

SB 2612

Measure Title: RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION.

Report Title: Psychologists; Continuing Education; Ethics

Description: Requires licensed psychologists to complete a minimum of eighteen credit hours of continuing education courses for the licensing renewal period beginning July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016. Requires at least three credit hours of continuing education to be ethics courses.

Companion: [HB2208](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPN, WAM

Introducer(s): KIDANI, Baker

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014**

**Friday, January 31, 2014
9:00 a.m.**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2612, RELATING TO CONTINUING
EDUCATION.**

**TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Carol L. Nowak, Ph.D., and I am the Chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Psychology ("Board"). The Board has not had an opportunity to review Senate Bill No. 2612, but will do so at its meeting on February 21, 2014. Therefore, it is not able to take a position on this specific bill.

However, by way of background, the Board and the Hawaii Psychological Association ("HPA") were requested, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 201, H.D.1, which was adopted by the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, to submit a proposed draft for a bill to establish, implement and monitor continuing education requirements for all licensed psychologists in the State. As such, and after several months of discussion and compromise between the parties, a proposed bill was submitted to the State of Hawaii Legislature on December 13, 2013. Subsequently, similar language to this draft bill was introduced in the Senate as Senate Bill No. 2465 and in the House as House Bill No. 2030.

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Accordingly, it would be preferable that the language established in Senate Bill
No. 2465 be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2612.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

DATE: Friday, January 31, 2014
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229

TO: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Walton Shim, MD, President
Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Ron Keinitz, DO, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

RE: SB 2612 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SB 2465
RELATING TO SB 2465 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR
PSYCHOLOGISTS

Position: Strong Support.

The HMA commends the introducers of this bill.

The HMA is in strong support of continuing education for all healthcare providers. The practice of medicine changes dramatically year to year and it is of the utmost importance that providers develop life-long learning as a demonstration to the public of professional responsibility in maintaining competence, performance and improving outcomes.

The HMA would also like to offer our assistance, should it be needed, in the development of CE. The HMA accredits most of the state's CME for physicians and would be happy to assist the development of CE for psychologists.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Officers

*President - Walton Shim, MD President-Elect - Robert Sloan
Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD Immediate Past President - Stephen Kemble, MD
Treasurer - Brandon Lee, MD Executive Director - Christopher Flanders, DO*

SB2612

Submitted on: 1/29/2014

Testimony for CPN on Jan 31, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Ralston	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Senators Baker and Taniguchi, I am a clinical psychologist in private practice in Honolulu who is opposed to SB2612. I write to ask that you please do NOT support SB2612. The research shows that mandating psychologists to acquire CEs does not help clients have better therapeutic outcomes. My own professional experience also supports this as almost 100% of CE related trainings that I have attended may be interesting in the moment, but do not translate to any substantial changes in practice nor client outcomes. Furthermore, clients do not care if psychologists have a certain number of CEs per month or year (and most don't even know what CEs are). Clients come in wanting their symptoms gone and their lives improved. This is best accomplished by providers continuing to hone their knowledge and skills in ways that are appropriate for their style of learning. Of all professions, it is psychologists who know best that people have diverse ways of learning and therefore require diverse means to match those learning styles. To ram mandatory CEs down the throats of all psychologists across the board, is not only ineffective, it's inconsistent with what we know as psychologists. The psychological community here in Hawaii is not interested in mandatory CEs. It would be a shame if efforts of those interested in passing this bill, (primarily to satisfy their own perception of how the community perceives psychologists), resulted in a cumbersome, unnecessary, ineffective, costly, and ultimately wasteful practice of mandated CEs affecting all the rest of us. Please do not support SB2612. Sincerely, Tyler Ralston, PsyD Hawaii license PSY 975

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SENATE BILL SB2612, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION
Companion Bill: HB2208

To the Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information to you for SB2612, which proposes Continuing Education (CE) for psychologists. I support the intent of the bill to ensure that psychologists are current on training. As a past Continuing Education Administrator, I understand the significance of lifelong learning. This measure is an assurance of ethical treatment, continuity in licensure requirements and patient safety. This bill will bring Hawai'i into substantial compliance with other professions providing essential services and national standards.

In Hawai'i, to qualify for licensure, an applicant must hold a doctoral degree in psychology or educational psychology from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or a doctoral degree from an American Psychological Association (APA) approved program in clinical psychology, and successfully pass the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), administered by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). Both the APA and ASPPB are national organizations recognized for extensive experience in credentialing and accrediting. The APA requires that CEs build on doctorate training and has a CE Sponsor program for organizations meeting APA requirements for CE courses offered for psychologists.

This measure provides an assurance that reliable standards for ethical treatment, continuity in licensure standards, substantial compliance with national standards and patient safety are continually adhered to:

- By requiring that continuing education courses are only those courses offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education or an approved American Psychological Association sponsor. (Page 2, lines 4-6). This aligns with current licensing doctoral degree requirements held from regionally accredited institutions of higher education or the American Psychological Association.
- By including scientific ethics as a course. (Page 2, line 10). This aligns with current licensing requirements requiring training in scientific ethics and standards.
- By identifying renewal, suspension and reinstatement requirements. (Page 2, lines 14-22).
- By requiring documentary proof of compliance with continuing education requirements. (Page 2, line 21)
- By authorizing the director of commerce and consumer affairs authority to conduct random audits. (Page 4, lines 1-8).
- By identifying conditions of professional misconduct, fraud, deception, untruthful statements and inability to practice. (Page 4, lines 16-18; Page 5, lines 3-5)
- By identifying the training exemption for the practice of psychology. (Page 6, lines 10-12)

This measure may benefit from the following amendments:

- Amend the Bill to read “Relating to Continuing Education for Psychologists”.
- Amend Page 2, line 2 to read “amended by updating the definition of psychologist and adding three new definitions”.
- Amend Page 2, line 4 to read “ Psychologist means (a) any person licensed as a psychologist and (b) any general applied psychologist whose practice areas are currently exempted under HRS 465 and includes a person representing himself or herself to be a psychologist if that person uses any title or description of services incorporating the words psychology, psychological or psychologist or if he or she used any term that implies that he or she possesses expert qualification in any area of psychology, or if that person offers to the public or renders to individuals or groups of individuals services defined as the practice of psychology in HRS 465. (This amended definition brings Hawai`i into substantial compliance with policy adopted in 2010 by the American Psychological Association on the definition of licensure of a psychologist).
- Amend Page 6, lines 10-12 to read “Aiding or abetting any unlicensed person, other than doctoral trainees working for psychologists, to directly or indirectly use the title psychologist to engage in the practice of psychology; (This amendment recognizes the training exemption).
- Amend Page 6, line 21 to read “Conviction of any crime or offense in this state or any other state in the United States or any territory or possession under the jurisdiction of the United States”. (This recognizes the State of Hawaii FY 2014 DCCA Geographic Report for current licenses – Hawai`i: 987; Mainland: 269; Foreign: 4).

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide information for your consideration in SB2612. The measure will significantly enhance training and provide an assurance of ethical treatment and patient safety.

Dr. Cindi Dang

Past Hawai`i Psychological Association Continuing Education Program Administrator

American Psychological Association Member

SB2612

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for CPN on Jan 31, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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