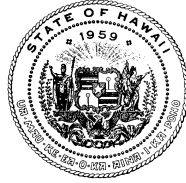


# SB2653

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





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2653**  
**RELATING TO CHAPTER 453, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: February 1, 2018                      Room Number: 229

- 1    **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified appropriations request.
  
- 2    **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SB2653, which establishes
- 3    licensure by endorsement for qualified physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians, the
- 4    desired effect being diminished administrative burdens that may in turn improve provider
- 5    supply.
  
- 6    DOH requests this measure be passed out of committee so Hawaii's health care community can
- 7    continue this conversation
  
- 8    The department defers to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for details on
- 9    implementation and the required resources to operationalize.
  
- 10   **Offered Amendments:** N/A.



**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.

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