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**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 28, 2019
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 225, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO OCULARISTS**

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Dispensing Opticians Program. The Department supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to specify that a certified ocularist, certified by a nationally recognized ocularistry certifying board, may perform duties within the scope of that certification.

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 458-14, a certified ocularist recognized by the American Society of Ocularists may practice within the scope of that certification, provided that the ocularist: (1) performs only those functions dealing with the designing, fitting, and fabricating of artificial eyes, and not contact lenses of refractive value; and (2) is under the supervision of a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist. This bill clarifies that ocularists must be certified by the American Board of Ocularistry, the National Examining Board of Ocularists, or any other nationally

recognized ocularistry certifying board. This requirement will benefit Hawaii consumers by raising the credentialing standards of ocularists practicing in the State.

The Department further acknowledges that, although this bill amends HRS chapter 458, which governs dispensing opticians, this bill does not alter or impact their scope of practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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To:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Date: March 28, 2019

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conf. room 308

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Jerry Van Meter, MD, President

Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Re: SB 225 SD 1 HD 1

Position: SUPPORT

On behalf of Hawaii's physician and student members, the HMA supports SB 225 which would serve to modernize licensure requirements for certified ocularists in Hawaii.

Passage of SB 225 would allow ocularists certified by nationally recognized accreditation boards other than the current American Society of Ocularists to be licensed to produce prosthetic eyes in Hawaii. This in turn would allow this important medical function to continue being performed in the state.

Thank you for allowing testimony on this issue.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Jerry Van Meter, MD President-Elect – Michael Champion, MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD

Immediate Past President – William Wong, Jr., MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD

Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO

SB-225-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 10:11:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doss tannehill	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Thursday, March 28, 2019

2:00pm

Conference Room 308

My name is Doss Tannehill and I am a board certified ocularist.

I would like to testify in support of SB225 SD1 HD1.

I am a second generation ocularist who has been practicing in Hawaii for over 46 years. As an ocularist I treat patients who have been born without an eye or with very small eyes, children who are born with cancer and others who have lost their eyes or have disfigured eyes due to trauma or disease. In a word I make artificial eyes. During that time I have had the privilege of improving the lives of thousands of Hawai'i and Pacific Rim patients. I am a past president of the American Society of Ocularists and am currently the president of the International Academy of Ocularistry. I am board certified by the American Board of Ocularistry (ABO) and the National Examining Board of Ocularists (NEBO).

SB225 would allow for the expansion of the number of certification boards that fulfill the requirements for licensure in the state of Hawaii.

The ABO was formed in response to NEBO's loss of accreditation due to a failure to comply with the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) standards. The ABO was structured to comply with the standards of the NCCA and is currently moving towards accreditation. The secondary impetus for the creation of the ABO was to form a certifying body that would evaluate candidates based on an elevated standard of

ocularistry care. A key component of this change was to move from anecdotal to evidence based practice.

Nearly every day one of my patients will ask me “who will take care of me when you retire?” I am the only board certified ocularist in Hawaii and I will retire in the foreseeable future. Having another certifying board will ensure that there will be a certified ocularist in Hawaii to serve and care for our people who are in need of an ocular prosthesis. With the change in the statute an ocularist can be certified by the ABO, NEBO or any other nationally recognized certifying board.

NEBO has lost its accreditation at least 9 years ago and I’m not sure when or if it will regain accreditation. This bill does nothing more than give more certified ocularists the opportunity to practice in Hawaii. It is critical that any ocularist practicing in Hawaii be board certified.

There is no fiscal responsibility on the part of the state. These certifying boards would be nationwide.

I would ask that the senate version (SB 225 SD1) of this Act be accepted and take effect upon its approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doss K. Tannehill BS, BCO, FIAO

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SB-225-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 6:03:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy McDevitt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Sylvia Luke

Chair of the House Finance Committee

SB 225

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 521. The state of Hawaii would benefit from having more than one certifying board for ocularists. The only certifying board, the National Examining Board of Ocularists, has lost its accreditation and it is unsure when or if it will ever be accredited again. The American Board of Ocularistry is working towards accreditation and should be accredited within 3 years.

It is necessary for our state to have the services of a board certified ocularist. Doss Tannehill has been that ocularist for 47 years. When he retires there will be a void to be filled. By having another certifying board this will allow for more certified ocularists the opportunity to practice in Hawaii and service our patients in need of the services only a certified ocularist can provide.

I would ask that this act take effect when approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy McDevitt, MD

LATE

SB-225-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 5:29:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Young MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

David Young, MD

1319 Punahou Street, Suite1030

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB225

I am in support of SB225. To take effect upon approval.

I am a pediatric ophthalmologist here in Hawaii.

I have patients who need to have the services of a certified ocularist in Hawaii. My patients need these services for a myriad of reasons: cancer, microphthalmos (born with a small eye, anophthalmos (born without an eye), trauma and diseases. An ocularist not only makes and fits an ocular prosthesis but also fits progressively larger conformers to increase the eye socket to obtain symmetry for those patients who have microphthalmos or anophthalmos before making a custom ocular prosthesis. These patients need a lifetime of care by an ocularist.

Doss Tannehill has provided these services, as did his father, for decades. He will retire one day and we will need someone to replace him. With another certifying board this will broaden the number of certified ocularists who may wish to practice in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Young, MD