
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under existing law,
2 audiologists must be licensed as an audiologist under chapter
3 468E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and as a hearing aid dealer and
4 fitter, pursuant to chapter 451A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 However, the legislature notes that an applicant for an
6 audiologist license must meet education, examination, and
7 training requirements that far surpass the licensing
8 requirements for a hearing aid dealer and fitter. The
9 legislature further finds that requiring audiologists to hold
10 dual licensure as an audiologist and a hearing aid dealer and
11 fitter is redundant and burdensome, as audiologist licensing
12 requirements are more stringent than hearing aid dealer and
13 fitter licensing requirements.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

15 (1) Clarify that the licensing requirements for hearing
16 aid dealers and fitters shall not apply to



1 audiologists licensed pursuant to chapter 468E, Hawaii
2 Revised Statutes; and

3 (2) Clarify that to be eligible for licensure as an
4 audiologist, a person shall not be required to also be
5 licensed as a hearing aid dealer and fitter under
6 chapter 451A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 SECTION 2. Section 451A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 **"§451A-2 License required.** [~~It~~] (a) Except as otherwise
10 provided in this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person
11 not licensed under this chapter to engage in the sale or
12 practice of dealing and fitting of hearing aids or to use any
13 sign, card, or device to indicate that the person is licensed.

14 (b) Any person wishing to obtain a license or a license by
15 endorsement shall apply on a form prescribed by the director and
16 shall furnish to the director:

17 (1) Satisfactory proof that the person is a high school
18 graduate; and

19 (2) Satisfactory proof that the person has fulfilled all
20 of the requirements for a license.



1 (c) An applicant shall be required to pass a licensing
2 examination."

3 SECTION 3. Section 451A-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **"§451A-18 Persons and practices not affected.** This
6 chapter is not intended to:

7 (1) Prohibit any person from engaging in the practice of
8 measuring human hearing for the purpose of selection
9 of hearing aids; provided the person or the
10 organization employing the person does not sell
11 hearing aids or accessories;

12 (2) Prohibit a person in maintaining an established
13 business address from engaging in the business of
14 selling or offering for sale hearing aids at retail
15 without a license; provided that it employs persons
16 licensed under this chapter responsible for the
17 fitting and direct sale of such products; [~~and~~]

18 (3) Apply to a person who is a physician licensed to
19 practice in Hawaii~~[-]~~; or

20 (4) Apply to a person who is licensed as an audiologist
21 pursuant to chapter 468E."



1 SECTION 4. Section 468E-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§468E-5 Eligibility for licensure.** (a) To be eligible
4 for licensure by the board as a speech pathologist or
5 audiologist, a person shall:

6 (1) Possess at least a master's degree or its equivalent
7 in the area of speech pathology or audiology, as the
8 case may be, from an educational institution
9 recognized by the board;

10 (2) Submit to the board evidence of eligibility for
11 meeting the requirements of the American Speech-
12 Language-Hearing Association for the certificate of
13 clinical competence in speech pathology or audiology,
14 or both; and

15 (3) Pass a written examination approved by the board.

16 (b) To be eligible for licensure by the board as an
17 audiologist, a person shall not be required to also be licensed
18 as a hearing aid dealer and fitter under chapter 451A."

19 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

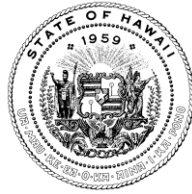
Licensing; Audiologists; Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters

Description:

Clarifies that the licensing requirements for hearing aid dealers and fitters shall not apply to audiologists licensed pursuant to chapter 468E, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Clarifies that to be eligible for licensure as an audiologist, a person shall not be required to also be licensed as a hearing aid dealer and fitter. (SB2258 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.





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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, March 28, 2018
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2258, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO
LICENSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Alan Taniguchi, and I am the Executive Officer for the Hearing Aid Dealer and Fitter Program, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2258, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Licensing, with a suggested amendment.

This measure exempts audiologists licensed pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) chapter 468E from the requirements of HRS chapter 451A. H.D. 1 amends this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion. The Department respectfully requests the Committee amend the effective date to “upon approval.”

Pursuant to HRS chapter 451A, applicants for a hearing aid dealer and fitter license must be a high school graduate and successfully pass the International Licensing Examination for Hearing Healthcare Professionals.

The Department understands that audiologists complete a rigorous academic study of the science of hearing, balance, and related disorders, including supervised clinical practice that culminates in the Doctor of Audiology degree. At the time of graduation, they will have completed at least eight years of post-secondary education. In addition, audiologists are required to take and successfully pass a licensure examination. A review of the audiology licensure exam indicates that the items test for minimal competency at least equal to that of the hearing aid dealer and fitter licensure examination. Thus, the Department believes that not requiring audiologists to hold the additional license of a hearing aid dealer and fitter will not result in consumer harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2258, S.D. 1., H.D. 1.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, March 28, 2018
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**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2258, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO
LICENSING.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is June Uyehara-Isono, and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2258, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, Relating to Licensing, with a suggested amendment.

This measure clarifies that the licensing requirements for hearing aid dealers and fitters shall not apply to audiologists licensed pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") chapter 468E. Also, this measure clarifies in HRS chapter 368E that to be eligible for licensure as an audiologist, a person shall not be required to also be licensed as a hearing aid dealer and fitter under HRS chapter 451A. H.D. 1 amends this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion. The Board respectfully requests the Committee amend the effective date to "upon approval".

The Board supports S.B. 2258, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 because audiologists are already required to complete a rigorous academic study and clinical training that exceeds the education and training of hearing aid dealers and fitters. In addition, audiologists are required to pass a licensure examination which tests items that are equivalent or higher than the test items of the hearing aid dealers and fitters licensure examination. Therefore, it would be redundant and burdensome to require an audiologist to hold dual licensure as an audiologist and a hearing aid dealer and fitter, as currently required.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2258, S.D. 1, H.D. 1., with the requested amendment.