

Testimony of the Board of Massage Therapy

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Thursday, March 18, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 599, S.D. 1, RELATING TO MASSAGE THERAPISTS**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Risé Doi, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Massage Therapy (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to, beginning July 1, 2024, require massage therapy licensees to complete twelve hours of continuing education (CE) within the two-year period preceding the renewal date, two hours of which shall include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or emergency-related courses.

The Board notes that twelve CE hours is a reasonable requirement for renewal and raises the level of professionalism for massage therapists. The Board expressed that cardiopulmonary resuscitation requirements have changed over the years and should be required for renewal of licensure. The Board also discussed potentially defining the parameters of the CE courses in its administrative rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



amta
american **massage therapy** association®

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March 18, 2021

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

My name is Olivia Nagashima and I am testifying in my role as the President of the American Massage Therapy Association – Hawaii Chapter. More than 8,000 state licensed massage therapists currently practice in Hawaii.

Our chapter **supports SB599, SD1**. We view this bill as an effort to elevate the massage therapy profession to the highest standards of quality and safety. By requiring 12 hours of continuing education courses every two years, including CPR training, first aid, or other emergency training, Hawaii residents can be assured they are being treated by a professional who has studied the most current trends and best practices of our industry. For context, continuing education is required in 40 states when relicensing massage therapists.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and we urge you to pass SB599, SD1.

AMTA Board of Directors

President Angela Barker | President-Elect Steve Albertson | Immediate Past President Christopher Deery
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Scott Raymond, Ed Sansbury, LaDonna Ward | Executive Director Bill Brown

SB-599-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:21:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Day	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in agreement and support SB599.

SB-599-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:02:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/18/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Campbell	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony to House Bill 599 which directly affects me as a Professional Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT) in the State of Hawaii and my profession as a whole.

I will keep this brief. My credentials which support my statement:

- Have been a practicing and licensed Massage Therapist for 16 years (11 in NC and 5 in HI.)
- Nationally Certified with the National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB)
- Current member of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) and active with both NC (in past) and HI chapters.
- Taught at a COMTA accredited school in NC as well as adjunct classes here in HI
- Newly approved Continuing Education Provider for Massage Therapy with the (NCBTMB)

Below are the comments/suggestions I would like to make in regards to this Bill:

- In all, yes, LMT's should be responsible for Continuing Education requirements to develop professionally and to keep their licensed renewed and up to date. The 12 bianual hours is low on a national level - I feel it should be 20-24.
- I believe CPR/First aid should be taken for initial licensure (this matches other states as well as national certification) and up to Therapists to maintain this as a professional responsibility in additon to the CE hours required, or if the Legislature feels CPR/First aid should be part of the CE requirement it should be an outside requirement of the CE hours required - those should be reserved for professionally related subjects
- Classes pertaining to proffesional, State, and National Ethics should be the requirement for LMT's to uphold. I teach ethics and it amazes me how many currently practicing LMT's are not aware of basic ethical theories pertaining to the professional massage setting and practice. So many violations in all states are based on ethical standard violations that it only makes sense to keep Ethics as a continuing educaiton requirement for license renewal and professional development.

Thank you again for your time and ability to provide testimony to this important Bill. I believe once Hawaii gets further on par with our sister-states, we'll see more of a professional uptick and hopefully a downturn in professional ethical violations. Feel free to contact me at nancy@campbelllmbt.com or 808-321-2209 if you have further questions regarding my testimony.

Nancy Jo Campbell, LMT - HI 14458; NC 5140
www.campbelllmbt.com

Rick Rosen, MA, LMT
Post Office Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96728

March 17, 2021

Hawaii State Legislature
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Re: TESTIMONY ON Senate Bill 599 | RELATING TO MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Aloha Representative Johanson and Distinguished Committee Members,

I have been a licensed massage therapist for 42 years, first in Florida, then North Carolina, and now in Hawaii. I served as the founding chairman of the NC Board of Massage & Bodywork Therapy, and went on to serve as co-founder and executive director of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards. I also started the first school of massage therapy in the Carolinas (Body Therapy Institute), which operated from 1983-2017. I'm a member of the American Massage Therapy Association.

I have studied and advocated for massage regulation across the country, in terms of entry-level standards for licensure, continuing education requirements for license renewal, and regulations for massage therapy educational institutions.

I am writing today in qualified support of Senate Bill 599. I believe it is in the general public interest to amend Section 452-16, HRS by adding a continuing education (CE) requirement for licensed massage therapists. **However, there are several important issues I want to bring to your attention as you consider this bill:**

- 1) The number of required hours of CE per biennium set forth in this bill is low. I have done an analysis of CE requirements across the country; the range is from 4 – 12.5 hours per year, with an average of 9.6 hours. At 12 hours per biennium (or 6 hours per year), the Hawaii CE standard would be 50% lower than the national average established by state boards of massage therapy. This is not in the public interest.
- 2) As massage therapists are not front-line healthcare providers, it is unnecessary to require them to take ongoing training in First Aid, CPR or other emergency-related courses. LMTs rarely – if ever – deal with health emergencies with their clients. *Therefore, no demonstrable public benefit exists to justify this requirement.* Note that of the 26 states that require First Aid/CPR certification for initial massage licensure (which includes Hawaii), only five of those states require continued training in First Aid/CPR for license renewal.

- 3) The vast majority of complaints and disciplinary actions handled by state massage therapy licensing agencies have to do with **violations of ethical standards**. Incidents of inappropriate sexual contact by therapists are by far the most common, followed by failure to provide treatment that ensures the safety and privacy of clients, and aiding and abetting the illegal practice of massage therapy.

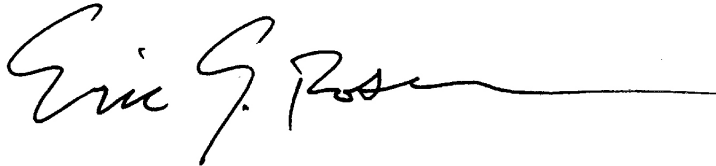
If there is going to be any specified subject matter requirement in the new continuing education standards for Hawaii Licensed Massage Therapists, it needs to be in the area of **professional ethics**.

Given these considerations, I humbly recommend that Sections 1 and 2 of this bill be amended as follows:

- a) Increase the biennial continuing education requirement to twenty-four (24) hours;
- b) Delete the requirement that two (2) of these hours be in First Aid/CPR or emergency-related courses; and
- c) Add a requirement that three (3) hours of CE each biennium be in the area of professional ethics.

Collectively, these changes will strengthen the bill and will improve the ability of the Board of Massage Therapy to meet its mandate of public protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric G. Rosen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric G. (Rick) Rosen
License # MAT-14321