

Testimony of the Board of Massage Therapy

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health
Monday, February 1, 2021
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Keohokalole 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, 2022, 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 cardio pulmonary 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.

Lastly, the Board requests amending the effective date to July 1, 2024. This date will allow the Board to provide ample notice to affected licensees of the CE requirement and for licensees to meet that requirement prior to license renewal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



amta
american **massage therapy** association®

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February 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

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 Senate Bill 599**. 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.

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

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 12:07:35 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lance Johnson	Testifying for Massage Therapist, AMTA Board Member	Support	No

Comments:

February 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Lance Johnson, LMT as a state board member of the American Massage Therapy Association I am testifying in my role in support of this legislation. As you know more than 8,000 state licensed massage therapists currently practice in Hawaii.

Our chapter supports Senate Bill 599. 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 the majority of states continuing education is required when relicensing massage therapists, only 10, including Hawaii are lacking this necessary benefit to the massage client.

I support the intent of SB599 for continuing education for licensed massage therapist in Hawaii. I feel this would help raise the level of professionalism in our industry. I'm in support of SB599 and hope this will deter illegal activity in our profession.

I also believe the wording massage parlor in any legislation concerning our profession is inappropriate and should be worded as massage establishment.

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

SB-599

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 1:07:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwen DeLuze-Coria	Testifying for AMTA	Support	No

Comments:

Februrary 1, 2021

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker and the Senate Committte on Health,

My name is Gwen DeLuze-Coria, I am a licensed massage therapist in the State of Hawaii and a ;member and a delegate of American Massage Therapy Associate Hawaii Chapter. I support SB599.

Mahalo,

Gwen DeLuze-Coria, LMT #8509

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SB-599

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:46:40 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/1/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Feena Bonoan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill.