

HB252

Measure Title:	RELATING TO SPEECH PATHOLOGY.
Report Title:	Speech Pathology; Speech Pathologists; Licensure; Provisional License
Description:	Establishes a provisional license for speech pathologists. Takes effect on 10/01/19.
Companion:	SB307
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	MORIKAWA, BELATTI, BROWER, ICHIYAMA, MIZUNO, OHNO, DeCoite, Hashimoto, Matayoshi, San Buenaventura, Takayama

Testimony of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Thursday, March 14, 2019
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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

Chair Baker 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 toward eligibility for permanent licensure, such as those who are completing their clinical fellowship year. 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.

Additionally, if this bill passes unamended, the new provisional license will require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVL) and the Board to: (1) create application forms that capture the necessary information and fees required to obtain this provisional license; (2) update the PVL's database to reflect this new license type; (3) update all online information regarding the provisional license; and (4) train staff members. Based on this information, the Board will be discussing the time needed to implement this bill at its March 19, 2019, meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 14, 2019 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang

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: 3/11/2019 7:35:20 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Cappello	Testifying for HSHA	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 307/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 as clinical fellows are unable 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: 3/11/2019 12:00:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janeen Kuhn	Testifying for Speech Language Pathologists	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 307/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: 3/8/2019 4:13:55 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristina Fuentes	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). I am currently the Director of Rehabilitation for 3 Skilled nursing facilities on Kauai and 2 on Maui. I have first hand experience with the severe 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 currently have 2 open positions for a medical speech language pathologist and have 6 CF applicants and 0 currently licensed applicants. I could have already filled these positions and began treating a waiting list of patients who need speech therapy. 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.

Sincerely

Kristina Fuentes, MS CCC-SLP
Director of Rehabilitation

Kauai, HI

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Submitted on: 3/8/2019 4:16:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 14, 2019

9:00 AM

Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Stanley Chang, and members of the CPH Committee,

From: Erin Firmin

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

I **strongly support** HB 252, Relating to Speech Pathology, which seeks to provide a provisional license for Speech Pathologists during their supervised clinical fellowship. Currently, there is a shortage of speech pathologists across the state of Hawaii. Many health care systems are unable to hire clinical fellows because they are unlicensed, therefore they would be unable to collect reimbursement from 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 increasing our employment opportunities for recent graduates and providing quicker access to quality services for patients, improving our community's resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important issue.

HB-252

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:12:26 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gaye Arakaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 307/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: 3/11/2019 7:21:21 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paige Daumeyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 307/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: 3/9/2019 11:41:34 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

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: 3/11/2019 7:56:23 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Iwashita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 307/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: 3/11/2019 8:41:36 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen E Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 983 with amendments, to further expand the incentive program to include Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists employed by the State of Hawaii Department of Education (DOE). Teachers who seek to obtain National Board Certification complete a rigorous certification process, which is comparable to the national certification of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

The Certificate of Clinical Competence, conferred by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), is the national certification to demonstrate that a SLP or Audiologist has voluntarily met rigorous academic and professional standards in the fields of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, respectively. Speech-Language Pathologists have, at minimum: a Master's Degree from an accredited program, completed 400 hours of clinical practicum, passed a national Praxis exam, and completed a minimum of 36 weeks of a supervised clinical fellowship prior to achieving national certification with ASHA. Audiologists have, at minimum: a Doctoral Degree, from an accredited program, completed 1,820 hours of supervised clinical practicum, and passed a national Praxis exam. In order to maintain national certification, SLPs and Audiologists must complete a minimum of 30 contact hours of professional development for every three-year cycle.

Obtaining and maintaining this national certification demonstrates that a SLP or Audiologist possesses a high level of competency in the fields of Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology, which directly benefits students. Currently, across the state, there are severe shortages of SLPs and Audiologists to provide necessary habilitative and rehabilitative services in the areas of communication. In order to address these shortages, costly contractual employees are hired to fill these vacancies. Expanding this incentive program to include SLPs and Audiologists should assist in the recruitment and retention of highly qualified Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists to the State of Hawaii Department of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-252

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:38:47 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Summer Fajota	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.

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Submitted on: 3/11/2019 9:51:32 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyssa Masuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 307/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.

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HB-252

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 10:54:58 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Muranaka	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.

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Submitted on: 3/11/2019 12:18:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Lee-Arocha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

am writing this testimony in support of SB 307/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.

Diana Lee-Arocha

HB-252

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 11:38:49 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanya Sasaoka	Individual	Support	Yes

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.

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Submitted on: 3/11/2019 9:33:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/14/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kayla Kawamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 307/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.

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