

SB225

Measure Title:	RELATING TO OCULARISTS.
Report Title:	Ocularists; Certification
Description:	Specifies that a certified ocularist, certified by a nationally recognized ophthalmology certifying board, may perform duties within the scope of that certification.
Companion:	HB521
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. 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
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Thursday, February 21, 2019
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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

Chair Baker 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

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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

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:02:27 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:41:26 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Chair of the Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health:

SB225

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I would like to submit testimony in support of SB225.

I am an oculoplastic surgeon who has been practicing in Hawaii for over 20 years.

Many of my patients are those who have had their eye removed or who have a blind and disfigured eye for various reasons: cancer, trauma and disease.

It is necessary for our state to have the services of a board certified ophthalmologist. Doss Tannehill has been that ophthalmologist for over 47 years. When he retires there will be a void to be filled. By having another certifying board this will allow for more certified ophthalmologists to practice in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy F. McDevitt, MD

1380 Lusitana Street, Suite 708

Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-225

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 11:45:27 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB 521

Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker

Chair Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Dear Chair Baker 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 HB 521.

I am a second generation ocularist who has been practicing in Hawaii for over 46 years. 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 this Act take effect upon its approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doss K. Tannehill BS, BCO, FIAO