani St. Kaneohe, HI 96744
2. Shival Miranda	Shival Miranda	226 N. Kuaiani St. Hon, 96817
3. Jucinda Kacuka	Jucinda Kacuka	95-2085 Waikeolu Rd #2003 Mililani, HI 96769
4. Jerry Orr	Jerry Orr	2353 Anawao St. Pearl City, HI 96782
5. Wendy K.T. Fong	Wendy K.T. Fong	116 N. Kuaiani St. Honolulu, HI 96817
6. Liz Duan	Liz Duan	226 Kuaiani Hon 96817
7. Philinda Gutae	Philinda Gutae	1236 Lola Place Kailua, HI 96734
8. Emily Prendergast	Emily Prendergast	3347 Francis St Honolulu, HI 96806
9. Zena Toyama	Zena Toyama	99-512 Lulu Pl. Aiea, HI 96701
10. Nelson Oshin	Nelson Oshin	3582 Kumukahi St Honolulu HI 96822
11. Jill Detomasi	Jill Detomasi	PO Box 1047 Pearl City, HI 96782
12. Stephane Mairumka	Stephane Mairumka	1040 Lunalilo St #402 Hon HI 96822
13. Doreen Chinen	Doreen Chinen	95-977 Waikeolu St #2103 Mililani HI 96769
14. Diana Lee	Diana Lee	226 N. Kuaiani St Honolulu, HI 96817
15. Julie Taniguchi	Julie Taniguchi	226 N. Kuaiani Hon HI 96817
16. Nancy Harte	Nancy Harte	1040 Lunalilo St Pearl City, HI 96782
17. MIEKO IMOTO	MIEKO IMOTO	98-162 Kamea St Aiea, HI 96701
18. Mong Usui Hce	Mong Usui Hce	PO Box 60105 Kaneohe, HI 96744

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

Date: March 11, 2014

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

Hearing:

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014,

Time: 8:30 AM

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

RE: SB2472, SD2, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

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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.

We request you and your committee's support by passing 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

Please see page 2.

SB2472, SD2, Relation to Occupational Therapy Practice
 Committee: House Consumer on Health
 Hearing date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
 Time: 8:30 AM
 Room: Conference Room 329
 Page 2 of 2

Signature	Print Name	Address
1.	Rachelle Lanni, OT	94-1070 Puuloa St. Waipahu HI 96797
2.	Kalei Iwane	99-15 Kauniloa St Aiea, HI 96701
3.	Michelle Kashinobara	9A-322 Waikeolu St. Mililani Hawaii, HI 96789
4.	Sheryl Paglinawan-Ramon	4104 LIKINI ST. HON. HI 96815
5.	Matthew Potts, CCC SLP	3245A Martha St Honolulu, HI 96815
6.	Jensen Ishida, volunteer	94229 Umuia Pl Waipahu, HI 96797
7.	Kenneth M. M..., PT	94-623 Kakaia Dr Mala, HI 96789
8.	Gwen Iny, OTR	95-1047 McAnis St Mililani, HI 96789
9.	Deborah Swan OTR	95-1027 Ala Oki St Mililani, HI 96789
10.	Eva Sanchez, PT	714 Kikaula Loop HI 96815
11.	DENERATTA, PT	98-440 Kihuna St Aiea HI 96701
12.	Mavis Yokoyama, PT	2145 Auhuhu St. Pearl City HI 96782
13.	Jaymie Nishimura, PT	99-1691 Apala Ln Aiea, HI 96701
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

Gwen Ing

From: Virginia Tully
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 11:15 AM
To: Gwen Ing
Subject: Emailing: SB2472 SD2 3.12.2014 hearing Staff
Attachments: SB2472 SD2 3.12.2014 hearing Staff.docx

Please ask staff support and sign. Fax it in no later than 8:30AM Tuesday, to 808-586-6281
Write Bill, date of meeting and time, meeting room on fax sheet.

Thanks,
virginia

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

SB2472 SD2 3.12.2014 hearing Staff

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Date: March 11, 2014

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

Hearing:

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014,

Time: 8:30 AM

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

RE: SB2472, SD2, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We strongly support **SB2472, SD2** 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. 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.

We request you and your committee's support by passing 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

Please see page 2.

SB2472, SD2, Relation to Occupational Therapy Practice
 Committee: House Committee on Health
 Hearing date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
 Time: 8:30 AM
 Room: Conference Room 329
 Page 2 of 2

Signature	Print Name	Address
1.	Denise Morimoto	920 Leihelani St Hon HI 96821
2.	Nathalie Ching, OT	71-104 Puhioumilo Place Ewa Beach, HI 96706
3.	Scott Yasumoto, PT	7088 Hauwai Kai Dr #71 Honolulu, HI 96825
4.	Wendee Waki, OT	1745 J Ala Aniani St Honolulu, HI 96819
5.	Konene DeRyke, OT	6243 Kawaiaho Pl Honolulu, HI 96825
6.	Robin Pedem, SW	47429 Hanalei St Kaneohe, HI 96744
7.	Catherine Julian	1190 Kaeleka Street Honolulu, HI 96825
8.	Terahyn Gates	99176 Kalaka Street #A Aiea, HI 96701
9.	Shelley Madalid	1207 Ahihaha St Kailua, HI 96734
10.	Emmett Yamamoto	114 Kalia Place Kailua, HI 96734
11.	Man Wa Siang	3 Ilahi Street Apt A Honolulu, HI 96817
12.	Dale Matsumoto	7088 Hauwai Kai Dr #71 Honolulu, HI 96825
13.	Jon Fleming	226 N. Kuakini Street
14.	Keturani Denton	3134 Monsaroc Ave #3 Hon HI 96817
15.	Delanie Takano	45-1104 Maika St Kaneohe, HI 96744
16.	AMY PARUNGAO	475 KINAWAU PL. HONOLULU 96813 #602
17.		
18.		

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific



55 Merchant Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH
Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

Wednesday – March 12, 2014 – 8:30am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson, Executive Director
Philanthropy & Government Relations

Re: **SB 2472 SD2 Testimony in Support**
Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

LATE

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Executive Director of Philanthropy & Government Relations for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 6,300 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff.

Hawai'i Pacific Health supports SB 2472 SD2 which establishes licensing requirements and improves the regulation of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

Occupational therapists play an essential role in providing rehabilitative treatment for patients with permanent disabilities, chronic pain, and terminally ill patients of all ages. Given the impact that occupational therapy has on the quality of life of our patients, we believe licensing is necessary to ensure that workforce standards are established and continuously maintained.

We ask for your help and support in passing SB 2472 SD2 from this committee. Thank you.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

826 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone (808) 523-9043
Fax (808) 526-0673



CHART®

Comprehensive Health &
Active Rehabilitation Training

An Employee Owned Company

LATE

To: Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti (via facsimile #808-586-6281)
RE: Bill No. SB 2472 (March 12, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.)

Dear Representative Belatti:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding SB 2472. My name is Norman T. Kawakami, Executive Vice President, and I am writing on behalf of the 34 employee owners of CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, Inc. in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2472 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, is an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) organization that has been successfully providing physical and occupational therapy services in Hawaii since 1979.

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 CHART Rehabilitation, occupational therapy practitioners have played a vital role in providing much needed physical rehabilitation and other ancillary services to thousands of Hawaii residents with injuries related to work, auto accidents, aging, sports, and overuse.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of professional 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 services in Hawaii. This bill will also help to further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kevin Takaki, or me at 523-9043. Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Norman T. Kawakami
Executive Vice President



Ohana Pacific

MANAGEMENT COMPANY, INC.

LATE

Date: January 27, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Senator Susanne Chun Oakland, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator Brian Taniguchi, and Senator Glenn Wakai.

Hearing: No scheduled hearing date at this time.

RE: SB 2472 & HB 2042

We employ occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants throughout our organization on Oahu and Kauai. Ohana Pacific Management Company owns and operates four skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers servicing almost 400 clients daily. Many of these clients require intensive therapy services to be able to reach their highest functional level and return to their homes or the least restrictive environment. We support HB 2042 and SB 2472 requiring licensure for 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 three remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.


At Ohana Pacific Management Company occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in the care and services of Hawaii residents needing therapy modalities. The goal to allow residents to live their life to the fullest possible potential with the highest attainable functionality is necessary through integrated and intensive therapy services. The licensure requirement provides additional confidence in the therapist abilities and knowledge contributing to the health and well-being of those in our care.

We strongly contend 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, I can be reached at 808-284-6762 or email rkishaba@ohanapacific.com.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,


Richard S. Kishaba, President
Ohana Pacific Management Company
45-181 Waikalua Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Kari 2 <karihashi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 12:14 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329

Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an occupational therapist and I strongly support SB 2472 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. Occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in helping people across the lifespan participate meaningfully in the things they want or need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations).

I 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.

I 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, I can be reached at karihashi@gmail.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Kari Whitaker, OTR
karihashi@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Date: March 10, 2014

To: Honorable Representative *Della Au Belatti*, Chair, Committee on Health and Committee Members

Hearing:

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014,

Time: 8:30 AM

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

RE: SB2472, SD2, *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 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, thus, 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 this bill, 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
Director, Continuous Improvement and Compliance
Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Avis Cutright <fakcutright@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 8:18 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB2472 - Licensure Bill

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329

Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

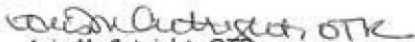
I am an Occupational Therapist and I strongly support SB 2472 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

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. Occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in helping people across the lifespan participate meaningfully in the things they want or need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations).

I 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.

I 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, I can be reached at avis.cutright@gmail.com or (808)358-0114. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,


Avis M. Cutright, OTR

UCPA of Hawaii

Date: March 10, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Health

To: Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Health

RE: SB 2472 sd2 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: March 12, 2014, 8:30 AM , Conference Room #329

We are occupational therapists employed at Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services. We strongly support SB 2472 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

To: Honorable Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair
House Committee on Health

From: Tiffany-Joy H. Kawaguchi, OTD, BSOT

Date: March 10, 2014

Re: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2472, SD 2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

I am an occupational therapist employed at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. I am also an educator in a local occupational therapy assistant program where more than 30 students are trained in the art and science of enabling individuals through every day activities known as “occupation.” I strongly support SB-2472, SD2 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

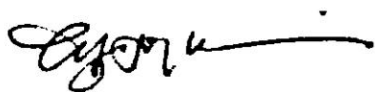
Occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in the process of rehabilitation and habilitation. Occupational therapists are skilled at facilitating pro-social behaviors in consumers who have mental illness, teaching adults who have experienced neurological diseases and disorders to perform everyday activities such as eating, dressing, and bathing, engaging children to thrive in occupations of childhood such as playing with peers and learning in inclusive classroom settings, evaluating persons who have various impairments for eligibility with adapted public transportation services, and stimulating aged adults with or without cognitive and memory impairments in culturally-sensitive, orienting activities.

During the Senate hearings more than 40 testimonies were provided and were in favor of this measure. The Senate Committees on Commerce & Consumer Protection, Health, and Ways and Means overwhelming voted for passage of this measure. In addition, the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii has worked in collaboration with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and both parties are in agreement of the current version of the bill.

I 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.

I 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, I can be reached at tkawagu@hawaii.edu or (808) 734-9229. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Tiffany-Joy H. Kawaguchi, OTD, BSOT

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Donna Lee <smilingheart@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 9:28 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: SB2472 SD2 Occupational Therapy Bill

Dear Rep. Della Au Belatti (Chair)

I am an occupational therapist in favor of this bill that would ensure licensure of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants. 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 public access and insurance coverage for our clients as Medicare, Medicaid and other insurers such as HMSA look towards 'licensed' professionals and Occupational Therapy as licensed services. Also this bill would move into a proactive mode to the public's health and safety versus reactive mode should a detrimental event occur.

During the Senate hearings more than 40 testimonies were provided and were in favor of this measure. The Senate Committees on Commerce & Consumer Protection, Health and WAM overwhelming voted for passage of this measure. In addition, the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii has worked in collaboration with the DCCA and both parties are in agreement of the current version of the bill. We hope that you will look favorably upon SB 2472,SD 2. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 433-0613.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Donna Lee, OTR

Dept. Of Veterans' Affairs

morikawa2-Joanna

From: Sheryl Nakanishi <kandsnakanishi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 8:33 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: DB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: [Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am](#), conference room #329

Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an occupational therapist and I strongly support SB 2472 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. Occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in helping people across the lifespan participate meaningfully in the things they want or need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations).

I 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.

I 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, I can be reached at kandsnakanishi@gmail.com or 808-389-5842. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Sheryl Nakanishi, OTR
Manager, Pali Momi Rehabilitation Services

Date: March 10, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329

Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

My name is Dr. Melvin Yee. I am a Neurologist practicing in Hawaii. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients many of which have sustained serious neurologic impairments from diseases such as Stroke, Parkinson's, Alzheimers, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophies and a host of other conditions which affect the brain, muscles and nerves. Occupational Therapists help my patients once again become functional members of the community.

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. I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Melvin Yee, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Chief, Division of Neurology
John A. Burns School of Medicine
523-5885

March 10, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti – Chair, Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2014, Room 329 – 8:30 a.m.

Re: SB2472, SD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an occupational therapist employed at Kaiser Permanente in Wailuku, Hawaii. I strongly support SB 2472, SD2 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. 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

January 28, 2014

Dear Respected Members of Government,

My name is Kimberley Wirsing and I am a board certified orthopaedic surgeon with a fellowship specialization in hand surgery. The occupational therapist plays an integral and equal role in the care and rehabilitation of the majority of my patients. Together we treat such injuries as fractures of the hand and wrist, tendon injuries, amputations, and nerve injuries.

The occupational therapists that I have been fortunate enough to work with here in Hawai'i demonstrate competency daily by adhering to rehabilitation protocols and guiding my patients to their best functional outcome. This allows patients to return to their daily activities in an efficient and wise manner. An additional benefit of the therapist/patient interaction is that by actively participating in their own recovery patients are empowered and feel like they are taking ownership of their own health and recovery.

Due to the complexity of my patients with upper extremity injuries and the important constant role the therapists play in their care I feel that licensure is imperative in ensuring that qualified occupational therapists can continue to serve in this role. For the sake of my patients many of whom are not only your constituents but may be family members and friends, I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Kimberley Wirsing

80 Mahalani Street

Wailuku, HI 96793

Page: 2/2

From: 8032436356

JRN-31-2014 17:38

MAR-11-2014 06:54AM FAX:808 522 4274

ID: MORIKAWA, DEE

PAGE: 003 R=95%

March 11, 2014

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti - Chair, Health

RE: SB2472, SD2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

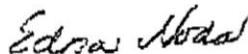
Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 – Room 329 – 8:30 a.m.

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

March 11, 2014

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti - Chair, Health

RE: SB2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 - Room 329 - 8:30 a.m.

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 SB 2472.

Sincerely,



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

Date: March 11, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329


Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

My name is Sharon Lieberman and I was a patient at Occupational Therapy services at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I fractured my wrist in a fall and was initially seen and treated by an orthopedic surgeon. He placed me in a cast for a period of time and after removing the cast he referred me for occupational therapy. The occupational therapists custom fabricated the splint the surgeon requested to continue to protect the wrist from further injury during the remainder of the healing process. The therapists I worked with at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation worked with me and trained me on exercises I could do on my own at home as part of the treatment plan to ensure that I attained the strength in my wrist and range of motion in my wrist that I had before the injury. It took a period of time working with the therapists to achieve our goals, but their professionalism and desire to see me recover enabled me to do so in a very efficient and effective manner.

I ask your committee look favorably upon licensing Occupational Therapists and Assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Sharon Lieberman
808-781-6211

Date: March 11, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329

Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

My name is Walter Lieberman and I have been a patient at Occupational Therapy services at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I had to undergo surgery by an orthopedic surgeon. After my surgery, my hand was very stiff and my range of motion very limited. My surgeon referred me for occupational therapy services. The occupational therapists I worked with at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services were very professional and extremely knowledgeable in working with me to improve my condition, so the I could begin the required exercises and treatments to enable me to regain the range of motion that was lost and the strength to do my required daily activities. It is amazing how we all take the simple things in life for granted until we you are no longer to complete these simple tasks on our own any longer. With the professional treatment that I received by these occupational therapists, I was quickly able to regain the ability to once again complete these daily living tasks on my own.

I strongly urge your committee look favorably upon licensing Occupational Therapists and Assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Walter Lieberman

808-781-6210

Date: March 11, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329

Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

My name is Dr. Gary Blum. 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. I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Gary Blum, M.D.
Orthopedic Associates
1401 Beretania Street, Suite #750
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
524-2663

Date: March 11, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329

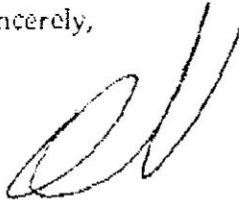
Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

My name is Dr. Daniel Singer. 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. I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Daniel Singer, M.D.
Orthopedic Associates
1401 Beretania Street, Suite #750
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
521-8109

Date: March 11, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329

Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

My name is Dr. Robert Atkinson. 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. I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Robert Atkinson, M.D.
Orthopedic Associates
1401 Beretania Street, Suite #750
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
521-8128

1 | Page

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Testimony for SB2472, SD2, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Date: 3/11/14

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Hearing: *Wednesday, March 12, 2014 8:30 am*
Conference Room 329 State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

I am an Occupational Therapist employed with Physical Therapy Services, LLC. Our company provides Physical, Occupational, and Speech and Language Therapies at Arcadia Retirement Residence and 15 Craigside for their ICF and SNF units. I strongly support SB2472, SD2, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As part of the Rehabilitation Team for Physical Therapy Services, LLC, Occupational Therapists play an integral part in returning the patient to their prior level of function after an illness/injury/and or a catastrophic medical incident such as stroke; in the areas of self-care (bathing, dressing self, toileting, self-feeding) and home management tasks (cooking/kitchen activities, laundry, etc.). I do home assessments and make recommendations for adaptive devices/aides/tools to increase the patient's independence and safety to return back to his/her own home upon discharge. We work with patients to improve their arm and hand function. We work with physical therapy to improve the patient's ability to transfer oneself from one surface to another, but applying it to transferring to the toilet, or tub/shower stall. We also work closely with Speech Therapist when the goal is for the person to feed him or herself. We communicate and work with the nursing staff about the patient's bowel/bladder program and self-management in regards to their medications. At the SNF, Occupational Therapists are key players in the interdisciplinary approach for the success of the patients' rehabilitation program. We are a vital part of the team and we provide specialized and highly skilled services to improve the patient's function and skill level sooner by working with the patient based on our scope of practice that is different than Physical Therapy and or Speech-Language Therapy.

I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare since we work in critical care areas and medical facilities; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and/or 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

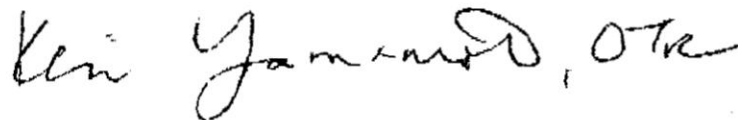
2 | Page

the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I 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. Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will protect the consumer's health, safety and welfare.

I request that you and your committee pass 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. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at 808 389 9638 or email at hawaiihello@work@gmail.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keri Yamamoto, OTR". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keri Yamamoto, OTR

LETTER OF TESTIMONY

Date: March 11, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 8:30 am, conference room #329

Re: SB 2472, SD2 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

My name is *Francine Champoux* and I have been a consumer of Occupational Therapy services at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I was very fortunate to have a competent and caring occupational therapist that worked with me to regain use of my hand for my injury. Therefore, I kindly ask that you look favorably on this bill that would allow full licensure for Occupational Therapists in Hawaii. These services are invaluable.

Injury/condition sustained: fracture & tendon injury

Course of therapy: improve range of motion & hand function

Services I received: (brace, home program, formal therapy) brace, home exercise program, formal therapy.

What I couldn't do: could not bend finger; could not grab; could not carry; or type!

What I can do now: much improved flexibility; decreased pain; still current patient with goal of improving hand function to use hand normally

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,

*Francine Champoux*Patient Name *FRANCINE CHAMPOUX*Telephone Number *941-8311 (Home & message phone)*

LATE

Date: March 11, 2014

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti- Chair of Committee on Health

RE: SB2472SD2-Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: March 12, 2014, 8:30 am, Room 329

My name is Dr. Peter Lum and I am a Board Certified Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialist. Occupational therapists play an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients, most of whom have sustained injuries while working. They have demonstrated competency by adhering to my rehabilitation protocols in guiding my patients to have the best functional recovery which in turn leads them to returning to their daily activities with the least amount of 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 bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Lum
432-3100

To: **Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health**
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, Committee on Health



From: Jennifer Zaryske, OTA student

Date: March 12, 2014

Re: Testimony in support of SB 2472, SD2 relating to licensing of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants

I am currently a student at Kapi'olani Community College, Occupational Therapy Assistant program. I am training to someday be a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant in the state of Hawaii. I chose this profession for my associate's degree because I feel that working with those who are disabled and making a difference in their quality of life is the most rewarding way for me to give back to the community.

Currently Hawaii is one of only 3 states that do not license its Occupational Therapists (OTR) or its Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA). Licensing in any health care profession is an opportunity for government oversight in 1) protecting the public's health, safety and welfare 2) providing the highest quality of occupational therapy to patients 3) insuring the highest standards of professional conduct from occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants 4) protecting patients seeking occupational therapy from persons not qualified in performing these services.

I strongly support passing SB 2472,SD2 in favor of full licensure of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. I am writing you today to ask you for your support in passing such an important bill. Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated

Sincerely,

Jennifer Zaryske



To: Rep. Della Au Bellati - Chair, House Committee on Health

Hearing: Wed. Mar. 12, 2014 - 8:30 a.m. - Conference Room 329

From: Jennifer Renasia

Date: March 11, 2014

Re: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2472, SD-2 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

I am a student from the Kapiolani Community College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. As a future occupational therapy assistant (OTA), I am training in the art and science of enabling individuals through every day activities known as “occupation.”

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 (OTA).

"During the Senate hearings more than 40 testimonies were provided and were in favor of this measure. The Senate Committees on Commerce & Consumer Protection, Health and WAM overwhelming voted for passage of this measure. In addition, the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii has worked in collaboration with the DCCA and both parties are in agreement of the current version of the bill."

I would like to reiterate that students of the KCC OTA program play an important role in providing quality healthcare services as future OTA's. Students receive training at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific as well as in other traditional and non-traditional health care settings. Occupational therapy practitioners, both therapists (OTR) and assistants (OTA) work together and play an integral part in the process of rehabilitation and habilitation. Occupational therapists are skilled at facilitating pro-social behaviors in consumers who have mental illness, teaching adults who have experienced neurological diseases and disorders to perform everyday activities such as eating, dressing, and bathing, engaging children to thrive in occupations of childhood such as playing with peers and learning in inclusive classroom settings, evaluating persons who have various impairments for eligibility with adapted public transportation services, and stimulating aged adults with or without cognitive and memory impairments in culturally-sensitive, orienting activities.

The experience of disability is a concern for Hawaii. According to a 2011 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation, an estimated 10.2% of Hawaii's population experiences some type of disability. Disability not only impacts the individual that presents with some type of physical, sensory, cognitive, and/or psychosocial impairment but also impacts members of our community who directly or indirectly provide and/or fund care-related services. It is in our best community interest to equip and empower persons with disabilities to live with independence, self-respect, and meaning.

One way in which the quality of life for a person with disability can be enhanced is through occupational therapy. Occupational therapy practitioners are health care professionals who are trained to enable individuals with various disabilities across the age span by creating opportunities to meaningfully engage in roles and activities to “live life to the fullest.”

Testimony in Support of SB 2472, SD-2
March 11, 2014
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I 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.

I strongly support SB-2472, SD-2 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. I 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. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Renasia

KCC OTA program student

LATE**SB2472**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Clivio	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association supports SB 2472 in the interest of providing the highest level of public protection.

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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