



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Health
Thursday, March 14, 2019
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

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

Chair Mizuno 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.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376

www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

To:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Date: March 14, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conf. room 329

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Jerry Van Meter, MD, President

Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Re: SB 225 SD 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 8:40:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doss tannehill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB225 SD1

Honorable John Mizuno

Chair House Committee on Health

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

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 take effect upon its approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doss K. Tannehill BS, BCO, FIAO

752 17th Avenue

LATE

SB-225-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 8:45:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am in support of SB 225. As the past president of The Hawaii Ophthalmological Society, Honolulu County Medical Society, and Hawaii Medical Association, I am well aware of the need for this type of service in Hawaii. We currently only have one provider for this service who is nearing retirement imminently. We are in critical need of more ocularists to serve our population. The severe emotional, psychological, aesthetic, and functional impact of facial disfigurement from loss of an eye can be mitigated by competent ocularists providing ocular prosthetics.

William K. Wong, Jr., MD