

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2017

Monday, February 27, 2017
10:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 518, S.D. 1, RELATING TO INTIMATE
PARTNER VIOLENCE.**

TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony on Senate Bill No. 518, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Intimate Partner Violence. This bill proposes to require persons licensed under Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) chapters 438 and 439 to complete a one-time, three-hour training program that would enable them to be aware of and recognize signs of intimate partner violence shown by their beauty culture or barbering clients. Should a licensee observe indications that the client is experiencing such violence, the licensee would then have been trained and provided with resources to address the problem, such as referring the client to the appropriate social services or domestic violence organizations.

The Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (“Board”) supports the intent of this bill; however, the Board identified and discussed a number of concerns for which the Board respectfully requests the Committee’s consideration at this time.

Board members who are licensed barbers and beauty operators stated that in their many years of professional experience, no one had ever confided that he or she was a victim of intimate partner violence. They also stated that they had never witnessed physical indications that a client is experiencing such violence. The Board questioned whether the proposal would actually be beneficial to address the problem of intimate partner violence.

The Board also questioned why only barbers and beauty operators were included in the proposal. Board members stated that perhaps massage therapists and other personal service providers should be included in the measure.

Barbers and beauty operators are engaging in their professions in order to provide beauty culture and barbering services to their clients, and Board members expressed concern that the proposal would elevate the level of responsibility of the licensee beyond the scope of practice that a barber or beauty operator should be expected to perform.

The Board is also concerned about the real possibility of retaliation against licensees for being involved in recognizing signs of violence and advising their clients of available resources. Retaliation and additional violence are real possibilities should the perpetrator of the violence become aware of the licensee's involvement in the situation.

Should the bill pass, the Board is concerned about the cost of such training for applicants and for licensees as a condition of license renewal. The financial burden as well as the time away from employment will certainly impact the licensee, and will need to be considered.

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In closing, the Board supports the intent of this bill, however, the Board respectfully requests that the Committee consider the above-mentioned concerns identified by the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony on Senate Bill No. 518, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Intimate Partner Violence.



TO: Chair Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair Rhoads
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer

RE: SB 518 SD1

Aloha! Thank you for considering the need for attention and training designed for the benefit of hairdressers, and others in related roles – professionals who may find themselves in a position of detecting or receiving confidential disclosures about partner abuse.

Although some training is better than none, preparing people with information on a one time basis or for such a short period of time may be insufficient to reach the goal. Partner abuse is a complex issue, largely misunderstood by the public and other intervenors. Learning about it in one hour would be impossible. Requiring more may be a deterrent to participation or passage of this Bill. However, the good intention could be disrupted if the guidance shared is not aligned with best practice, or potentially harmful to decisions made by those in risky relationships.

It may be wise to require a three hour training, at the very least. This would provide more time to describe the dynamics of abuse, understand the barriers for survivors, and be introduced to the community of resources available to assist.

Thank you for allowing us to participate in this community discussion