

Testimony of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine

**Before the
House Committee on Health
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 777, S.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the list of acceptable institutions or organizations that can meet the continuing education (CE) requirements needed by naturopathic physicians for license renewal.

Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014 authorized the Board to require CE for renewal of naturopathic licenses. Since the implementation of that law, the Board has found it extremely challenging to evaluate and approve CE courses. For the Committee's information, Hawaii Revised Statutes section 455-1 defines a CE course as: "Courses approved by a professional association or organization representing a licensed profession whose program objectives are related to naturopathic medicine; provided that the professional association or organization is approved by the board." This definition of a CE course effectively excludes the Board from accepting CE courses approved by: other jurisdictions' naturopathic regulatory boards; colleges; or institution of naturopathic medicine programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education. The current law has led to a significant decrease in acceptable CE courses that Hawaii-licensed naturopathic physicians may use to meet the Board's CE requirements. The resultant inability of naturopathic physicians to renew their licenses timely may lead to a disruption of patient care.

Including universities, colleges, and institution of naturopathic medicine programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education as acceptable CE courses would provide more possibilities for naturopathic physicians to advance their

professional training; this, in turn, will improve the quality of care for naturopathic patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Members of the House Committee on Health

From: Michael Traub, ND
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians

Re: SB777,SD1 Relating to Health Care Professionals
March 12, 2019 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

- I am a naturopathic physician practicing in Hawaii for the past 34 years in Kailua Kona, and currently serve as Legislative Committee Chair for the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians (HSNP).
- Under existing law, continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians have been confusing and needlessly burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable, and is sorely needed, by adding courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory board.
- This is an important and straightforward bill that we urge you to support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Michael Traub, ND
Chair, HSNP Legislative Committee

SB-777-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 9:42:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Pomeroy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Chair John Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Members of the House Committee on Health

From Karen Tan, ND, MAcOM, LAc
Center for Innovative Medicine, LLC

Re: SB777 Relating to Health Care Professionals
March 12, 2019 9:00 a.m.

Dear Senator Mizuno and members of the House Committee on Health

I am a Naturopathic Physician and Licensed Acupuncturist in private practice in Honolulu since 1995.

Under existing law, continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians have been confusing and needlessly burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable, and is sorely needed, by adding courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory board.

This is an important and straightforward bill that I urge you to support SB777.

Mahalo

Aloha

Karen Tan, ND, MAcOM, LAc

SB-777-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 1:14:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori kimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-777-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 10:09:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Rachel Klein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a naturopathic physician practicing full-time in Hilo, Hawaii, and am currently serving as the President of the Hawai'i Society of Naturopathic Physicians. I urge you to support this bill, as it will help to clarify continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians which are confusing and therefore difficult to fulfill under the current law. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable, and add courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory boards, which are very reasonable sources of continuing education. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Dr. Rachel Klein

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Members of the House Committee on Health

From: Dr. Diana Joy Ostroff
Naturopathic Physician - 30 years in Hawaii
Licensed Acupuncturist
Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians

Re: SB777,SD1 Relating to Health Care Professionals
March 12, 2019 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

- I am a naturopathic physician practicing in Hawaii for the past 30 years in Honolulu.
-
- Under existing law, continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians have been confusing and needlessly burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable, and is sorely needed, by adding courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory board.
- This is an important and straightforward bill that we urge you to support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diana Joy Ostroff

SB-777-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 10:15:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chandy Lopes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: