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GOVERNOR  
  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
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DIRECTOR  
  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Friday, March 18, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2341, S.D. 1, RELATING TO RESPIRATORY  
THERAPISTS.**

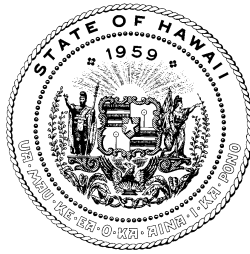
TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is May Ferrer, Executive Officer for the Respiratory Therapists Program, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”), Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2341, S.D. 1, Relating to Respiratory Therapists.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2341, S.D. 1, is to make permanent the regulation of respiratory therapists under chapter 466D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The legislature finds that, based on the auditor’s report from June 2015, regulation of respiratory therapists is reasonably necessary to protect the health and safety of consumers due to the nature of services offered by respiratory therapists.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2341, S.D. 1.



**TESTIMONY OF JAN K. YAMANE, ACTING STATE AUDITOR,  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2341, SD1,  
RELATING TO RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS**

**House Committee on Health**

March 18, 2016

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2341, SD1. The purpose of the bill is to make permanent the regulation of regulation of respiratory therapists under Chapter 466D, HRS.

As you know, our [Report No. 15-08, \*Sunset Evaluation: Respiratory Therapists\*](#) (June 2015) recommended, among other things, that the Legislature continue to regulate respiratory therapists by repealing Section 26H-4(b), HRS, thereby reenacting Chapter 466D, HRS (*Respiratory Therapists*). This bill would implement that recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2341, SD1. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

The Honorable Della Au Belatti  
Chair, House Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 426  
Phone 808-586-9425  
Fax 808-586-9431  
E-Mail: [repbelatti@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repbelatti@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Representative Au Belatti:

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state.

In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice.

Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours

Steve

Stephen F. Wehrman RRT, RPFT  
Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii  
President Hawaii Society for Respiratory Care  
Educator, Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program RHOP





Testimony to: House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORTING SB 2341, SD1 RELATING TO RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS  
Friday, March 18, 2016, 9am, Conference Room 229

Chairs and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 2341, SD1 which would eliminate the sunset provision of respiratory care practitioners' licenses and make such regulation permanent.

My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Our organization provides services and support to Hawaii's people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, more commonly known as emphysema, chronic bronchitis and similar conditions. COPD is the third leading cause of death in the US and a major cause of disability in the US and worldwide. Over 56,000 Hawaii adults have COPD. Many, many more people in Hawaii suffer from asthma, tuberculosis, pneumonia and other respiratory conditions.

Respiratory Therapists are a very important of the healthcare team for COPD patients and their loved ones. They help the patients get their medication, keep their lungs clear, and learn to manage their breathing conditions. As has been noted, it is very significant that only Alaska lacks certification for respiratory therapists. Have a certification process in place and certifying the respiratory therapists will help to insure that all of our therapists meet appropriate standards and are providing quality care to our many people in Hawaii who need respiratory care. Respiratory therapists are those who are charged with keeping the airways clear to keep patients alive in hospital settings, as well as training patients how to use their new medications and equipment, including ventilators for lungs too tired to breathe on their own, CPAP for Obstructive Sleep Apnea, oxygen for people whose lungs cannot provide enough oxygen throughout their bodies, and much, much more.

As mentioned in paragraph two of the bill, the legislature has found from the auditor's report from June 2015 that the regulation of respiratory therapists is reasonably necessary to protect the health and safety of consumers and consistent with other health-related occupations.

My husband, children, and I have asthma and additionally, I have severe emphysema. We have all used the services of respiratory therapists to test how well our lungs are working. I have also been fortunate enough to have a respiratory

therapist in Colorado help me develop a personalized exercise program which is safe and appropriate for my lung condition. Respiratory nurses and respiratory therapists have also provided me with education on how to live actively with asthma and emphysema.

I have also enjoyed working with many respiratory therapists with our Hawaii COPD Coalition where we:

- (1) Conducted free breathing testing at various locations throughout the state;
- (2) Hold regular free support groups (run by respiratory therapist and health educator); and
- (3) Hold a free annual education day with many respiratory therapists participating.

I strongly SUPPORT the prompt passage of legislation to establish licensing and regulatory requirements for practice of respiratory care and to create a board for respiratory care, as written in SB 2341, SD1. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Aloha,  
Valerie Chang, JD  
Executive Director  
Hawaii COPD Coalition  
<http://hawaiicopd.org>  
[copd.hawaii@yahoo.com](mailto:copd.hawaii@yahoo.com)  
(808)699-9839  
700 Richards Street, Suite 2410  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**March 18, 2016 at 9:00 am  
Conference Room 329**

**House Committee on Health**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President -- Government Relations and Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support, SB 2341, SD 1, Relating to Respiratory Therapists**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

HPH is writing in **support** of SB 2341, SD 1 which makes permanent the regulation of respiratory therapists under chapter 466D, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:19 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** rarancheta@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rae Ann Ancheta	Kapiolani Community College Respiratory Therapy Program Students	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii continue to be licensed. Licensure provides many benefits including protection from individuals who have committed crimes or lost their license to practice in another state. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapists helps to accomplish this goal. Thank you for your consideration. Mahalo nui, Rae Ann Ancheta

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HLTtestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:01 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: rorodrigues.cr@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rochelle Rodrigues	HSRC	Support	No

Comments:

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March 16, 2016

Aloha Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee Health.

I am a member of the Health Sciences faculty at Kapi'olani Community College and teach in the Respiratory Therapy Program, the only health care training program in this field in Hawai'i and the UH System.

I respectfully request your support of legislation SB 2341, SD1 (SSCR 2488) which makes permanent the regulation of Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii. The measure will be heard in your Committee on Friday, March 18, 2016 at 9:00 AM. I ask for your support of this measure for the following key reasons that have been detailed in the State of Hawaii Auditor's Report dated June 2015:

- Regulation of Respiratory Therapists complies with statutory criteria and continues to benefit consumers.
- Regulation is warranted because respiratory therapists perform physically invasive and potentially hazardous procedures on patients.
- The benefits to consumers' health and safety warrant the regulation of respiratory therapists.
- Regulation has not artificially increased the cost of respiratory therapy services.
- Regulation has not unreasonably restricted entry into the field for qualified practitioners,
- Fees appear to cover the full cost of administering the regulatory program

Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals, but in numerous traditional and nontraditional areas of care like telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities, and rehabilitation. Continuation of the license to regulate Respiratory Therapists addresses the greater need to assure safety and quality of care and will increase the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential health care professionals.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Aaron K. Koseki, PhD, RRT  
Professor, Health Sciences  
Respiratory Care Program  
Kapi'olani Community College

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 3:49 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jungeun@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jung Eun Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 7:53 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** ronald.sanderson@ah.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ron Sanderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I respectfully request passage of this bill to extend the licensing of respiratory care professionals. This bill is critical to the continued provision of high quality patient care across our Island hospitals and home care facilities. Please remember when you can't breathe nothing else matters. Respiratory care practitioners are working every day to keep the people of Hawaii breathing normally.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 7:30 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** skaya@queens.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephen Kaya	Individual	Support	No

Comments: please support SB2341. It be good for the patients/people of Hawaii and the profession. thank you very much.

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March 16, 2016

Dear Senator Baker,

I am one of the students of the Respiratory Therapy Program and I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapist in Hawaii continue to be licensed. Licensure provides many benefits including protection from individuals who have committed crimes or lost their license to practice in another state. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapist helps to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Daniela Cavato  
Student  
Respiratory Therapy Program  
Kapiolani Community College

Dear Representative Au Belatti

I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Kalena Frank

Dear Representative Au Belatti

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state.

In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice.

Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours

Jackie Scotka, RRT, NPS  
Respiratory Care Director  
Pali Momi Medical Center  
Aiea, HI



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 12:11 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jbaker@rehabhospital.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Justina Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:54 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** sonjasou@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sonja sourivong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill is very important to us as the future generation of respiratory therapist. We need this in order to keep our license as well as the title of an RRT up to standard with every other healthcare professional.

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Dear Representative Au Belatti

I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha

Jeffrey Deguzman

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:45 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** ryman@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ransom Ryman II	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti, I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii. State licensure of respiratory therapists ensures that therapists maintain a high level of skill and proficiency in order to work in the occupation. Licensed professionals provide a higher standard of care than non-licensed professionals. Supporting this bill will result in overall better health care for all medical facilities in state Hawaii. There was a recent sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and provided an added protection for the people that receive health care in the state of Hawaii. The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state. In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, licensure allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice. Finally, as healthcare moves more into non-traditional areas of care such as: telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers. Thank you for your support of this important legislation. Respectfully, Ransom E. Ryman II Respiratory Student of Kapiolani Community College

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Dear Representative Au Belatti

I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha

Marisel Areola

Dear Representative Au Belatti,

I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration.

Much aloha,

Pamela Lansberry (Respiratory Student, KCC)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:39 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** balacy@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Balacy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Erica Balacy

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:33 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** joann.ikehara@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jo Ann Ikehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a respiratory therapist currently working at Pali Momi Medical Center. I have been in the profession for 40+ years and am in strong support of this legislation. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this measure to make permanent the regulation of respiratory therapists in our State.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:25 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** hololio@icloud.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Wheatley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:19 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** waynet@kapiolani.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

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Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne Takenaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:11 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** robertlv@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

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Submitted on: 3/17/2016

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bob Vega	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:32 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** edalinoc@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Editha Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration. Thanks, Editha Domingo

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**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 3:02 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** tcoffin@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tofi Coffin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Dear Representative Au Belatti,

I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii continue to be licensed. Licensure provides many benefits including protection from individuals who have committed crimes or lost their license to practice in another state. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapists helps to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha

Michael Carl Miguel

HLTtestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:29 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: bk23@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bryson Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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The Honorable Della Au Belatti  
Chair, House Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 426  
Phone [808-586-9425](tel:808-586-9425)  
Fax [808-586-9431](tel:808-586-9431)  
E-Mail: [repbelatti@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repbelatti@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Representative Au Belatti:

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state.

In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice.

ally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional



are such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to ensure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours

Carol Agard RRT, FAARC  
MANAGER Respiratory Care SVS  
Queen's Medical Center

Cell: 808-375-3306

Dear Representative Au Belatti,

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii. I am an Assistant Professor of Respiratory Care at Kapi'olani Community College and a clinical specialist in neonatal/pediatric and adult critical care and a licensed respiratory therapist.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state.

In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted of wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice.

Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Borza, RRT-NPS-ACCS, CPFT, AE-C

Dear Representative Au Belatti

I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii continue to be licensed. Licensure provides many benefits including protection from individuals who have committed crimes or lost their license to practice in another state. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapists helps to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha

Elizabeth Johnson, RT student

HLTtestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:48 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: kekoashouse@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer K. Medina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill wholeheartedly.

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HLTtestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 6:53 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: kahaluubraddah@yahoo.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerard Taira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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March 17, 2016

Dear Representative Delia Au Belatti and the members of the committee,

I am writing you in strong support for the Senate and House Bill 2341. This will make respiratory therapists licensure bill permanent.

This licensure bill will be budget neutral. It would protect the citizen of Hawaii without increasing the cost of healthcare.

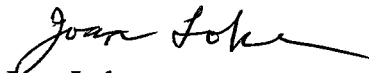
The bill will prevent therapists from other states from working here in Hawaii if they are convicted of wrongdoing in their home state.

Healthcare is moving away from the hospital. Better monitoring of workers are essentials. Respiratory therapists will be working in areas such as homecare, telemedicine, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation.

Uncle Joe and I need your support for licensure for respiratory therapists.

Mahalo for helping us achieve our goal!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Loke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joan Loke  
(Joan of Arc)

HLTtestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 6:44 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: ljpscua@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lovely Pascua	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii continue to be licensed. Licensure provides many benefits including protection from individuals who have committed crimes or lost their license to practice in another state. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapists helps to accomplish this goal. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha, Lovely Pascua RT student

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Dear Representative Au Belatti

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state.

In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice.

Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours

Rowan Gragas



*S*

HLTtestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:26 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: baiks@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra Baik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:36 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** annacpau@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Pau	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti: I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii. The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii. The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state. In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice. Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers. Thank you for your support of this important legislation. Sincerely yours Anna Pau

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 9:59 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** laura.balatbat@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Balatbat	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am in support of this bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 2:42 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** krissy88mama@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

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

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii. The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii. The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state. In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice. Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers. Thank you for your support of this important legislation. Sincerely yours Kristine Agonoy

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2016 3:33 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** scarauli@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM

**SB2341**

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon C.	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha, Shannon Caraulia

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