



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2016

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016
8:30 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1627
RELATING TO MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS BY
THE REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1627, Relating to Medical Investigations by the Regulated Industries Complaints Office. My name is Daria Loy-Goto and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO supports this bill.

House Bill No. 1627 requires RICO to establish a division that specializes in investigating medical complaints. The bill also appropriates unspecified funds for

five field investigator positions to handle investigations of medical complaints.

Two of the five positions are slated for O'ahu and the remaining three positions are allocated, one each, for the Big Island, Maui, and Kauai.

The additional staff, especially on the neighbor islands, would assist RICO in its investigation of medical complaints and allow RICO's existing staff more time to devote to investigating complaints involving the other professions RICO oversees.

RICO does note the Department is currently undergoing rule making for an increase in the compliance resolution fee paid by all licensees to support RICO enforcement. The proposed fee increase for medical licensees would need to be adjusted to cover the personnel and operating costs relating to the new responsibilities provided for in this bill.

Should this bill move forward, RICO requests that the Committee consider replacing at least one investigator position with a staff attorney position. RICO currently employs nine attorneys who handle both licensed and unlicensed activity prosecutions for all of the forty-nine professions RICO oversees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1627. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.