

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Thursday, January 25, 2018
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1949, RELATING TO NATUROPATHIC
MEDICINE.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Constance Cabral, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine (“Board”). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure, which is a companion to S.B. 2299. While the Board has not had the opportunity to review and discuss this measure, it is identical to last year’s S.B. 223, S.D.2, H.D.1, which the Board strongly supported.

H.B. 1949 authorizes a naturopathic physician to prescribe testosterone consistent with naturopathic medical practice and clarifies that narcotic drugs shall not be included within the naturopathic formulary.

The Board takes its duties and responsibilities to the people of Hawaii very seriously. Since 1925, licensed naturopathic physicians have been practicing competently. They have solid naturopathic medical education and clinical training, as well as clinical experience with natural hormone therapy. In treating patients with natural hormones, naturopathic physicians do so with safety, appropriate prescribing,

House Bill No. 1949
January 25, 2018
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and efficacy in mind. As a result, the Board has taken no disciplinary matters since hormones were included in the naturopathic formulary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1949.



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

January 25, 2018

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: HB 1949 – Relating to Naturopathic Medicine

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 1949, which authorizes a naturopathic physician to prescribe testosterone consistent with naturopathic medical practice and clarifies that narcotic drugs shall not be included within the naturopathic formulary. HMSA appreciates the Committees' intent to align a naturopathic physician's prescriptive authority with the practice of naturopathic medicine.

HMSA would ask the Committee to consider clarifying Sections 3 and 4 as follows:

- A naturopathic physician licensed pursuant to Chapter 455 who is licensed and registered, under section 329-32 to prescribe and administer testosterone in the course of professional practice in this State
- “Naturopathic formulary” means vitamins, minerals, dietary supplements, botanical medicines, homeopathic medicines, hormones, and those legend drugs and testosterone consistent with naturopathic medical practice; provided that the naturopathic formulary shall not include any narcotic drugs or controlled substances, as defined in section 329-1, except as provided in Chapter 455, Hawaii Revised Statute

Thank you for allowing us to testify on HB 1949. Your consideration of our comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong
Vice-President, Government Relations



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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TO: House Committee on Health and Human Services
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayoshi, Vice-Chair

DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2018
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: HB 1949 – RELATING TO NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE

Position: OPPOSE

Chairs & Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) opposes HB 1949.

The HMA believes scheduled drugs should be used judiciously, and only for therapeutic applications demonstrating evidence based, peer reviewed value and safety to patients.

The HMA feels that the use of testosterone, at this time, has not been adequately established for applications related to “anti-aging.” The Journal of the American Medical Association has published recent studies in which the therapeutic use of testosterone has demonstrated no significant effect on improving intellectual function in the elderly.

The Endocrine Society has issued guidelines which outline the therapeutic use of testosterone only in instances of “consistent symptoms and signs and unequivocally low serum testosterone levels.” A significant amount of evaluation and testing, including serial blood serum testosterone levels, prostate evaluation, blood counts and urinary tract assessment should be conducted prior to instituting testosterone therapy.

Additionally, the use of testosterone is not without significant side effects, including increased incidence of potentially life threatening blood clots, acceleration of prostate cancer growth and development of sleep apnea.

Until the role of testosterone as a therapeutic agent is fully understood, its use should be limited to those specifically trained in the use of hormonal therapy, such as endocrinologists.

HMA OFFICERS

President – William Wong, Jr., MD President-Elect – Jerry Van Meter, MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD
Immediate Past President – Bernard Robinson, MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



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Thank you for allowing testimony on this issue.

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HB-1949

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 8:22:16 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Landon Oponui | | Support | No |

Comments:

To:

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services,

I support HB 1949, that authorizes a naturopathic physician to prescribe testosterone consistent with naturopathic medical practice.

Mahalo!

Dr. Oponui

LATE

HB-1949

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 3:27:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Darrow Hand | | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Hon. Representatives John M. Mizuno, Chair, Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

I support HB 1949, that authorizes a naturopathic physician to prescribe testosterone consistent with naturopathic medical practice.

Mahalo!

Darrow Hand

LATE

HB-1949

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 3:38:49 PM
Testimony for HHS on 1/25/2018 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Patrick Adams | | Support | No |

Comments:

To: Chair and members of the Health committee

FRom: Patrick Adams

Re: HB1949 in support

Dear Chair and Members of the Health Committee

I am a licensed pharmnacist in Hawaii and stand in strong support of the HB1949. The Doctor of Naturopathy became authorized prescribers of legend medication several years ago in Hawaii and have become an integal part of the Hawaii healthcare system. This bill is asking for a right to prescribe testosterone as part of their practice. As a pharmacist I support the expansion of the practice based on what I have witnesses in the community. In many communities the NDs are essential primary care provides and it is important that the NDs have the tools and authority to give Hawaii residents access to their services.

Mahalo,

Patrick Adams, Rph

808-640-1848

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Testimony in support of HB1949

January 24, 2018

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of House Committee on Health and Human Services:

As stated in the preamble of this bill, testosterone is an example of a controlled substance that is consistent with the practice of naturopathic medicine, and naturopathic physicians are known for their expertise in bio-identical hormone replacement therapy. It is incongruous that naturopathic physicians cannot prescribe testosterone when medically necessary, simply because it is classified as a controlled substance.

Testosterone deficiency in both males and females increases risk for obesity, type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular disease, dyslipidemia (abnormal blood cholesterol and fats), inflammation, hypertension, loss of lean body mass, muscle volume and strength, and bone mineral density.

Naturopathic physicians have a clean record regarding prescriptive authority. There have been no disciplinary actions taken by the Board of Naturopathic Medicine, nor any malpractice awards against a naturopathic physician regarding harm from the prescription of any drug included on the naturopathic formulary.

Testosterone is the only controlled substance that the Board of Naturopathic Medicine would consider adding to the naturopathic formulary at this time.

Naturopathic physicians are acutely aware of the widespread abuse and overuse of narcotic pain medicines and do not seek authority to prescribe these substances.

The overwhelming majority of naturopathic physicians licensed in Hawaii have trained in naturopathic medical schools in Oregon, Washington, and Arizona where controlled substances are within the prescriptive authority of naturopathic physicians, and students receive sufficient classroom education and clinical training for their safe and appropriate use.

Thank you for your support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Michael Traub ND