



S.B. 2472

Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Senate Committee on Health

Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

February 7, 2014; 9:00 a.m.

In support of S.B. 2472, 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, 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 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

February 5, 2014

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Senate Bill 2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Dear Senator Baker;

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 consider and pass 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 introducing and supporting 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

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room # 229

You're sitting in front of me because of numerous reasons. You're in the seat because maybe you were voted in to represent a community that believes in you to lead and make changes to help a whole. You're probably sitting in front of me because you have a passion and motivation to help a body of people and you represent that voice.

But let us imagine that an impairment has struck and physically or mentally, you are unable to sit here and listen. Internally, you still have motivation. But due to a cognitive impairment, you can't even recall on having that passion. If you were in this position, who can help you? Who adheres to your motivation and your needs? Who takes into consideration you as a whole? Not merely one impairment relative to one body system but YOU as a whole? *The practitioners working in occupational therapy do.*

I am a student at Kapi'olani Community College (KCC) in the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program and I am engaging into a career that help individuals with disabilities improve their quality of life. As a student at KCC's OTA program, I'm learning about the field that I aspire to work in one day and learning about educating how to adapt to new experiences that may be perceived as challenging, discovering and engaging in meaningful activity, rehabilitation and habilitation, and formulating client-centered intervention in hopes to helping our client return to occupation and immerse themselves in the community.

As you may know, Hawaii is the ONLY state in America that isn't licensed and I ask if you hear our voices out and change that. Licensure will ultimately lead to a high level of competency and validates our services at a higher quality. As the AOTA moves forward with the centennial vision 2017 of strengthening our capacity to influence and lead, linking research, education, and practice, and articulate our value, I ask that you help Hawaii move forward as well. I advocate for my profession to move forward and become licensed.

I hope that you hear our testimonies as we educate you on our profession and the importance of licensure for working occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. As individuals living within our community in Hawai'i, let us work with each other side by side to improve the quality of life for all. Let licensure for occupational therapy practitioners pass. Thank you!

Thank you for your time,

Kevin Quitoriano
KCC OTA Student

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: cyclivio@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2472 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:59:43 PM

SB2472

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Clivio	Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association supports licensure for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants as being in the best interest 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker - Chair
Honorable Senator Josh Green - Chair

Hearing: *February 7, 2014 9:00 am ; room #229*

RE: *Bill # SB2472*

We are occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, clerks and volunteers, employed at *REHAB at Aiea, a satellite clinic of the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific*. We strongly support Bill # 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 *REHAB at Aiea*, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in assisting our patients to regain hand function and independence with self care, activities of daily living, community activities and work activities. Our occupational therapy services assist patients with safely following post hand surgery protocols. We fabricate hand splints to support fragile joints, protect healing fractures, and rest spastic or weak hand, wrist and elbow muscles. We educate our patients in body mechanics and adaptive aids which allow them to be safe, independent, and prevent injury.

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 486-8000. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Gwen Ing, OTR, REHAB at Aiea Clinic Manager

Deborah Suan, OTR

Rachelle Lam, OTR

Jaymie Nishimura, DPT

Ken Mormimoto, DPT

Mavis Yokoyama, PT

Derek Atta, DPT

Matthew Potts, CCC-SLP

Sheryll Paglinawan Ramones, Clerk

Michelle Kashiwabara, Clerk

Kalei Doane, Clerk

Lori Ann Raguindin, Clerk

Francis Chee, PT

Jensen Ishida, Volunteer

REHAB at Aiea

Pearlridge Center Phase II Suite 425

98-1005 Moanalua Road

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, chair – Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Brian I. Taniguchi, Vice Chair - Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing: February 07, 2014, 9:00 am, conference room 229
RE: SB-2472

We are occupational therapists employed at a behavioral health hospital. I strongly support SB 2472 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

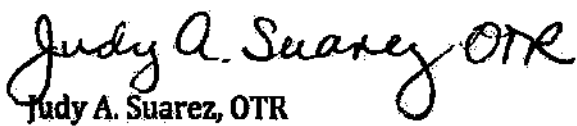
As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

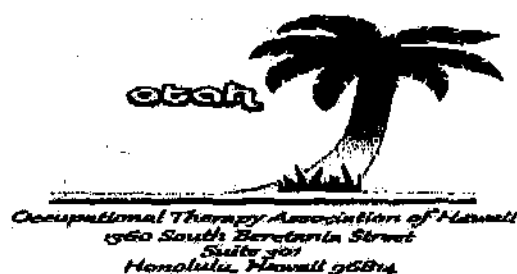
At this behavioral health hospital where I am employed, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in each patient's recovery. We teach daily living and coping skills to help patients manage the symptoms of their mental illness within their circumstances and environment, and help them to successfully reintegrate back into the community.

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, we can be reached at suarez808@cs.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,


Judy A. Suarez, OTR



February 5, 2014

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair Health Committee
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee

RE: SB 2472 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014
Conference Room 229 – 9:00 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 provide, but are not limited to: 1) assessment and evaluation of our patients/clients needs and development of an appropriate treatment plan; 2) interventions focused on daily living skills, work readiness, play or educational performance skills; 3) and interventions that include sensorimotor, neuromuscular, cognitive or psychosocial components.

Senate Committees on Health and Commerce & Consumer Protection
Friday, February 7, 2014 - 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229
RE: SB 2472

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

Occupational therapists (OTR) are currently regulated by Chapter 457G - registration, however, licensure would ensure the highest degree of government regulation that would safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare. Hawaii is the last state to gain licensure regulation for occupational therapists and the last of three states for occupational therapy assistants. Licensure will also protect your constituents from incompetent persons and persons who are not qualified to perform occupational therapy services and require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of the occupational therapy practitioners. 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 as proposed in SB 2472 to provide occupational therapy services to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

We strongly support the intent of SB 2472 that will provide for licensure of both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and would further define the practice of Occupational Therapy. We are aware that DCCA has proposed amendments to SB 2472 that would further clarify the initiation of the licensure program. We have worked in collaboration with Sandra Matsushima, Executive Officer for Occupational Therapy and OTAH is in agreement with the amendments.

We ask that you and your committee look favorably on passage of SB 2472 with the given amendments proposed by DCCA. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 522-4602.

Sincerely,

Avis Sakata, OTR

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

From: [CPN Testimony](#)
To: [green2 - Chelsea](#)
Subject: FW: SB-2472/HB-2042
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:00:40 AM

From: Briana Dacoscos [mailto:briana4@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 6:47 AM
To: HTHTestimony; CPN Testimony
Subject: SB-2472/HB-2042

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Representative Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection

From: Briana Dacoscos, KCC OTA student
Date: February 6, 2014
RE: Testimony in support of H.B 2042– Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am a student of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Kap'iolani Community College. I strongly support H.B 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawai'i because I believe every person with or without a disability is entitled to living up to their full potential.

As a student I've done a couple volunteering in the rehabilitation departments at Kap'iolani hospital for women and children, Palolo Chinese Home, and CHART rehab. I believe that helping patients with various physical, sensory, cognitive and/or psychosocial impairments is definitely an aspect where occupational therapy is necessary. In comparison to opportunities to practice occupational therapy in Hawaii compared to the mainland, where I did a year of exchange at the University of Washington (Seattle), there is a wider range of options.

As you probably are 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.

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. I can be reached at briana4@hawaii.edu or (808) 230-7762.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Briana Dacoscos
OTA Student at Kap'iolani Community College

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate House Committee on Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Harrison Doi, OTA Student

Date: February 5, 2014

Re: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2472- Occupational Therapy Practice**

I am an Occupational therapy assistant student studying here in the state of Hawaii, and I am here to support OT Licensure. I believe due to the increasing age of our current population, and the fact that our practice is now being recognized as a primary care resource in the new health care act. I personally feel that obtaining OT Licensure in the state of Hawaii will only benefit our field as a whole and will evoke a higher standard of practice from our current practitioners. Hawaii is currently the only state in the nation not providing licensure for OT practice and I believe with OT licensure will come the benefits of regulation on a health care field that in the following years will be pushed to their limits by an ever growing aging population that demands our services. I believe to provide licensure, is detour shortcoming of our health care field, which is ever so vital to the health and wellbeing of our growing population. As an Occupational therapy assistant student studying here in the state of Hawaii, I proudly support OT licensure.

I humbly thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Harrison Doi, OTA Student

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Joshua Green-Chair of the Senate Health Committee

Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker-Vice Chair of the Health Committee

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room # 229

I am currently a student in the Occupational Therapy Program at Kapiolani Community College and have done several clinical works at various facilities. I have been privileged to observe and participate in OT settings such as Rehabilitation, Mental Health, Adult day health/care and I have also witness firsts hand the importance of a skilled and competent Occupational Therapist.

These individuals are responsible for ensuring the quality of life and allowing the chance for independence for those who suffer from illnesses such as but not limited to degenerative disease, mental health disorders, and physical dysfunction brought on by old age.

The life we are given is not preserved in any way and we are all bound to deteriorate at some point, wouldn't you want a experienced and licensed therapist to care for you when you get there This licensure will enable the current OT practitioners in the state of Hawaii to continue competent treatments to its patient and safeguarded the public against harm. While most individuals progress and show improvement with skilled and unskilled therapy services there are those whom need a maintenance program instead. Passing this bill will allow the therapist to render such treatment under the newly revised Medicare guidelines.

I encourage you and your committee to look favorably upon passage of bill numbers SB-2472. This would offer full licensure for Occupational Therapy practitioners across the board in the state of Hawaii. Thank you for allowing me this time to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Byron K. Kerston (OTS)



Date: 02/05/14

To: Honorable Chair Senator Josh Green of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Honorable Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Hearing: Friday, 02/07/14
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Re: Senate Bill 2472
Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are Occupational Therapists employed at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center Outpatient Services. We strongly support of SB2472 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 which would provide full licensure for both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. If you have any 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.

Sincerely,


Cathy Collado, OTR


Kathy Teira, OTR


Sarah Yokota, OTA


Jeremy Chang, OTA

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co- Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair
Senate Committee on Health

From: Cheryll S. Macaraeg, OTA student

Date: January 30, 2014

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00 AM, Conference Room #229

Imagine you have a disability whether it is a stroke or cognitive impairment. Would you want to play with your kids, grandkids, or participate in family functions? Still drive a vehicle? Do you want to live your life to the fullest and independently? How would you do that despite your health condition? Young or old, we all have a job to do- the job of living. Learning, growing, playing, working, managing our homes and caring for our families are among the “occupations” of life. When we struggle with the above mentioned, it is devastating. Occupational therapy will help you bring back those valued occupations.

I am a second year Occupational therapy assistant student at Kapi’olani Community College. I strongly support Bill # SB 2472 to license both Occupational Therapist (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. I am writing to you as a future OT practitioner, today I ask you to consider licensing both OT’s and OTA’s in Hawaii.

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

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 interest to equip and empower persons with disabilities to live with independence, self-respect, and meaning.

Occupational Therapy is a holistic, dynamic, and evolving profession, characteristic of the diversity of individuals that we serve in order to meet everyday needs of our clients in our ever-changing world in which we all live in. Occupational therapy teaches people how to live their life to the fullest, by helping people functionally engage in their everyday roles. Its helping others find what is meaningful to them, what really drives their lives, and to overcome their challenges; using the most useful and creative therapy. OT is a caring profession. What we really do is help patients who have lost or some of their disability to perform everyday tasks to do those same activities- just in a different way. How can you live

Testimony in Support of SB2472

January 30, 2014

Page 2 of 2

your life to the fullest if the OT practitioner you are working with is incompetent, unqualified, and giving poor quality of care? Your health may be at stake.

As a OTA student and future practitioner, I strongly feel that licensure will help: 1.) demonstrate the level of competency, 2.) Safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare, 3.) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services, 4.) require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, and 5.) Provide the highest quality of occupational 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. Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at csajo@hawaii.edu

Sincerely,

Cheryll S. Macaraeg, OTA student

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room # 229

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 *FRANLINE CHAMPOUX*

Telephone Number *941-8311 (Home & message phone)*

Date: 2/5/14

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair Committee on Health

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00a.m., conference room #229

RE: SB2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy

I am an occupational therapist and I 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.

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 christygrayot@gmail.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Christy L. Gray, OTR

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Joshua Green-Chair of the Senate Health Committee

Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker-Vice Chair of the Health Committee

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

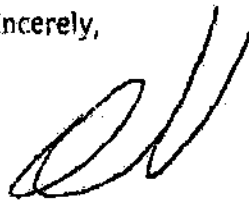
Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:30AM, Conference Room # 229

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 dally 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: February 5, 2014

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

Hearing: February 07, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Rm. 229

RE: SB 2472

I am an occupational therapist employed at a behavioral health facility. 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.

At the behavioral health facility where I am currently employed, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral role in each patient's recovery. We teach daily living, communication, and coping skills, and provide opportunities to practice functional life skills for patients with mental illness. We help them to successfully reintegrate back into the community.

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

Sincerely,

Dawn Noguchi-Lui, OTR

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jennifer Zaryske, OTA student

Date: January 27, 2014

Re: Testimony in support of SB 2472 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 2473 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: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate House Committee on Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Derick Fajardo, OTA Student

Date: February 5, 2014

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

I'm currently a 2nd year student in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Kapiolani Community College due to graduate in May of 2014. Prior to joining the OTA program, I originally planned to major in nursing but I decided to sign up for OTA at the last minute. After submitting my application, I was waitlisted. If I didn't get accepted, I signed up for Medical Assisting as my plan B. I got a regret letter but I received a voicemail stating that there were 2 vacant spots due to sudden departures and I changed majors. I've spent the last 2 years taking rigorous courses, gaining hands on experience at clinical sites each semester, and being exposed to the concept of occupational therapy. As a possible occupational therapy practitioner in the near future, take bill H.B. 2042 into consideration as Hawaii is the only state to not have licensure and one of three to not license OTA's.

OT is an upcoming yet underrated occupation based profession that is often overshadowed by its similar counterpart, physical therapy. Aside from exercising, what sets us apart from PT is our holistic, client-centered approach. Instead of focusing on strengthening a specific part of the body, this profession approaches patients by looking at the patient as a whole. OT focuses on patient's needs after an injury, illness, or disability and to have them participate in meaningful roles and activities. With the motto "live life to its fullest", it's important for patients to have an outstanding quality of life and to receive the highest quality of care in order to restore and resume independence in daily living. We don't have a specific target audience as our profession has services available for patients throughout the lifespan, from infancy to elderly. OT practitioners can be seen in the DOE working with children to develop socialization skills with classmates, teaching a group of mentally ill individuals to navigate the internet, leading an exercise program for the elderly in a daycare setting, teaching patients how to operate adaptive equipment such as a dressing stick, and instructing patients to perform feeding, grooming, and dressing in a rehab setting.

What also makes this profession unique is its broad perspective, meaning that OT practitioners are exposed to specialty areas depending on demographics and facility. For example, if an OT

practitioner enjoys working with kids, he/she may end up in the DOE or in a pediatric setting such as Variety School or Shriner's Hospital. If their interested in mental health and prefers working with the mentally ill, they can work in Hawaii State Hospital or Mental Health Kokua. If elderly is an appropriate target audience, OT practitioners could become activity coordinators in a daycare setting such as Salvation Army or perform rehabilitative services in Palolo Chinese Home or VA. The OT profession changes continuously and it's important for practitioners to remain up to date by taking continuing education units within a 3 year span in order remain certified. Taking online or lecture courses, attending conferences, or becoming a supervisor for OTA students are examples of obtaining CEU's.

As OTA students, we are sent to traditional or non-traditional settings every semester on Friday's to expose ourselves to different specialty areas as well as thinking ahead and having a "what if" moment. I personally see myself in long term care rehab, activities, and in a mental health facility due to my clinical experience and volunteering at Palolo Chinese Home. 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 provide a detailed explanation 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 questions, contact me at dfajardo@hawaii.edu. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Derick Fajardo, OTA Student

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



Comprehensive Health &
Active Rehabilitation Training

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February 6, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green- Chair, Committee on Health
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker- Vice Chair, Committee on Health and
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi- Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Room 229

RE: Senate Bill 2472

I am an Occupational Therapist employed at CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 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 CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in rehabilitating patients with acute, sub-acute and chronic injuries. We work with many injured workers and help them return to their jobs with work simulation programs. We also perform functional capacity evaluations, job site visits and ergonomic evaluations.

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 chart1979@hawaii.rr.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ann Mari Konishi, OTR
CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii

From: [Donna Lee](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Support of SB2472
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:08:07 PM

Date: February 5, 2014

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair Committee on Health

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room 229

Re: SB 2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an occupational therapist employed at the Department of Veterans Affairs (Pacific Island Healthcare Systems). 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.

At the VA occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in providing services to our veterans at both inpatient and outpatient services physical disabilities and mental health areas.

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 donna.lee@va.gov or work at 433-0613. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony!

Sincerely,

Donna Lee, OTR, BCMH, CAPS
AOTA Board Certification in Mental Health
VA-PIHCS
459 Patterson Rd – 116
Honolulu, HI 96819

Date: February 5, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green
Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker
Co-Chair Committee on Health

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014 at 9 AM

RE: SB 2472

I am an Occupational Therapist employed at Hale Ola Kino, the Health Care Center at One Kalakaua Senior Living. I strongly support SB 2472 to license both Occupational Therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At Hale Ola Kino, the Health Care Center at One Kalakaua Senior Living, Occupational Therapy practitioners play an integral part in the rehabilitation of seniors with orthopedic and neurologic disorders such as hip fractures and strokes, amongst many other diagnoses.

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 for people of all ages. In addition, 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 808.983.4449. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Frances Nishioka, OTR

Genesis Rehab Services
Hale Ola Kino
1617 Kalakaua Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96826

Date: February 5, 2014

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-Chair Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

RE: SB 2472

I am an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) who has practiced Occupational Therapy and I am an educator. 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.

As an Occupational Therapy Assistant, I understand that Occupational Therapy practitioners play an integral part in assessing children and adults with physical or mental health disabilities and in developing client centered interventions to maximize the individual's potential to function independently. The impact that Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants have on positive health outcomes for our community is deserving of support for SB 2472.

As an educator, I see enthusiastic students who are drawn to the dynamic profession of Occupational Therapy. They strive to learn and develop their skills in order to help others. When students are trained, certified and licensed in our state, they will become the practitioners for the 21st century, helping to fill Hawaii's need for caring, competent healthcare workers.

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, we can be reached at 737-0905. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Carol Paul-Watanabe, COTA, MPH

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room # 229

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

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



Comprehensive Health &
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February 6, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green- Chair, Committee on Health
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker- Vice Chair, Committee on Health and
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi- Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Room 229

RE: Senate Bill 2472

I am an Occupational Therapist employed at CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 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 CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in rehabilitating patients with acute, sub-acute and chronic injuries. We work with many injured workers and help them return to their jobs with work simulation programs. We also perform functional capacity evaluations, job site visits and ergonomic evaluations.

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 chart1979@hawaii.rr.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

James Nakada, COTA
CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00 AM, Conference Room #229

From: Jennifer Davis, OTAS

Date: January 5, 2014

I am a current student of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Kapiolani Community College located in Honolulu, Hawaii. I strongly support SB2472 to license both Occupational Therapist (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. I support licensure of occupational therapy practitioners because it provides guidelines and standards that protect consumers and improve the profession as a whole.

Occupational therapy is a science-driven, evidence-based profession that enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health and prevent—or live better with—illness, injury or disability. Occupational therapy practitioners play a vital role as health care professionals to assist these individuals in developing and/or regaining skills important for independent functioning, health and well-being. They assist patients and their families in efforts to adapt to disruptions in lifestyle.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicted an increase in demand for occupational therapists of 29% from 2012 to 2022. Increasingly, OTs are developing new practice areas including school violence reduction, driver rehabilitation, ergonomics consulting, wellness, aging in place, and welfare to work programs.

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

As a future occupational therapy practitioner, 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) 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 jdavis4@hawaii.edu or (808)312-1995. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Davis, OTAS

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 Hawaii 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



Date: February 5, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair, Committee on Health

Hearing: Feb 7, 2014, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 229

RE: SB2472 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) 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 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-Bañez, OTR
Sheila Bosque-Bañez, OTR

Cindy Ode, COTA
Cindy Ode, COTA

Catherine Sakai, OTR
Catherine Sakai, OTR

Amanda Habermann, OTR
Amanda Habermann, OTR

Lisa Mann, COTA
Lisa Mann, COTA

Date: February 6, 2014

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker-Chair of Committee on Health

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00 am, Conference Room 229

RE: SB 2472 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an occupational therapist currently a stay-at-home mom. 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.

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. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Hazama, OTR
808-782-2445

February 5, 2014

TO: Senator Josh Green – Chair, Health and Senator Rosalyn Baker – Chair,
Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: SB 2472 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

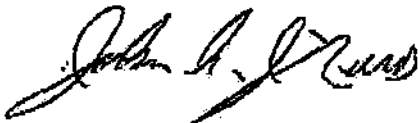
Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014 – 9:00 a.m., Room 229

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

Committee on Health

Testimony for Senate Bill SB 2472

Date: 2/5/14

To: Honorable Senator, Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, February 07, 2014 9:00AM
Conference Room 229 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 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.

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 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 808 389 9638 or email at hawaiihellerwork@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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: jonikamiya@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2472 on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:56:19 PM

SB2472

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Feb 7, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We are the last state in Hawaii to get OTs full licensure. Please support this measure so that our profession can be protected for the future as health care changes. It is vital for us to get licensed so that our consumers know we as professionals have completed the necessary requirement to provide excellent care and services.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jennifer Renasia

Date: January 31, 2014

Re: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2472 – 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).

Students of the KCC OTA program 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

Testimony in Support of SB 2472
January 26, 2014
Page 2 of 2

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.”

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 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

Date: February 5, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Joshua Green-Chair of the Senate Health Committee
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker-Vice Chair of the Health Committee

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00 AM, Conference Room #229

I am currently enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Kapiolani Community College, and I ask for your support concerning upcoming legislation as it pertains to licensure for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in the state of Hawaii.

2014 is an exciting year for my classmates and I. As we make our final preparations to enter the profession, we are also approaching an exciting time for the profession in the state of Hawaii as we await approval of the proposed licensure bill. During my last two years of attending classes, and throughout my fieldwork experience, my educators have stressed that becoming an occupational therapy practitioner is a process of continuous learning. Occupational therapy practitioners are committed to their profession, and committed to delivering services of the highest quality to their clients. To meet these standards, those entering the profession not only need to complete their educational and fieldwork requirements, but they must also pass a national certification exam. Once entering the profession, this commitment to delivering quality services is then met through continuing education requirements, service competency, and providing interventions through practice that is evidence based.

The American Occupational Therapy Association best sums up the goal of occupational therapy, and that is to help clients live life to the fullest. Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants work with clients across the life-span, in a variety of settings, working with clients and their families to maximize their independence in occupations they find meaningful. You can find occupational therapy practitioners in the school setting working with a child who has a learning disability develop strategies to improve educational performance. You can find them in a hospital setting teaching a patient who recently suffered a stroke new techniques to feed, dress and bathe themselves using adaptive equipment. You may find them in the community helping those suffering from mental illness develop skills to seek employment or maintain a budget. Or you may find them planning and leading activities for a group of senior citizens. These are only a few examples, and while treatment methods are considerably different in all of these examples, they share one thing in common, and that is helping clients live life to the fullest.

Practitioners take into consideration all factors that may affect a client's ability to live life to the fullest, whether it be physical, behavioral, cognitive, or limitations brought upon by the environment. This client centered, holistic approach is what truly makes the profession unique. Occupational therapy practitioners possess an exceptional skill set that includes clinical knowledge, observation skills, creativity, and an ability to problem solve.

Passing the proposed licensure law has benefits, not only to the profession, but to the consumer as well. Approval of this bill will define the scope of practice of occupational therapy in the state, and give those who receive services confidence that they are receiving these services from

qualified professionals. I ask that when considering passage of the proposed bill, you take into consideration the high professional standards that occupational therapy practitioners hold themselves to, and I ask that you consider the unique skill set that they possess. Your support of this bill will help the profession maintain these standards and help ensure that consumers will be receiving quality services in the state of Hawaii. I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sean McGirr

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



Comprehensive Health &
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February 6, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green- Chair, Committee on Health
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker- Vice Chair, Committee on Health and
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi- Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Room 229

RE: Senate Bill 2472

I am an Occupational Therapist employed at CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 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 CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in rehabilitating patients with acute, sub-acute and chronic injuries. We work with many injured workers and help them return to their jobs with work simulation programs. We also perform functional capacity evaluations, job site visits and ergonomic evaluations.

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 chart1979@hawaii.tr.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Judy Dacanay, OTR
CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii

February 6, 2014

To: Honorable Representatives for State of Hawaii
Committee on Health
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Re: Senate Hearing on Friday, 2/7/14, 9:00am
Licensure for Occupational Therapy practitioners
HB 2042
SB2472

I have been an occupational therapist for over 25 years and am currently employed at Queen's Medical Center and Castle Home Care. In my practice I have provided services to a broad spectrum of age groups here in Hawaii -from birth to centenarians. I have worked with families of children with special needs, clients with severe mental illness and our homebound fragile aging population. I feel deeply entrusted with the safety, health and wellbeing of these vulnerable clients I see. I work hard to assure that I am providing treatment that is professional, high quality, safe and identified as current best practice in the field of occupational therapy. Hawaii's citizens deserve the highest form of government oversight to safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare.

Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapist (OTR). I feel strongly that licensure provides the highest form of oversight to ensure that incompetent persons with inadequate training, education or unethical conduct do not perform occupational therapy services. Our citizens deserve to have the same oversight of health services that are provided in other states.

Mahalo for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shawhan, OTR
Castle Home Care
Queen's Medical Center
© 674-7034
shawhaka@ah.org

Date: February 05, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Co-Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Tracee Mlyake, Occupational Therapy Assistant Student

Hearing: February 07, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room # 229

RE: Testimony in support of S.B. 2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am a student enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Kapi'olani Community College. I strongly support S.B. 2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As a student and future occupational therapy practitioner, I believe that licensure will benefit the citizens of Hawaii and further expand the services of occupational therapy. The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) brand "Living Life To Its Fullest" is a national statement encompassing the scope of the professions practice. Teaching and enhancing life skills to everyday people, in everyday situations, in varying environments and settings; occupational therapy practitioners are able to adapt and improvise creative solutions to meet the needs of the individual focusing on intrinsic motivation to engage in participation and performance of daily activities.

A simple question of how do you want to live life to its fullest can be asked. Throughout the life span, occupational therapy provides endless possibilities concentrating on the meaning, purpose, and quality of life through independence. Occupation can take many forms and may mean various roles to one individual. In each context, occupational therapy can address the needs of each occupation in a holistic approach to enable the individual to overcome obstacles and/or disabilities in both traditional and non-traditional health care settings and emerging areas of practice. Occupational therapy practitioners are innovators, modifiers, and defenders of what is meaningful in life.

Occupational therapy often has a name recognition problem in that most people do not know what occupational therapy is unless they have experienced it first hand. Licensure may help resolve the name recognition problem by validating professional credentials. As the profession improves in evidence-based practice and health care trends it is vital to secure licensure to protect the profession from other encroaching health care professions.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license occupational therapists (OTR) and is one of three remaining states that does not license occupational therapy assistants (OTA). Providing licensure for occupational therapy assistants along with occupational therapists will benefit the profession due to the fact that occupational therapy assistants are not always supervised by an occupational therapist. Depending on level of competence, area of specialty, and practice setting occupational therapy assistants may practice and implement treatment. Both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants must pass national certification exams and fulfill continuing education requirements to renew certification. The profession requires both levels of practitioners to evolve and increase in knowledge to remain in practice.

The purpose of acquiring licensure is to protect the profession and enhance the quality and availability of services occupational therapy provides. Licensure is the most restrictive form of occupational regulation and provides the highest form of government oversight. Licensure will aid the profession 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 Hawai'i. 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 to provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at metracee@gmail.com or (808)391-8994. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Tracee Miyake
Occupational Therapy Assistant Student

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



CHART®

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February 6, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green- Chair, Committee on Health
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker- Vice Chair, Committee on Health and
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi- Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Room 229

RE: Senate Bill 2472.

I am an Occupational Therapist employed at CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 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 CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in rehabilitating patients with acute, sub-acute and chronic injuries. We work with many injured workers and help them return to their jobs with work simulation programs. We also perform functional capacity evaluations, job site visits and ergonomic evaluations.

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 chart1979@hawaii.rr.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Debbie Byars, OTR
CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii

In Support of Licensure for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants

Date: February 5, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green, Senate Health Committee
Hearing: February 7, 2014; 900 am; conference room 229

RE: SB 2472

I am an occupational therapist employed at Queen's Medical Center. 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.

At the Queen's Medical Center, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in maximizing one's independence in activities of daily living and mobility which is an integral part of resuming one's prior level of functioning after sustaining a traumatic injury or life threatening illness. Without the skilled training of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, families or loved ones take on additional roles as caregivers. As skilled professionals, we guide and train families/caregivers on how to work with and manage their loved ones in addition to treating and progressing the patients to their maximum level of independence.

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 hataek001@hawaii.rr.com or 691-4655. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Kendra Hatae, OTR, CAPS

Kendra Hatae OTR CAPS

February 5, 2014

TO: Senator Josh Green and Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairs of Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

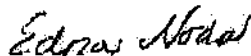
Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. Room 229

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

Date: 2/5/2014

To: Honorable Senator Joshua Green-Chair of the Senate Health Committee
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker-Vice Chair of the Health Committee

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room #229

Good Morning, my name is Lauren Gomez and I am an Occupational Therapy Assistant student at Kapi'olani Community College. I would like to ask for your support in favor of bill SB2472 that will provide licensure for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii.

Occupational Therapy is a holistic client-centered approach that assists individuals by restoring or enabling function and independence of daily living through various activities and modalities that provide purpose and meaning, thus enhancing quality of life. The perfect phrase of what occupational therapy entails is "Living Life to Its Fullest" which is currently the Occupational Therapy Brand, a promise to help individuals live life to it's fullest. Occupational therapy is an amazing profession that provides services for individuals across the lifespan throughout many settings that can range from prevention to the last moments of ones life. Occupational therapy provides an opportunity to increase and maintain the highest level of independence, by enabling individuals to live productive and satisfying lives. The profession is very broad and provides services within a variety of demographics ranging anywhere from mental health, rehabilitation, pediatrics, geriatrics, assistive technology, health and prevention and many more. The skill set acquired by occupational therapy practitioners allows for competent and efficient services rendered. Occupational therapy continues to grow as an evidence-based practice with high standards of education and care. Occupational therapy practitioners must graduate from an accredited program and complete fieldwork requirements, pass a national certification exam and abide by the continuing education requirements set forth by The National Board Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) and their state. With such stringent guidelines and expected high standards from this profession, it has been able to maintain the highest of standards. Obtaining licensure in Hawaii will ensure efficacy of the profession.

I would like to make a statement as a parent as well as a student pursuing the profession. I first became exposed to the OT profession through my son whom was

diagnosed with autism. Seeing the positive effects that OT has had not only in his life but also our family life speaks volumes about this amazing profession I'm pursuing. On the side of a parent I would like to mention how licensure protects my son as well as the public at large. I want to feel safe and confident that my child is getting the services he deserves by a competent and legitimate occupational therapy practitioner. I had an unfortunate incident happen where my son was charged for services that were not rendered, so he lost out in getting appropriate therapy due to this mishap. Although in this case it was not occupational therapy, these are the kinds of mishaps we are responsible for avoiding by setting guidelines that make fraud difficult. Licensure will protect those individuals seeking occupational therapy services from fraudulent claims. As clients of various outpatient services and/or parents of children receiving these services we want to be protected and have accountability of those professionals that are rendering that treatment. So once again I mention as a consumer please be in favor of the bill going forward on licensure for the Occupational therapy profession here in Hawaii.

Licensure in Hawaii is an integral part of providing the highest quality of occupational therapy service. This licensure bill safeguards the public's health, safety and welfare, by protecting those individuals seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services. This licensure will also require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistants. This bill will also further define the scope of occupational therapy practice.

I ask that you please look favorably upon the passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,
Lauren Gomez, OTA Student

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co- Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair
Senate Committee on Health

From: Cheryll S. Macaraeg, OTA student

Date: January 30, 2014

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00 AM, Conference Room #229

Imagine you have a disability whether it is a stroke or cognitive impairment. Would you want to play with your kids, grandkids, or participate in family functions? Still drive a vehicle? Do you want to live your life to the fullest and independently? How would you do that despite your health condition? Young or old, we all have a job to do- the job of living. Learning, growing, playing, working, managing our homes and caring for our families are among the “occupations” of life. When we struggle with the above mentioned, it is devastating. Occupational therapy will help you bring back those valued occupations.

I am a second year Occupational therapy assistant student at Kapi’olani Community College. I strongly support Bill # SB 2472 to license both Occupational Therapist (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. I am writing to you as a future OT practitioner, today I ask you to consider licensing both OT’s and OTA’s in Hawaii.

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

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 interest to equip and empower persons with disabilities to live with independence, self-respect, and meaning.

Occupational Therapy is a holistic, dynamic, and evolving profession, characteristic of the diversity of individuals that we serve in order to meet everyday needs of our clients in our ever-changing world in which we all live in. Occupational therapy teaches people how to live their life to the fullest, by helping people functionally engage in their everyday roles. Its helping others find what is meaningful to them, what really drives their lives, and to overcome their challenges; using the most useful and creative therapy. OT is a caring profession. What we really do is help patients who have lost or some of their disability to perform everyday tasks to do those same activities- just in a different way. How can you live

Testimony in Support of SB2472

January 30, 2014

Page 2 of 2

your life to the fullest if the OT practitioner you are working with is incompetent, unqualified, and giving poor quality of care? Your health may be at stake.

As a OTA student and future practitioner, I strongly feel that licensure will help: 1.) demonstrate the level of competency, 2.) Safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare, 3.) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services, 4.) require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, and 5.) Provide the highest quality of occupational 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. Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at csajo@hawaii.edu

Sincerely,

Cheryll S. Macaraeg, OTA student

828 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone (808) 529-9043
Fax (808) 526-0673



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February 6, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green- Chair, Committee on Health
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker- Vice Chair, Committee on Health and
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi- Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Room 229

RE: Senate Bill 2472

I am an Occupational Therapist employed at CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 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 CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in rehabilitating patients with acute, sub-acute and chronic injuries. We work with many injured workers and help them return to their jobs with work simulation programs. We also perform functional capacity evaluations, job site visits and ergonomic evaluations.

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 chart1979@hawaii.rr.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Lisa St. John, OTR
CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii

Date: February 5, 2014

TO: Senator Josh Green- Chair of Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: SB 2472 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice


Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00 am, Conference Room 215

My name is Dr. Paul Smith and I am a board certified Occupational Medicine physician. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients many of which have sustained injuries while working.

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 place of employment 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 bill.

Sincerely,


Dr. Paul Smith
432-0000

Date: February 5, 2014

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

Hearing: February 07, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Rm. 229

RE: SB 2472

I am an occupational therapist, currently employed at a behavioral health hospital. 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.

At the behavioral health hospital where I am currently employed, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral role in each patient's recovery. We teach daily living and coping skills to help patients manage the symptoms of their mental illness within their life circumstances and environment, and help them to successfully reintegrate back into the community.

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.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon the passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at naklt@yahoo.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lorene Nakagawa, OTR

Testimony in Support of SB 2472

Date: 2/5/2014

TO: Senator Josh Green – Chair of Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair of Committee on Health

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

RE: SB 2472 Occupational Therapy Licensure

Hearing: 2/7/2014, 9am, Conference room # 229

My name is MeleLani and I have been a consumer of Occupational Therapy services at Hawaii Health and Therapeutic Bodywork. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I have been a consumer of Occupational Therapy services for issues of injury, muscle imbalance/mal-alignment, pain, and poor movement strategies. My Occupational Therapist has assisted me with pain management, taught me exercises that helps me with my posture and body alignment/strength/motor control; helps me to be more aware of my movement patterns that are harmful, and teaches me better movement strategies to move more efficiently and be more stable. My Occupational Therapist promotes health and wellness in her practice and is helping me be and stay productive and independent as I age. I feel I can keep being active as I can and enjoy the activities that I love to do because of what she does and has taught me.

However I have also received services from less qualified people doing "cookie cutter therapy" to my detriment which actually created more pain and misery that it helped!

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,

MeleLani Llanes
(808) 220-0905

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

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

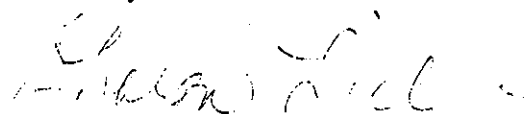
Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room # 229

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: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

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

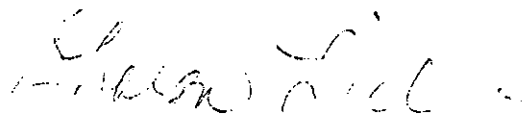
Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room # 229

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: February 4, 2014

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair Committee on Health

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair Committee on Health

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00 AM, Conference Room #229

From: Masako Imanishi

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

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."

I am an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program student at Kapi'olani Community College. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistant in Hawaii as well as would establish an occupational therapy program in Hawaii to improve regulation of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

I am a college student who is also a mother of son with disability. I and my son used to be a consumer of occupational therapy services for his symptom of Asperger's Syndrome by an occupational therapist. Due to his hypersensitivity of smell, taste, and auditory sensory, he was a severe picky eater. However, after getting occupational therapy evaluation and several occupational therapy services, his symptom was dramatically improved. Now my son as well as I can live life to the fullest by grace of the occupational therapist.

Testimony in Support of SB 2472

January 31, 2014

Page 2 of 2

I was very fortunate to have competent and caring occupational therapist that worked with my son to reduce his difficulties. Therefore, I kindly ask that you look favorably on this bill that would allow full licensure for occupational therapists in Hawaii. Their services are invaluable.

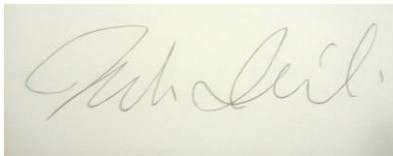
I, as an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program student, strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons 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 reach at masako4@hawaii.edu. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Masako Imanishi, Occupational Therapy Assistant Student

Kapi'olani Community College

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be "Masako Imanishi".

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

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

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room # 229

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

From: [Karen Lau](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#); [HTHTestimony](#); kagor@juno.com
Subject: Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 1:24:13 AM

I typed the wrong email address and am resending my testimony.
Thank you, Karen Lau

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014 at 12:50 AM, Karen Lau <klau1@hawaii.edu> wrote:

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senator Committee of Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

From: Karen Lau, OTR, MOT

Date: February 6, 2014

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

As you might be aware, Hawaii is the only state in the country that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of three remaining states that does not license Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA).

As an occupational therapist practicing for 25+ years, I truly believe that it is the role of the government to protect the consumer from unqualified practitioners and to monitor/discipline incompetent and fraudulent behaviors. In Hawaii, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated in 2011 that 10.2% of our population live with some form of disability. Many of our clients are disabled, vulnerable people, often with some type of physical, cognitive, or psychosocial impairment. The potential for abuse or misconduct is great. Our Code of Ethics asserts that all therapists have the responsibility to provide functional, quality services with respect for their client's health and well being.

In sum, the licensure of OTs and COTAs in Hawaii will help to:

- 1) Safeguard the public's safety, health, and welfare.
- 2) Protect consumers seeking occupational therapy services from unqualified, incompetent persons.
- 3) Define the scope of OT practice
- 3) Expect the highest degree of professional conducts from OTs and COTAs
- 4) Provide the best quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration. I hope that you will favorably consider SB 2472 to provide full licensure for both OTs and COTAs practicing in our state.

Sincerely,

Karen Lau, OTR, MOT

From: [Matthew Dery](#)
To: [HTH Testimony](#); [CPN Testimony](#); [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:58:44 PM

To :Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Health,
Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair, Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Matthew Dery OTA Student at Kapiolani Community College
Date: January 27, 2014

Disabilities can affect anyone at anytime which is why we need licensed Occupational therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. According to <http://www.ssa.gov/dibplan/> "Studies show that just over 1 in 4 of today's 20 year-olds will become disabled before reaching age 67." I can personally relate to this because I can remember how drastically my life changed in 2009 when I was a passenger in a major car accident. I had fractured my right hip in two places, factored my several of my right ribs, punctured my right lung, and lacerated my liver. I can still remember the first night in the hospital unable to sleep because I couldn't get the thought out of head that I would be unable to walk and a burden on my family for the rest of my life. I spent 9 long days in the hospital and my stay would have been a lot longer had it not been for the occupational therapists at the Queens Medical Center. They had me transferring in and out of my bed into a wheelchair with in 5 days of my accident. On the 9th day I could walk on a one foot across parallel bars. I was one who thought being disabled could never happen to me but this incident showed me how important OTRs and OTAs are to returning people to the activities that are important to them.

This incident and the realization that no one is invincible to disabilities is also why I chose to become a student in the OTA program at KCC. I feel like I can help people the way my therapists helped me. However I also feel like without licensure the profession is thought of as something that isn't important to the community. Also I feel that in order to keep a stable job I would have to leave the place that I was born and raised in and travel to a state in the continental US that has licensure.

So think about the benefit licensure for OTRs and OTAs can do for the State of Hawaii because no one can escape the possibility of becoming disabled.

Thank you for reading my Testimony, Matthew Dery.

Date: 02/05/14

To: Honorable Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker of the Senate Health Committee
Honorable Vice Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi of the Senate Health Committee

Hearing: Friday, 02/07/14
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Re: Senate Bill 2472
Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are Occupational Therapists employed at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center Outpatient Services. We strongly support of SB2472 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 which would provide full licensure for both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. If you have any

questions, feel free to contact Wendy Aruga-Goto, OT, at wendy.k.aruga-goto@kp.org
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in favor of SB 2472.

Sincerely,


Wendy Aruga-Goto, OTR


Kara Crosson, OTR

Date: February 4, 2014

TO: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

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

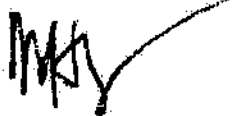
Hearing: February 7, 2014 at 9:00AM in Room 229

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**

February 5, 2014

To: Senator Josh Green – Senate Chair, Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker – Senate Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, Room 229 – 9:00 a.m.

Re: SB 2472 – Relating to Occupational Therapy

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

Currently, Hawai'i is the only state that does not license occupational therapists. In addition, Hawai'i is 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 Hawai'i. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawai'i.

I hope that your committees 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 L. Zionkowski, OTR
Kaiser Permanente
Maui Lani Elua Clinic
75 Maui Lani Parkway
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [eva](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Supporting SB2472
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:24:46 AM
Attachments: [Letter to Legislators\(SB2472\).pdf](#)

February 5, 2014

Committee on Health and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Subject: SB 2472 Supporting the licensing of occupational therapists
and occupational therapy assistants in the State of Hawaii

Dear Committee on Health and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

As a practicing Occupational Therapist and a resident of Hawaii, I would like to express my support of SB 2472 in establishing licensing requirements for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii.

As stated in the SB 2472, Hawaii is one of the last states in the country to license occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. Although currently there are no negative cases of malpractice, I am in support of a proactive approach rather than a retroactive approach in protecting the public. As the aging population increases across the nation, the demand for occupational therapy services will rise as well. Establishing licensing for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants will increase protection for the public and ensure occupational therapy services are carried out by qualified practitioners.

Occupational therapy practitioners help people across their lifespan, to participate in activities that they want and need to do, may it be self-care, work, or leisure activities. We work with school-age children to improve their attention skills for learning. We work with adults recovering from surgeries to regain their strength and independence in self-care. We work with individuals experiencing mental illnesses to help them develop social skills and life skills necessary for productive living. Occupational therapy practitioners utilize a specific skill set and an applied knowledge base to conduct comprehensive evaluations, customize treatment plans, carry out necessary interventions, and provide family/caregiver education training to improve and promote one's ability to perform daily activities. Establishing licensure requirements can ensure occupational therapy practitioners meet the educational requirements or have the necessary training to provide safe and effective services to the people in need.

I strongly encourage you to support SB 2472 in establishing licensing for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Man Wa Shing

3 Iliahi Street, Apt. A

Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: 808.551.8983 | Email: elephant_s@yahoo.com

February 05, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green
Chair of Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing: 02/07/2014, 9:00am , Conference Room #230

RE: SB 2472

As a Physical Therapist I strongly support (SB 2472) to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

I believe Hawaii deserve to recognize full licensure for Occupational Therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants. 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.

Hence, all occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part integral role in rehab, to improve patient functioning with activities of daily living.

I believe 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 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 your committee will look in 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 my email: firstphysical@aol.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide a testimony.

Sincerely,



Thomas Tan, PT CEO

First Physical & Functional Rehab
94-689 Farrington Hwy
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: [Pamela Anderson](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB 2472 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:17:25 PM

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair Committee on Health

Re: SB 2472 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice
Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00am, Rm 229

My name is Pamela K. Anderson and I am a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). I have been a COTA for over 18 years in Acute Care. SB 2472 relating to Occupational Therapy Practice, seeks Licensure of Occupational therapists and Occupational therapy assistants here in Hawaii. We are the last state to license occupational therapists and one of the last of three states that does not currently license Occupational therapy assistants. There is a pressing and immediate need to license the profession of occupational therapy in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the individuals served. Licensure of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants is also needed to meet insurance payor requirements.

Please support SB 2472 for licensing Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants. thank you for your time.

Aloha no,
Pamela Anderson, COTA
ph 351-7281

Date: February 5, 2014

TO: Senator Josh Green- Chair of Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: SB 2472 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00 am, Conference Room 215

My name is Dr. Peter Lum and I am a board certified Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients many of which have sustained injuries while working.

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 place of employment 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 bill.

Sincerely,



Dr. Peter Lum

432-0000

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Co-Chair Committee on Health

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce & Consumer
Protection
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-Chair Committee on Commerce &
Consumer Protection

Re: SB 2472 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

From: Rebecca C. Braun OTAS

Date: February 5, 2014

Aloha my name is Rebecca Braun, I am a second year student in the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program at Kapiolani Community College. I strongly support SB 2472 to license both occupational therapist (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As a student entering the field of occupational therapy I feel strongly committed to becoming a health care provider that contributes as an integral part of the health care team by enabling individuals across the lifespan overcome obstacles that inhibit optimal function by restoring or habilitating independence in daily living. Occupational practitioners encompass a unique broad set of skills that address all areas of function. Occupational therapy treats each individual holistically by addressing the specific barriers that keep our clients from "living life to its fullest" and by forming treatments that acknowledge each individual's intrinsic motivation. OT practitioners are specially trained for a variety of settings; we can be seen helping special needs children reach their true potential in an educational classroom setting, or providing treatment that facilitates modified independence while encouraging pro-social behaviors for those with mental illness, or enhancing the quality of life for our elder population in a skilled nursing facility by providing cognitive and physical stimulating activities, or helping individuals in a rehabilitation hospital recover from trauma or facilitate adaptations to cope with chronic debilitating illness. Occupational therapy truly puts the "care" into healthcare.

I ask for your support in this issue that serves to protect the consumer and the validity of our profession. I believe it is the responsibility of the state to acknowledge and ensure evidence based professional occupational therapy service while upholding high professional quality standards. Hawaii is currently the only state and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistance.

We strongly feel that licensure would provide 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 therapist 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 trust that after further consideration you and your committee will look favorably upon the passage of this bill that would provide full licensure for both occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. Please contact me if you have any additional questions at rbraun@hawaii.edu. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Rebecca C Braun OTAS
Kapiolani Community College, OTA program

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



Comprehensive Health &
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February 6, 2014

To: **Honorable Senator Josh Green- Chair, Committee on Health**
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker- Vice Chair, Committee on Health and
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi- Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Room 229

RE: Senate Bill 2472

I am an Occupational Therapist employed at CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 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 CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in rehabilitating patients with acute, sub-acute and chronic injuries. We work with many injured workers and help them return to their jobs with work simulation programs. We also perform functional capacity evaluations, job site visits and ergonomic evaluations.

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 chart1979@hawaii.rr.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Sandra Wataoka, OTR
CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii

Date: February 5, 2014

**To: Honorable Senator *Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health*
Honorable Senator *Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection***

Hearing:

Date: Friday, February 7, 2014,

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

RE: *SB2472, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice*

I am an occupational therapist who is employed at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. I strongly support SB2472 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.

I am aware that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is proposing amendments to SB2472 as SB2472, SD1. After review of SD1, I agree with the proposed changes which clarifies the regulation and does not change the intent of SB2472, which is licensure of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

I hope that you and your committee will 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

Date: February 5, 2014

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Committee on Health

Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 229

RE: SB 2472—Relating to Occupational Therapy

I am employed at an institution of higher learning 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.

At hospitals and long term care facilities and programs, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in the rehabilitation of those disabled and handicapped.

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.

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 596-8551. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Satoru Izutsu, PhD, OTR
Registered Occupational Therapist (Hawaii #10)

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



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February 6, 2014

To: Honorable Senator Josh Green- Chair, Committee on Health
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker- Vice Chair, Committee on Health and
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi- Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Room 229

RE: Senate Bill 2472

I am an Occupational Therapist employed at CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 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 CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in rehabilitating patients with acute, sub-acute and chronic injuries. We work with many injured workers and help them return to their jobs with work simulation programs. We also perform functional capacity evaluations, job site visits and ergonomic evaluations.

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 chart1979@hawaii.rr.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ted Ohta, OTR
CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii

To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

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

Date: February 5, 2014

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

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."

I am an occupational therapist employed at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. I am also the Program Director of Kapi'olani Community College's 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 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 (OTA).

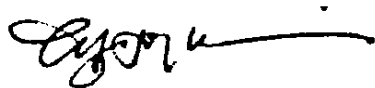
At the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific as well as in other traditional and non-traditional health care settings where KCC OTA students are trained, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in the process of rehabilitation and habilitation. Occupational therapists are skilled at 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany-Joy H. Kawaguchi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tiffany-Joy H. Kawaguchi, OTD, BSOT

From: [CPN Testimony](#)
To: [green2 - Chelsea](#)
Subject: FW: SB 2472
Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:58:22 AM

From: Vernon Charles [mailto:vernon@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:33 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Subject: SB 2472

Date: February 4, 2014
To: Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Co-chair of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
RE: SB 2472 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice
Hearing: February 7, 2014, 9:00AM, Conference Room # 229

People living with disabilities are an important topic within the state of Hawaii. A 2011 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation states approximately 1 in 10 (10.2%) of people in Hawaii live with a disability. The disability can be cognitive, sensory, physical, or psychosocial; it can also be a combination of these. An individual living with a disability can directly and indirectly affect family members, friends, or any health care workers within his or her life. The goal is for our community as a whole to provide services that enable and encourage people living with disabilities to lead self-reliant, purposeful, and virtuous lives.

Occupational therapy is an excellent way to improve the life of a person living with a disability. Occupational therapists are health care professionals who are experienced in working with a variety of disabilities. Occupational therapists are also trained to work with anyone from infants to elders. The goal is to devise innovative ways that encourage people living with disabilities to participate in meaningful activities and occupations “to live life to the fullest.”

I am currently an Occupational Therapy Assistant student studying at Kapiolani Community College. I am on track to complete the program in July of this year, and I strongly support HB-2042 to license both Occupational Therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

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).

As an Occupational Therapy student at KCC, I am in the process of understanding how to apply theories I have learned in lectures and labs in real-life situations through fieldwork. Occupational therapists are essential in the rehabilitation process because they can influence a positive outcome in the following arenas: individuals with neurological disorders can be taught to perform activities such as eating, dressing, grooming, and showering; children with developmental disabilities can be taught to play with peers or learn in a normal classroom setting; individuals with mental health disorders can be taught to socialize more effectively

with others; individuals with cognitive disabilities can be stimulated with various sensory techniques.

I feel that licensure will continue to: 1) Safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare; 2) Protect anyone seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and those not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct from 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 you and your committee will look favorably upon the passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at vernon@hawaii.edu. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Vernon Charles III, OTAS
Kapi'olani Community College
4303 Diamond Head Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96816