

**Testimony of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology**

**Before the  
House Committee on Health  
and  
House Committee on Intrastate Commerce  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019  
8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 307, S.D. 1, RELATING TO SPEECH PATHOLOGY**

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

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. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 4:27:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elena Cabatu	Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:



**March 12, 2019 at 8:30 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

**House Committee on Health**  
**House Committee on Intrastate Commerce**

To: Chair John M. Mizuno  
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

Chair Takashi Ohno  
Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
Director of Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**SB 307 SD 1, 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 SB 307 SD 1, Relating to Speech Pathology. 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.

Phone: (808) 521-8961 | Fax: (808) 599-2879 | [HAH.org](http://HAH.org) | 707 Richards Street, PH2 - Honolulu, HI 96813

Affiliated with the American Hospital Association, American Health Care Association, National Association for Home Care and Hospice, American Association for Homecare and Council of State Home Care Associations

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:35:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexis SHELDON	Hawaii Speech & Hearing Assn	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.*

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:46:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:20:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Candy Bartlett	Aegis Therapies	Support	No

Comments:

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Committee on Health

Monday, March 11, 2019

Support for SB 307

Aegis Therapies, headquartered in Frisco, TX, is a provider of contract therapy services to patients in multiple states around the country, and proudly provides speech therapy services to patients in Hawaii. We strongly support SB 307.

Like other medical professionals, speech-language pathologists have to be licensed through a state licensing authority in order to practice their specialty. The licensing process helps to establish and maintain high standards for licensure candidacy and practice. It also assures the public that practitioners have been through a thorough vetting process that involves qualifying candidates through education, supervised experience and examination. A component of the academic training for all Speech-Language Pathologists to be credentialed for the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association is to complete a 9 month Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY).

SB 307 would permit properly trained speech language pathologists to provide services to patients under a provisional license of up to one year, but only under the supervision of a therapist appropriately licensed by the state of Hawaii. This measure would establish a Provisional License for speech language pathologists during their supervised clinical fellowship year. It will address the shortage of such professionals in today's market and provide quicker and more widely available access to speech therapy to Hawaiian patients. Hawaii is one of few states nationally that do not provide provisional licensure for speech language pathologists. Individuals needing to complete their Clinical Fellowship are often forced to migrate to the mainland to do because of the lack of provisional licensure in Hawaii.

Oversight and licensure of speech language pathologists in Hawaii is provided by the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. We understand that the Board was fully briefed on the provisions of this bill at their most recent meeting and does not oppose its passage.

The practice of speech language pathology in Hawaii and the patients receiving such services will be greatly enhanced by passage of this legislation, which does not require the expenditure of state dollars. We urge you to vote yes for SB 307.

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/8/2019 4:01:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristina Fuentes	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Committee on Health

Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair

Representative Dale T. Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Committee on Intrastate Commerce

I am writing this testimony in support of S.B. No. 307, 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 S.B. 307 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

March 12, 2019  
8:30 AM  
Conference Room 329  
House Committee on Health  
House Committee on Intrastate Commerce

To: Chair John Mizuno, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the Health Committee,  
Chair Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair Dale T. Kobayashi, and members of the Intrastate Commerce  
Committee,

From: Erin Firmin

Re: Testimony in **Support** of SB 307, Relating to Speech Pathology

I **strongly support** SB 307, 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 SB 307 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.

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 9:24:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eveline Koenig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of S.B. No. 307, Relating to Speech Pathology, which would provide a provisional license for speech pathologists completing their clinical fellowship (CF). I am a speech-language pathologist (SLP) on Hawai'i Island and have practiced at various hospitals here since 2012. During this time I had the opportunity to mentor and/or supervise five graduate SLP students. Three of them moved to the mainland, despite wanting to remain in Hawaii to pursue jobs in healthcare because they did not have opportunity here without provisional licensure. The fourth is a recent graduate who is likely going to follow the same path. We are losing talented University of Hawaii Speech-Language

Pathology graduates, many who are also local residents to jobs on the mainland due to no provisional license for CFs in Hawaii. Passing S.B. 307 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.

Thank you

Eveline Koenig, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Speech-Language Pathologist

Board Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders

Waikoloa, HI

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 11:42:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joanne Allagonez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB 307 (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

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 6:57:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mackenzie Carlson	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.*

*Mackenzie Carlson, M.S., CF-SLP*

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:11:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.*

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:34:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Cappello	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.

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:53:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shari Goo-Yoshino	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 across the state of Hawaii. Graduate students move to the mainland for clinical fellowship in medical speech pathology because this opportunity is not available in Hawaii. A barrier to facilities in offering comparable training positions in Hawaii is that clinical fellows are not able to bill Medicare and most insurance companies. Passing HB 252 alleviates this barrier for facilities in Hawaii to open employment opportunities for recent graduates to stay in Hawaii to fill a critical need by serving persons with speech, language, cognitive, and swallowing difficulties while completing their clinical fellowship and beyond.*

*Thank you for this opportunity to testify and considering this bill to improve quality of lives.*



**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:47:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jesscia Tindall	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.*

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:29:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Summer Fajota	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.*

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 7:55:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 9:50:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue.

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:42:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 10:54:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew Muranaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 1:15:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Woo	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.*

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 11:38:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanya Sasaoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

*I am writing this testimony in support of SB 307, 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 SB 307 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.*



**LATE**

**SB-307-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 9:32:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and hearing my voice on this important issue. The graduate speech-language pathology students of UH Manoa are excited to help bring this change!