

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

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2018

Thursday, March 22, 2018  
9:00 a.m.

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

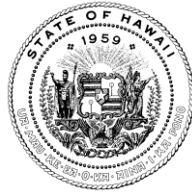
TO THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:

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, Relating to Licensing.

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. S.D. 1 amends this measure by clarifying in HRS chapter 468E 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.

The Board supports S.B. 2258, S.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.



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

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

My name is Alan Taniguchi, and I am the Executive Officer for the Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Program, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2258, S.D. 1, Relating to Licensing.

This measure exempts audiologists licensed pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") chapter 468E from the requirements of HRS chapter 451A. S.D. 1 amends this measure by clarifying within the audiologists' practice act that to be eligible for audiologist licensure, a person shall not be required to also be licensed as a hearing aid dealer and fitter.

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

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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.