

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2104

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 2018

RE: S.B. No. 2653

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2018
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
to which was referred S.B. No. 2653 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHAPTER 453, HAWAII REVISED
STATUTES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish requirements for licensure by endorsement for
physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians; and
- (2) Appropriate an unspecified sum from the compliance
resolution fund to implement the licensure by
endorsement process established by this measure.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health, Hawaii Medical Board, Hawaii
Medical Association, Hawai'i Pacific Health, and Hilo Medical
Center. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
Hawai'i Primary Care Association.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii is facing a critical
shortage of health care providers in almost every field of
practice, with primary care providers being the largest group in
short supply, followed by infectious disease specialists on Oahu
and Kauai, colorectal surgeons in the County of Hawaii, and
geriatric doctors in the County of Maui. Your Committee further



finds that the health care provider shortage is projected to worsen, due to the increased demand for health care from the State's aging population and the retirement of an aging physician population.

Your Committee additionally finds that another access to care barrier is the limitation placed on physicians seeking to relocate to Hawaii, as the Hawaii Medical Board (Board) currently lacks the ability to grant licensure by endorsement to physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians who are fully qualified and licensed in another jurisdiction. According to testimony from the Board, between January 2016 and December 2017, the Board received over one thousand applications from physicians who were licensed in other jurisdictions, had mailing addresses in other jurisdictions, or both. This measure therefore establishes licensure by endorsement requirements for physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians, which will provide greater access to medical care in Hawaii and address the high volume of applications received from out-of-state physicians in a more streamlined manner.

Your Committee notes that although this measure permits the Board to grant licensure by endorsement in an expeditious fashion, it does not lessen the Board's legislative mandate to protect Hawaii consumers from unsafe and incompetent health care practitioners and clearly ensures that the Board may only license physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians who meet specific licensing requirements and who have not been previously disciplined by another medical or osteopathic medical board.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2653 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



