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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 Intrastate Commerce
and
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Wednesday, March 20, 2019
2:01 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

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

Chair Ohno, Chair Takumi, and Members of the Committees:

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.

SB-225-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:21:19 AM

Testimony for IAC on 3/20/2019 2:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB225 SD1 HD1

Honorable Takashi Ohno and Honorable Roy Takumi

Chair House Committee on Intrastate Commerce and Chair House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Dear Chair Ohno and Chair Takumi and Members of the Committees:

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

I would like to testify in support of SB225 SD1.

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).

HB 521 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.

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

752 17th Avenue

SB-225-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:37:47 PM

Testimony for IAC on 3/20/2019 2:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Wong	Hawaii Vision Clinic	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am offering testimony in support of this bill. The practice of prosthetic eyes is critical to the emotional, psychological, aesthetic, and mental health of patients that have grave disfigurement due to loss of an eye or eyes. Trauma, cancer, and other diseases can result in the loss of an eye, with severe impact on a person's life. Proper ocular prosthetics can restore a person's self image, confidence, and enable them to function as a contributing member of society. The skills required for this practice are complex and can only be certified by the Board of Ocularists. Hawaii has only one certified Ocularist nearing retirement age. We are critically short of certified professionals capable of this service. Please make this bill effective upon approval to ensure our state is not left without a proper Ocularist.

Mahalo,

William K. Wong, Jr., MD

Past President, Hawaii Medical Association,

Past President, Honolulu County Medical Society

Past President, Hawaii Ophthalmological Society

Honorable Senator Sylvia Luke
Chair of the House Finance Committee
HB521

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am in support of HB 521.

My name is Pierre Pang and I am an ophthalmologist born and raised 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 life time 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,



M. Pierre Pang, MD

2055 N. King Street, Suite 100

Honolulu, HI 96819

LATE

SB-225-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 11:22:24 AM

Testimony for IAC on 3/20/2019 2:01:00 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

LATE

SB-225-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 7:58:49 PM

Testimony for IAC on 3/20/2019 2:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

I would like to submit testimony in support of SB225

I feel 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy F. McDevitt, M.D.