



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2653
RELATING TO CHAPTER 453, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.**

SENATOR DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 23, 2018

Room Number: 211

- 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 The department defers to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for details on
- 7 implementation and the resources to operationalize.
- 8 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Friday, February 23, 2018
11:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

TO THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony 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. For the Committee's information, the Board is requesting two FTEs: one Office Assistant IV¹ and one Office Assistant V².

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of S.B. 2653.

¹ OA-IV salary + fringe = \$50,000.00

² OA-V salary + fringe = \$54,000.00



February 23, 2018 at 11:00 AM
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

From: Paige Heckathorn
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

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

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

We would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** SB 2653, which would allow physicians, surgeons, and osteopathic physicians to receive licensure by endorsement. There is currently a physician shortage in the state, with one recent report finding that there was a shortage of 769 physicians, an eight percent increase over the previous year. This creates issues with access to timely, quality care, especially on the neighbor islands. This shortage is projected to worsen in the coming years and decades, especially as the state's population ages.

Efforts to bring in qualified physicians in a more efficient manner will be important to address the current and future issues we have with access to quality care. This measure would allow for a more streamlined process that can help our state address the current and future physician shortage, while protecting the ability of the Hawaii Medical Board to ensure that necessary standards are met.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

SB-2653

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 11:45:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	Testifying for Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

Hilo Medical Center supports SB2653.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 23, 2018; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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** 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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2653
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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.

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

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

Friday, February 23, 2018 at 11:00AM
Conference Room 211

Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, 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.

SB-2653

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:07:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: