

HB
252

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPEECH PATHOLOGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 468E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§468E- Provisional license. (a) The board shall
5 grant, upon application and payment of proper fees, provisional
6 licensure to an individual who:

7 (1) Possesses at a minimum a master's degree in the area
8 of speech pathology from an educational institution
9 recognized by the board; and

10 (2) Engages in clinical or academic practice under the
11 supervision of a licensed speech pathologist for such
12 period of time as needed to fulfill the necessary
13 requirements for licensure as a speech pathologist
14 pursuant to section 468E-5.

15 (b) Each provisional license shall include the name and
16 title of a speech pathologist who is licensed, possesses an
17 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association certificate of



1 clinical competence, is in good standing, and will supervise the
2 provisional licensee. A provisional licensee may practice
3 speech pathology only under the supervision of the licensed
4 speech pathologist named on the provisional license.

5 (c) A provisional license shall be valid for one year from
6 the date of issuance and may be renewed for an additional one
7 year period if needed to fulfill the requirements for licensure
8 as a speech pathologist pursuant to section 468E-5."

9 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.


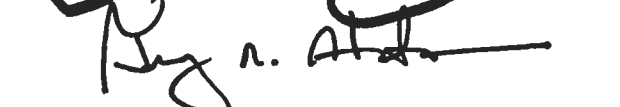

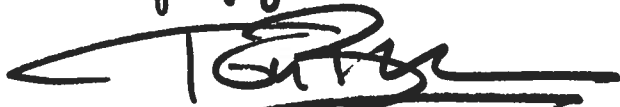
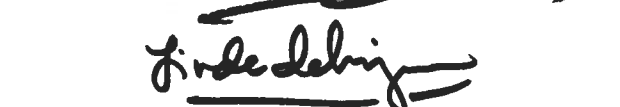
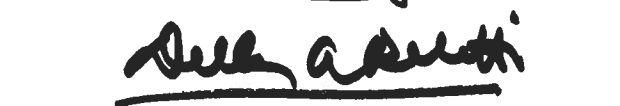

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

11

INTRODUCED BY:





H.B. NO. 252

Report Title:

Speech Pathology; Speech Pathologists; Licensure; Provisional License

Description:

Establishes a provisional license for speech pathologists.
Takes effect on 10/01/19.

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



Testimony of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Wednesday, February 20, 2019
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 252, RELATING TO SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish a provisional license for speech pathologists; (2) specify the requirements for a provisional license; and (3) limit the validity of the provisional license to one year with the ability to renew the provisional license for an additional one year if needed to fulfill the requirements of Hawaii Revised Statutes section 468E-5.

This provisional license would allow candidates for licensure to practice under the guidance of an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association certified supervisor. The Board believes that this would enhance the quality of supervision and therefore ensure public safety. The Board also acknowledges that individuals who apply for the provisional license should be those working towards eligibility for permanent licensure. Thus, the Board agrees that the term of the provisional license should be for a one-year period, with a possible extension of an additional year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



February 20, 2019 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

To: Chair Roy M. Takumi
Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Director of Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure. There is a shortage of speech language pathologists (SLPs) to serve in medical settings, which is likely in part because Hawaii is in the minority of states that do not issue a provisional license. (There are 42 states that issue a provisional license, with one more state in the process of implementing the law.)

The reason that provisional licenses are important is because SLPs must complete a clinical fellowship for a year to obtain their Certificate of Clinical Competence. As noted, Hawaii is one of the few states that does not have a provisional or temporary license during that clinical fellowship year. Unfortunately, without that provisional license, these fellows cannot bill Medicare and some other insurance providers for patient services provided under the direct supervision of a licensed SLP. This means that there are fewer Hawaii-based opportunities for SLP fellows, who often then go to the mainland for their training. This law would help to provide more opportunities for students to get training in Hawaii-based settings and help to increase access to needed services.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this legislation.

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 8:38:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kristina Fuentes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Senator Roy M. Takumi, Chair

Senator Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

Consumer Protection & Commerce

I am writing this testimony in support of H.B. No. 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. I am currently a Director of Rehabilitation for 3 skilled nursing facilities on Kauai. I have been trying to fill a position for several months now, and I have turned away 6 applicants interested in completing their CF with us. Just last night, I had to turn away another. I am desperate to fill this much needed position and have SLPs knocking on my door but unable to provide the services needed due to no provisional license. Passing H.B. 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

Kristina Fuentes, MS CCC-SLP

Director of Rehabilitation

Aegis Therapies

Kauai, HI



3- 3420 Kuhio Highway, Suite 300 • Lihue, HI 96766

House Committee on Consumer Protection

To: Chair Roy Takumi
Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama

From: Kurt Akamine
Vice President
Ohana Pacific Management Company

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology

Ohana Pacific Management Company, Inc. (OPMC) owns and operates five post-acute care facilities servicing more than 500 patients on Oahu and Kauai as well as an adult day health program and home health agency on Kauai.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 252, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows.

Without a provisional license, Speech Language Pathology (SLP) clinical fellows (CFs) cannot bill most insurances for their services. As such, we have a shortage of speech therapists delaying needed services, lack of job opportunities for CFs when graduating from accredited universities. We are losing talented graduates from the University of Hawaii to the mainland. These graduates seek job opportunities there rather than staying in Hawaii.

There are only four states that does not provide a provisional license to CFs and three of those states are actively working to address this situation. HB 252 is very important for Hawaii. It will have a direct effect on the amount of available speech pathologists, which will then directly impact our Hawaii resident's access to necessary speech pathology services. I respectfully ask for your support in passing this measure.

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:14:45 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eveline Koenig | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of H.B. 252 Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). Working at several hospitals on the Big Island, I had the opportunity to supervise or mentor 5 graduate SLP students. Three of them moved to the mainland after their graduation because there was no opportunity at home in Hawaii without provisional licensure, a fourth is planning the same. There is a also shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing H.B. 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue."

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:16:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kirsten Manning | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of H.B. No. 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. I am a SLP on the island of Kauai where there has been a shortage of medical speech therapists since I moved to Hawaii. I have since worked with graduates from University of Hawaii who have expressed their frustration with the lack of medical opportunities during the final externships and for the Clinical Fellow year following graduation. This lack of opportunities leads to graduates taking school positions and then finding it difficulty to enter the medical world leaving our island in a constant shortage. This bill would benefit not only the patient's lives as they have greater access to services, but it would also provide better education opportunities to those participating in the graduate Speech Pathology program at U of H. Passing H.B. 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

Kirsten Manning, M.A. CCC-SLP

February 20, 2019
2:00 PM
Conference Room 329
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

To: Chair Roy M. Takumi, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama, and members of the CPC Committee,

From: Erin Firmin

Re: Testimony in **Support** HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology

I **strongly support** of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for Clinical Fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists state-wide in Hawaii. Many health care systems are unable to hire clinical fellows because they are not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates and providing quicker access to quality services for patients, improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 1:23:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Carey | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony to support SB No, 307, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for speech pathology clinical fellows. This would allow additional speech language pathologists to be hired and be able to provide billable medical services and offset critical deficits of Speech Language Pathologists in the medical field in the State of Hawaii. Passing SB 307 will have positive impacts on providing employment opportunities for recent graduates, improve services to patients and increase community resources.

Thank you,

Susan Carey, M.S., CCC-SLP

susancares@icloud.com

[8088961228](tel:8088961228)

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:55:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jenna Nakama | DOE | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

Jenna Nakama

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:26:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keeley Chambers | HSHA | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 6:53:00 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 7:25:41 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruth W. Bass | Island Therapies | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CFs). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients, and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for hearing my voice on this important issue.

Ruth W. Bass, MS, CCC-SLP

Island Therapies

Hawai'i Lic# SP1758

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 7:52:34 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kimberly Monden | HSHA | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

Thank you!

Kimberly Monden, M.S. CCC-SLP

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 6:20:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tanya Sasaoka | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

February 20, 2019

Support of H.B. No. 252, Relating to Speech Pathology

I am writing this testimony in support of H.B. No.252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing H.B. 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 6:32:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Joanne Allagonez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 252 (Relating to Speech Pathology), which would provide a provisional license for speech-language pathologists during their clinical fellowship.

Currently, Hawai'i is one of the few states that do not offer licensure to Clinical Fellows, who are transitioning from being a speech-language pathology student to being a provider. When Clinical Fellows are not licensed, they are often not recognized as qualified clinicians for the purposes of reimbursement and are therefore unable to bill Medicare and most insurance companies.

The lack of a provisional license for Clinical Fellows also negatively impacts the shortage of speech-language pathologists here in Hawai'i, especially in the medical field, as recent graduates are more likely to look for jobs in states that offer licensure.

Passing HB 252 would have positive effects in Hawai'i, including increasing the number of providers for speech-language services and growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates. This will improve our community resources and allow speech-language pathologists to provide faster, better quality services to adults and children in need of speech-language services in the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 252.

Sincerely,

Joanne Allagonez, M.S., CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 7:16:02 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jasmin Ash | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. Not only does this deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs, but pushes local graduates to pursue medical speech pathology jobs elsewhere - further contributing to the state-wide shortage. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:22:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carole Duran | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

Thank you-

Carole Duran, M.A.; CCC-SLP

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 7:18:52 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ceara Sumida | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

For me, Hawaii is much more than palm trees, sunsets, and beautiful beaches -- it is my home. Being born and raised on the Big Island, I grew up with a strong sense of community, aloha, and dedication to improving the lives around me. Pursuing my dream of becoming a speech-language pathologist started at a small university in California where I earned my undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders, and has led me home to Hawaii where I am earning my masters degree in speech-language pathology. I believe I have found my passion in life -- to empower others through communication. Unfortunately, many of us pursuing our dreams in the medical or rehabilitation setting must leave this place we call home to get the proper training necessary to obtain our license. Hawaii is unique in itself; the population is a true mixing pot of diversity and the values instilled in individuals at a young age reflect the true spirit of aloha -- which exudes like no other place in the world. To have eager, aspiring professionals leave the islands for additional training can be viewed as a disservice to both this state and profession. However, the provisional license will allow many to gain invaluable training here in the state of Hawaii. It would encourage the retention of high-quality and dedicated professionals as well as improve the value of healthcare for the growing population of older generations.

Respectfully,

Ceara Sumida

Graduate Student

University of Hawaii Manoa - CSD â,,... 2019

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:18:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dayna Oshiro | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide, including in the DOE schools, in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

Thank you!

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 7:18:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Julie Yatogo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license to individual completing their final year under direct supervision prior to certification. There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to these individuals not being able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This shortage creates a delay in services for our patients with speech and language therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

2/20/19

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

Thank you!

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 8:58:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexis SHELDON | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 9:11:30 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Blair | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

HB-252

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 11:21:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/20/2019 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa Takasaki-Young | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for clinical fellows (CF). There is a shortage of speech-language pathologists in the medical field and the Department of Education state-wide in Hawaii due to clinical fellows not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. This deficiency creates a delay in services for our patients with speech therapy needs. Passing HB 252 would only have positive effects on growing our employment opportunities for recent graduates, providing faster, better quality services to patients and improving our community resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.