

SB2653

Measure Title:	RELATING TO CHAPTER 453, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.
Report Title:	Licensure; Licensure by Endorsement; Physicians; Surgeons; Osteopathic Physicians; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Establishes requirements for licensure by endorsement for physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians. Appropriates funds.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	BAKER, ENGLISH, INOUYE, KEITH-AGARAN, RUDERMAN, S. Chang, Espero, Gabbard, Galuteria, Kim, Nishihara

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Friday, February 2, 2018
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2653, RELATING TO CHAPTER 453, HAWAII REVISED
STATUTES.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Peter D. Holt, M.D., and I am a physician-member and legislative committee member of the Hawaii Medical Board (“Board”). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure, which is a companion to H.B. 2059. The Board strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments for the Committee’s consideration.

S.B. 2653 establishes licensing requirements by endorsement for physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians to practice in Hawaii.

Between January 2016 through December 2017, the Board received over 1,000 applications from physicians who are licensed in other jurisdictions and/or have a mailing address in another jurisdiction. The Board believes licensure by endorsement will provide greater access to medical care in Hawaii and will address the high volume of applications received from out-of-state physicians through a more expeditious and streamlined process.

In addition, this measure provides the Board the ability to expedite a license but remain committed to its legislative mandate to protect Hawaii consumers from unsafe and incompetent practitioners. The measure clearly ensures the Board may only license: (1) a physician who meets the license requirements set forth in Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) section 453-4; and (2) a physician that holds an unencumbered license and has not been previously disciplined by

another medical or osteopathic medical board. The Board would not, in any way, cede its vetting of an application to another jurisdiction.

For the Committee's additional information, about forty-nine percent of state medical or osteopathy licensing boards allow for licensure by endorsement and/or reciprocity.

Lastly, and for the Board to carry out this measure, the Board strongly supports section 4 of this bill, which appropriates an unspecified sum from the Compliance Resolution Fund for purposes of implementing this Act.

On behalf of the Board, we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of S.B. 2653.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376

www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

TO:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 2, 2018

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 229

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association

Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: SB 2653 – Relating to Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Position: SUPPORT

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the Hawaii Medical Association, we are writing regarding our ongoing commitment to reform of the health care system.

The HMA is in support of SB 2653, which establishes a system for licensure by endorsement for physicians, surgeons and osteopathic physicians. Licensure by endorsement provides an efficient, safe and expedient process by which these healthcare providers from out of state may become licensed in Hawaii while preventing physicians with any disciplinary action in another state from accessing this process.

The University of Hawaii's Physician Workforce Assessment found Oahu needs 381 physicians, up from 339 last year, while the Big Island is short 196 providers, compared with the 183 needed last year. Maui County has a deficit of 139, up from 125, while Kauai needs 53 doctors, down from 62.

Primary care providers are the largest group in short supply, followed by infectious disease specialists on Oahu and Kauai, colorectal surgeons on the Big Island and geriatric doctors in Maui County.

Hawaii is facing a critical shortage of healthcare providers in nearly every field of practice. This shortfall is projected to worsen with the increased demand for health care from an aging population and the retirement of an aging physician population creating access issues on Oahu and the neighbor islands. The shortfall impacts the ability of our communities to access needed healthcare in a timely fashion.

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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Additionally, another barrier to access to care is the limitation placed on physicians seeking to relocate to Hawaii to practice by the requirements of obtaining a license to practice in the state, many of whom are fully qualified and licensed in another jurisdiction. Implementing a process to license out-of-state physicians by endorsement enables the Hawaii Board of Medical Examiners to recognize the qualifications and licensed status of another state and reduces the burden and time constraints of relicensing.

This measure provides the Board the ability to expedite a license but remain committed to its legislative mandate to protect Hawaii consumers from unsafe and incompetent practitioners. The measure clearly ensures the Board may only license: (1) a physician who meets the license requirements set forth in Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) section 453-4; and (2) a physician that holds an unencumbered license and has not been previously disciplined by another medical or osteopathic medical board. The Board would not, in any way, cede its vetting of an application to another jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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
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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Friday, February 2, 2018; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

RE: SUPPORTING THE INTENT OF SENATE BILL NO. 2653, RELATING TO CHAPTER 453, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS THE INTENT** of Senate Bill No. 2653, RELATING TO CHAPTER 453, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Allow the Hawaii Medical Board (Board) to issue licenses by endorsement to a physician, surgeon, or osteopathic physician if certain conditions are met;
- (2) Authorize the Board to require an applicant seeking licensure by endorsement to take and pass the Special Purpose Examination or the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable-Purpose Examination -- USA to assist the Board in determining the applicant's ability to safely and competently engage in the practice of medicine;
- (3) Allow the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to employ civil service-exempt staff to implement the foregoing provisions; and
- (4) Appropriate an unspecified amount of funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 from the Compliance Resolution Fund to implement the foregoing provisions.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology,

hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

This bill would appear to clarify the Board's authority to license physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians by endorsement. Accordingly we commend this effort and wish to participate in any and all discussions concerning the expedited licensure of health care professionals. From a practical standpoint, however, we do raise the following points concerning the bill as it is presently drafted:

- (1) It is unclear whether any additional statutory authority under Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), is needed for the Board to expedite the licensure of physicians, surgeons, or osteopathic physicians [See, Sections 453-4, 453-4.5, HRS.];
- (2) The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs [DCCA] is the only State department that is self-sufficient. Its entire budget is funded by administrative fees and fines that are deposited into the Compliance Resolution Fund (Fund). It is unclear whether there are sufficient resources in the Fund to facilitate the additional responsibilities that would be placed on staff if the Board was to utilize the authority specified in this bill. It is also unclear how this would fit in DCCA's and the Administration's budgetary priorities; and
- (3) Most importantly, the licensure laws are established to ensure the qualifications of health care professionals. While there is a desperate need for more physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians in Hawaii's workforce, it is imperative that sufficient safeguards are in place to ensure that all licensees are fully qualified and capable of performing the services to which licensure is given.

It is in the spirit of collaboration and we offer these observations. We urge the Departments of Health and Commerce and Consumer Affairs to continue these discussions jointly moving forward.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT THE INTENT** of this measure and urge your favorable consideration.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Friday, February 2, 2018 at 9:00AM
Conference Room 229

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Senator Roslyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

From: Kenneth Robbins, MD
CMO, Hawaii Pacific Health

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2653 – Relating to Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes

My name is Kenneth Robbins, MD. I am the Chief Medical Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I write in support of SB 2653 which establishes a system for licensure by endorsement for physicians, surgeons and osteopathic physicians. Licensure by endorsement provides an efficient, safe and expedient process by which these healthcare providers from out of state may become licensed in Hawaii.

Hawaii is facing a critical shortage of healthcare providers in nearly every field of practice. For example, in the case of primary care physicians, the shortage is now calculated at 282 physicians statewide. This shortfall is projected to worsen with the increased demand for health care from an aging population and the retirement of an aging physician population creating access issues on Oahu and the neighbor islands. The shortfall impacts the ability of our communities to access needed healthcare in a timely fashion.

Additionally, another barrier to access to care is the limitation placed on physicians seeking to relocate to Hawaii to practice by the requirements of obtaining a license to practice in the state, many of whom are fully qualified and licensed in another

jurisdiction. Implementing a process to license out-of-state physicians by endorsement enables the Hawaii Board of Medical Examiners to recognize the qualifications and licensed status of another state and reduces the burden and time constraints of relicensing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Douglas Calvert, DO
Chief of Staff

Stephen Smith, MD
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Torrey Lynch, MD
Secretary

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Treasurer

Jon Martell, MD
**Medical Director/Chief
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Tandy Newsome, RN
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Jane Furtado, CPCS,
CPMSM
Medical Staff Coordinator

Leilani Dupre
Credentials Coordinator

June M. Ikeda
CME Coordinator
Medical Staff Assistant

Krystal Lee Macanas
Research Assistant

Susan Chelette
Research Statistician

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: Friday, February 2, 2018
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

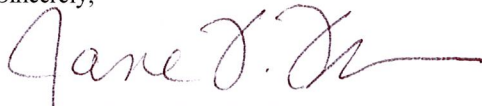
Dear Committee Members,

The Medical Services Professionals (MSP) at Hilo Medical Center would like to formally express my support for the *SB No. 2653*. Hilo Medical Center is a safety net hospital in a medically underserved region of Hawaii. We frequently need to credential and privilege new physician, locums physicians and telemedicine physicians on an expedited basis to fill critical gaps in our service provision. This is a long and detailed process, often made longer by delays in medical licensure caused by the lengthy process of primary source verification. This legislation would ensure physicians are rigorously assessed for licensure but will remove many barriers that prevent them from attaining licensure quickly.

The implementation of this law will allow MSPs to re-direct their resources to other aspects of the application process that allow for increased patient safety while significantly shortening the time that it takes for an organization's medical staff to appropriately credential and onboard new physicians. To these ends, the *SB No. 2653* supports the work of Medical Services Professionals (MSPs) to efficiently onboard and credential new physicians.

Please support Medical Licensure by Endorsement.

Sincerely,



Jane Furtado, CPCS, CPMSM
Medical Staff Services Coordinator
President, Hawaii Association of Medical Staff Services (HAMSP)