

Testimony of the Board of Acupuncture

Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 24, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
H.B,1679, H.D. 2, RELATING TO ACUPUNCTURE

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to make comprehensive updates to Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 436E, regarding acupuncture practitioners, to reflect modernized scopes of practice, titles, and licensing and renewal requirements, including thirty hours of continuing education per licensing biennium beginning July 1, 2025.

The Board supports this measure because it modernizes the statutes to align with the current professional standards and activities provided by licensed acupuncturists.

In consultation with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (Division), the Board would also like to express its concern regarding amendments to section 9, powers and duties of the board, in that the additional enumerated language included in numbers (9) and (10) go beyond the typical language associated with this section regarding reciprocity should not be placed in the provision regarding a board's powers and duties. Instead, language regarding reciprocity should be its own separate and distinct section, which the current draft of this bill provides. Accordingly, the original language regarding the powers and duties of the board should be reinserted in its original form as follows:

"§436 E-7 Powers and duties of the board. In addition to any other powers and duties authorized by law, the board shall:

- (1) Adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this chapter, with special emphasis on the health and safety of the public;
- (2) Develop standards for licensure;

- (3) Prepare, administer, and grade examinations provided that the board may contract with a testing agency to provide those services;
- (4) Issue, renew, suspend, and revoke licenses;
- (5) Register applicants or holders of a license;
- (6) Investigate and conduct hearings regarding any violation of this chapter and rules of the board;
- (7) Maintain a record of its proceedings; and
- (8) Do all things necessary to carry out the functions, powers, and duties set forth in this chapter."

Lastly, the Board respectfully requests that section 12 that provides for the removal of the exemption in Hawaii Revised Statutes section 436E-4 be deleted from the bill so the current law remains intact. This language allows visiting acupuncturists who are not performing services on Hawaii patients to be exempt from the licensure requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



AcuPlan Hawaii

Oriental Medicine...5000 years of quality healthcare

February 22, 2022

From: Samantha Preis, L.Ac., Dipl. O.M.
President, Acuplan Hawaii
46-005 Kawa St., Suite 304
Kaneohe, HI 97644
windwardqi@gmail.com
(808) 247-9800

RE: Support of HB1679 Acupuncture Scope of Practice Update

To the Honorable Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita, and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of Acuplan Hawaii, an organization of over 50 acupuncturists in Hawaii that seek to promote the professional status of acupuncture by connecting with medical professionals and increasing availability of acupuncture through insurance coverage. We contract as exclusive providers for University Health Alliance (UHA) and Hawaii Medical Assurance Association (HMAA) and Hawaii-Western Management Group (HWMG). **We are in strong support of HB1679.**

HMSA, Kaiser, The Veteran's Administration and many medicare supplement plans all cover acupuncture in some or all of their plans. These insurance companies can determine reimbursement based on what is allowed under our scope of practice. Right now, our scope leaves a lot of room for confusion which results in rejected claims. As evidence for acupuncture grows, coverage will grow and clear language in the scope of practice will be crucial. Compensation for essential services such as evaluations and adequate treatment time must be appropriate and recognized.

The profession of acupuncture is evolving as we now have both Master's and Doctorate degrees. We must evolve along with it. Updating the scope of practice will allow acupuncturists to practice in Hawaii to our fullest potential and bring Hawaii up to the national standards of competency and safety. It will better protect the public against unlicensed and unqualified individuals who may pose a danger to public safety by practicing without a license.

Hawaii Acupuncture Association directors have made efforts to consult with the members of the various segments of the acupuncture community in Hawaii on the wording and crafting of these changes. We have all lent our support to this update and hope it will pass this legislative session to elevate us all.

Respectfully,

Samantha Preis, L.Ac., Dipl. O.M.

House of Representative Committee on Finance
Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke
Honorable Vice Chair Representative Kyle T. Yamashita

Hawaii Acupuncture Association
Board of Directors and Members
haamember@aol.com

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022, 2:00pm

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB 1679, HD2: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita and Honorable Finance Committee Members,

We, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association, represent our members and colleagues, as well as our patients and citizens of Hawaii, in testifying today in support of measure HB 1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare due to increased access for the public via medical insurance and Medicare inclusion, as well as its demand as the primary alternative to opioid prescriptions and other medical conditions. The increase in scientific data has verified acupuncture medicine's efficacy in a range of health conditions. Simultaneously with increasing demand and evidence in efficacy, the educational, certification and continuing education standards have improved nationally. Since changes over the last twenty years have not been made to the Hawaii acupuncture medicine scope of practice, the statute must be updated now to represent the current state.

We want our profession to be able to serve the citizens in Hawaii safely and knowledgably. We want to integrate in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, hospice and other care settings in order to provide the highest standard of care. As we integrate acupuncture medicine with allopathic medicine and within the health care delivery system in Hawaii, we want patients to be assured of evidence-based, evidence-informed medicine that is understandable and current.

To provide for Hawaii's current and future medical and social needs, statutory updates must accurately reflect the standards of practice in our industry. Here are a few highlights from HB 1679, HD2 that reflect this:

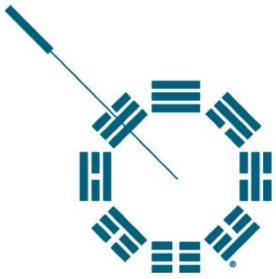
- Legacy exemptions are defined

- Expand and clarify upon the concepts of the two existing license designations: LAc, DAc in line with national trends
- Simplify and rename application for licensure to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education and national board certification, and continuing education
- New definitions aligned with the current medical terminology, education, training, and skills practiced by acupuncturists, while maintaining and preserving the traditions of this complete medical system
- Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii

We ask for your support for HB 1679 HD2 to provide the State of Hawaii the best and safest health care for its citizens. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB 1679 HD 2.

Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc
President, Hawaii Acupuncture Association

Jeffrey A. Tice, DACM, DAc
Vice President, Hawaii Acupuncture Association



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE®

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23 February 2022

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Re: HI HB1679 HD2
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Representative Luke and Representative Yamashita,

We are members of the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA) and representatives of the organization's Legislative Committee. The AAMA opposes HB1679.

In Section 4, subsection 1 of the bill, the definitions of "acupuncture medicine," "practice of acupuncture medicine," and "practice of advanced acupuncture medicine" are extremely broad and could encompass any number of medical modalities.

Section 5 states that only LAcS and DAcs may engage in acupuncture, acupuncture medicine, and advanced acupuncture medicine. The arguable exclusion of all other health care providers from the described scope of practice is problematic and runs contrary to public policy which favors maximal accessibility of health care services for the public.

While changes are being made to Hawaii's acupuncture statutes, we request that you repeal §436E-3.5 which prohibits physicians and osteopaths from practicing acupuncture unless licensed as LAcS. The majority of US medical boards accept acupuncture within the physician's scope of practice or with the qualification of completion of a 200- or 300-hour program in medical acupuncture. The time has come for Hawaii's unnecessary restriction on physicians to end.

We also recommend the formation of an exploratory committee of members from the Hawaii Acupuncture Association and the Hawaii Medical Association be convened to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the organizations.

Respectfully,
Donna Pittman, MD
Gavin Elliott, MD
James Bromberg, MD



Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Relating to Acupuncture

Testimony Supporting HB 1679 HD2

February 24, 2022

Dear Honorable Chair, Sylvia Luke and The Honorable Vice Chair, Kyle T. Yamashita and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My Name is Dr. Wai Hoa Low, President/CEO, testifying on behalf of the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM).

We are writing in **Support of HB 1679 HD2** that would make comprehensive updates to chapter 436E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding acupuncture practitioners to reflect modernized scopes of practice, titles, and licensing and renewal requirements, including thirty hours of continuing education per licensing biennium.

Hawaii's consumers and students will appreciate the benefits and protection from this bill that revitalizes HRS 436E which has not been updated for over 20 years.

ICAOM is the only accredited Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine school in Hawaii sanctioned by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) and Hawaii Post-Secondary Education Authorization Program (HPEAP). Our graduate curriculum is approved and accepted by the U.S. Department of Education Title IV program.

For the first time in history, since its release in January 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) has included Traditional Medicine (TM) in **Chapter 26 of the ICD-11** (International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems – see attached link). This international classification for Traditional Medicine diseases/disorders is not only a landmark for the ICD but also a milestone for TM. It contributes to the integration of TM with multiple Western medicine-based disciplines and the progressive reform of the world healthcare system.

In that light, we highly **Support HB 1679 HD2**.

The Acupuncture profession is tranquil, collaborative, and seeks harmony with other healthcare providers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

Dr. Wai Hoa Low, President
DAOM, MBA, D.Ac.

References:

26 Supplementary Chapter Traditional Medicine Conditions - Module I

<https://icd.who.int/browse11/l-m/en#/http%3a%2f%2fid.who.int%2fid%2fentity%2f718687701>

WHO International Standard Terminologies on Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific Region
Web-PDF pages 172 to 194

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/206952/9789290612487_eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y



DR. JAYNE

Jayne Tsuchiyama, D.Ac., D.A.O.M., Dipl. O.M.

Queen's Medical Center, 1301 Punchbowl, Honolulu, HI 96813
808-946-9400 jt@dr-jayne.com

Feb 22, 2022

House Committee on Finance, Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Kyle T. Yamashita

HB1679 Hearing Date: February 24, 2022 2PM

Position on HD1679 HD2: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee,

I am a nationally board certified, licensed Acupuncture Practitioner (LAc) in Hawaii and New York and active member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association. I also sit on the Board of Commissioners for the NCCAOM, the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. I reside in Honolulu and practice acupuncture medicine at the Queen's Medical Center.

I have been practicing acupuncture medicine since 2004, focusing my efforts on the integration of western and eastern medicine within hospitals and research institutions. I have worked side by side with institutions such as the Queen's Medical Center, UH Cancer Research, MD Anderson, Susan G Komen Hawaii and Memorial Sloan Kettering. Working with academic and medical institutions requires stringent safety and credentialing standards, and is key to advancing healthcare integration - which is why I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HD1679 HD2

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii's existing statute has not been updated in over 20 years and is outdated in its language, and deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates.

- Legacy exemptions are defined.
- New definitions reflect current medical terminology, education, training and skills practiced by acupuncturists today.
- Expand and clarify upon the concepts of the two existing license designations: LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.
- Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii has a long history of its support for acupuncture medicine, as well as the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state. I respectfully ask you to please support HD1679 HD2.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dr. Jayne Tsuchiyama, D.Ac. DAOM, Dipl. OM (NCCAOM)

House of Representatives Committee on Finance

Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke

Honorable Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Position on HB 1679 HD2: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee,

I am a doctor of acupuncture and active member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association. I live in Kailua and have worked at Kailua Acupuncture Clinic since 2006. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii's existing statute, which hasn't been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates.

Below are the highlights that I find important:

- Simplify and rename application for licensure to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education, national board certification and continuing education requirements for license renewal.
- Legacy exemptions are defined.
- New definitions aligned with the current medical terminology, education, training and skills practiced by acupuncturists, while maintaining and preserving the traditions of this complete medical system.
- Expand and clarify upon the concepts of the two existing license designations: LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.
- Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii.

It is time for Hawaii, with its long history of acupuncture, along with the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state, to integrate the profession into Hawaii's healthcare delivery system with highest standard and care for the citizens of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679 HB2.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues my aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Mariya Gold, D.Ac.

Kailua Acupuncture Clinic

808-262-4550



House Committee on Finance
Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke
Honorable Vice Chair Representative Kyle T. Yamashita

Thursday February 24, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1679 HD 2

To the Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members,

My name is Jeffrey Tice, and am a Doctor of Acupuncture in the state of Hawaii (#732). My practice is in Wailuku, Maui where I co-own Longevity Health Center with my wife, Joyce Tamori. I am also vice president of Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I fully support HB1679 HD 2 to improve the language in the scope of practice for acupuncture medicine in the State of Hawaii and to elevate the licensure requirements for future generations of Licensed Acupuncturists to serve the people safely and effectively.

Acupuncture and associated modalities historically termed Traditional Chinese Medicine or Oriental medicine, is the oldest continuous, documented medicine on the planet, yet also one of the fastest growing today. It has a long history in Asia (4000+ years) yet is relatively new to the rest of the world (100 years). Hawaii was an early adopter of licensing acupuncture in the United States, predating formal accredited schools and national board certifications. Much has changed in the profession over the last four decades and especially in the last twenty plus years since the current statute, 436E was updated.

Acupuncturists licensed to practice in Hawaii practice under two titles, Licensed Acupuncturist (LAc) and Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc). Although two licenses are uncommon in the United States, the current trend is towards a two-tiered profession with Masters level education as the entry point, often specializing in acupuncture while the accredited Doctoral level for Doctors of Acupuncture Medicine to use a more complete practice of the medicine formerly known as Traditional Chinese Medicine or Traditional Oriental Medicine. Both of these education and scope of practice levels are justified with education and national certification in HB1679 HD 2. The updated nomenclature, Acupuncture Medicine, preserves this historically significant practice of medicine and helps it smoothly integrate into the modern healthcare system in Hawaii.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1679 HD 2.

Jeffrey A Tice, DACM, DAc

Jeffrey A Tice, DACM, DAc
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House of Representatives Committee on Finance

Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke

Honorable Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc

Otab83@gmail.com

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB 1679 HD2: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee,

I am Barbara Ota, a Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, licensed as a Doctor of Acupuncture in Hawaii and serve as President of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association, thus I am very active, not only in the care and health of my patients, but in the health and concerns of this profession.

I reside on the Big Island of Hawaii on the Kohala Coast and practice acupuncture medicine Hawaii. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii's existing statute, which hasn't been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates.

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- Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii.

It is time for Hawaii, with its long history of acupuncture, along with the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state, to integrate the profession into Hawaii's healthcare delivery system with highest standard and care for the citizens of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679 HB2.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues my aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc

HB-1679-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:21:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mei Li	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Representatives Committee on Finance

Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke

Honorable Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Via online testimony

Position on HB 1679 HD2: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee,

I am a licensed Acupuncture Practitioner (LAc) and active member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I reside in Mililani and practice acupuncture medicine in Honolulu. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii's existing statute, which hasn't been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates.

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It is time for Hawaii, with its long history of acupuncture, along with the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state, to integrate the profession into Hawaii's healthcare delivery system with highest standard and care for the citizens of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679 HB2.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues my aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mei Li

HB-1679-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:37:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steven Rosenblatt, MD, PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a licensed and practicing medical doctor in the state of Hawaii. I am also national board certified in Acupuncture and also certified in Oriental medicine. I served six years as a commissioner on the national Accreditation Commission for Schools of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

This bill will not only strengthen the Acupuncture profession and bring it up to national standards, but will also serve to protect the citizens of the state of Hawaii by assuring high levels of professional medical care and adding important resources to the health care delivery system of the entire state.

HB-1679-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:52:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet H. Boyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Representatives Committee on Finance

Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke

Honorable Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

7seasacupuncture@gmail.com

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB 1679 HD2: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee,

I am a licensed Acupuncture Practitioner (LAc) and active member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I reside in Koloa and practice acupuncture medicine in Koloa. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii's existing statute, which hasn't been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates.

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Expand and clarify upon the concepts of the two existing license designations: LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.

Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii.

It is time for Hawaii, with its long history of acupuncture, along with the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state, to integrate the profession into Hawaii's healthcare delivery system with highest standard and care for the citizens of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679 HB2.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues my aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Janet H. Boyd D.A.C.M, L.Ac.

HB-1679-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:28:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristine Nakasato	Waves of Wellness Acupuncture LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee,

I am a licensed Acupuncture Practitioner (LAc) and active member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I reside in Kurtistown on the Big Island and practice acupuncture medicine in Hilo. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii’s existing statute, which hasn’t been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates.

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It is time for Hawaii, with its long history of acupuncture, along with the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state, to integrate the profession into Hawaii’s healthcare

delivery system with highest standard and care for the citizens of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679 HB2.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues my aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kristine Nakasato, LAc.

HB-1679-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:59:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joni Kroll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

HB 1679 HD 2, RELATING TO ACUPUNCTURE

Hearing Date: February 24, 2022 2:00pm

RE: SUPPORT OF HB1679

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

I have been a licensed acupuncturist in Hawaii for 32 years. I have been a very active member of my profession from past president of Hawaii Acupuncture Association (HAA), Co-Founder of the non-profit AcuPlan Hawaii, RICO advisor and six years on the Board of Acupuncture, serving as the Chair for the past two years.

I am in full support of HB1679 HD2 as it comprehensively updates and modernizes our statute, bringing it into alignment with current national standards in education and training as well as recognizing the advancements in research and integration into medical systems that our profession has experienced over the past thirty years.

I also fully support the addition of minimal Continuing Education Standards and find that 30 hours every two years is necessary, in line with national standards, and not a burden given how many courses can be taken online at very little cost.

To provide for Hawaii's current and future medical and social needs, statutory updates must accurately reflect the Acupuncture Medicine industry's education and continue to meet current best standards of practice and care for the safest medicine for all patients in the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joni Kroll, D.Ac., L.Ac

Dipl Acup (NCCAOM)

Dipl Acup Orthopedics (NBAO)

Chair, Hawaii Board of Acupuncture

HB-1679-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:07:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dr. Dustin Dillberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Representatives Committee on Finance

Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke

Honorable Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

Pain Free Kauai INC

dillberghealth@gmail.com (808) 652-6449

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB 1679 HD2: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee,

I am a second generation licensed Acupuncture Practitioner (LAc) and active member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I reside in Koloa Kauai and practice acupuncture medicine in Lihue. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii's existing statute, which hasn't been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates.

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- Expand and clarify upon the concepts of the two existing license designations: LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.
- Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii.

It is time for Hawaii, with its long history of acupuncture, along with the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state, to integrate the profession into Hawaii's healthcare delivery system with highest standard and care for the citizens of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679 HB2.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues my aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Dustin Dillberg DACM, D.Ac., L.Ac.



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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

February 24, 2022
2:00 pm Via Video Conference (Written Testimony Only)
Testimony Supporting HB 1679 HD2
Relating to Acupuncture

Dear Honorable Chair, Sylvia Luke, and The Honorable Vice Chair, Kyle Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Marilyn Allen, Vice-President of the American Acupuncture Council (AAC), Editor of Acupuncture Today, US Representative to World Health Organization (WHO) on the Committee for Traditional Medicine Resource, the Committee on Education and Implementation, and the Quality of Care and Patient Safety Technical Advisory Committee. I am also a Professor of Ethics, Laws, Regulations and Professional Development for several Traditional Medicine Universities across the U.S. I am testifying on behalf of the (AAC) in Support of HB 1679 HD2.

As of January 2022, the WHO has released its updated version of the international classification of disease -11 and the new classification of traditional medicine/acupuncture diagnostic codes for worldwide use. When ICD-11 is adopted in the United States, Acupuncture will be able to be integrated into the healthcare system. This needs to be reflected in the Hawaii practice act. The importance of this landmark ICD-11 is as follows:

1. Traditional medicine codes will provide a worldwide foundation for the Practice of Acupuncture.
2. The WHO general assembly accepted these codes unanimously.
3. The use of these codes will create and collect data to be used in research to further prove the efficacy of acupuncture.
4. Double coding by practitioners will help to begin to integrate both eastern and western ICD codes. Double coding means the use of a western code, a traditional medicine disorder and the pattern differentiation process.

Currently Medicare is conducting a nationwide research study on low back pain for seniors with Acupuncturists delivering treatment. It is being conducted in coordination with medical doctors because Acupuncturists are not included in Medicare yet. A Medicare Bill, HR 4803, has been introduced into the Congress of the United States. This bill simply conveys the message to have the word Acupuncturist added into the Social Security Act.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics has collected data for the first time, through the census collection to include Acupuncturists as an independent occupation in the United States.

The Veterans Administration now includes Acupuncture as a part of their healthcare choices for veterans.

We fully support the Acupuncture Practice Act to be updated in your current practice standards for licensed Acupuncturist. The States of Colorado, Arizona, and Minnesota are currently updating their practice acts to reflect the full scope of practice for Acupuncturists. Traditional Medicine/Acupuncture must be given as choices and healthcare for the citizens of the great State of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

Marilyn Allen, MS
Vice-President American Acupuncture Council

HB-1679-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 1:53:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dr. Becky Jacobs, DACM, DAc.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Representatives Committee on Finance

Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke

Honorable Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita

drbeckyjacobs@gmail.com

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB 1679 HD2: **SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Yamashita, and Honorable Finance Committee,

I am a licensed Doctor of Acupuncture and serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I reside Kamuela, HI and practice acupuncture medicine Kohala on the Big Island. I am writing this testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii's existing statute, which hasn't been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates.

Below are the highlights that I find important:

- Simplify and rename application for licensure to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education, national board certification and continuing education requirements for license renewal.
- Legacy exemptions are defined.
- New definitions aligned with the current medical terminology, education, training and skills practiced by acupuncturists, while maintaining and preserving the traditions of this complete medical system.
- Expand and clarify upon the concepts of the two existing license designations: LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.
- Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii.

It is time for Hawaii, with its long history of acupuncture, along with the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state, to integrate the profession into Hawaii's healthcare delivery system with highest standard and care for the citizens of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679 HB2.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues my aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Becky Jacobs, DACM, DAc.



Liberata J. Orallo

DACM, Dipl. Ac (NCCAOM) DAc, LMT
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House Committee on Finance

February 24, 2022

Thursday, 2:00 pm Via VideoConference
(Written Testimony Only)

Testimony in Support of HB 1679 HD2

Relating to Acupuncture

To the Honorable Chair, Representative Sylvia Luke, and The Honorable Vice Chair, Kyle Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Dr. Liberata J. Orallo, a licensed Doctor of Acupuncture in private practice in Honolulu, a Clinic Supervisor for Acupuncture Interns from the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM) at the Acupuncture Clinic of the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, a member of the Governing Board of ICAOM, and an active member of the Hawai'i Acupuncture Association (HAA).

I stand in strong support of HB 1679 HD2 which amends Hawaii Revised Statutes 436E, Acupuncture Practitioners. Our current statute is in dire need of being updated to not only reflect our profession's graduate level education and training in the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees as set forth by the nationally accredited commissions, but also to designate licensing requirements to be in line with stringent national credentialing standards and implement continuing education for renewal. Our standards of practice and current modalities of care must also be addressed while still maintaining and preserving the traditions of our unique medical system.

In that light, it is exciting to report that the 11th revision of the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) will now include Traditional Medicine (TM) for the first time. It was adopted in May 2019 and came into effect on January 1, 2022. The ICD11 provides a common language that allows health professionals to share standardized information across the world for diagnosis used in medical billing, epidemiology, research, and cataloguing causes of death. In *Pharmaceutical Medicine (Lam et al, July 2019)*, it states that "ICD-11 will progressively transform the existing healthcare system from a Western

Medicine dominant to an integrative Western Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine health care system. The rationale is to include the best practices of both conventional and complementary therapies, uniting these practices into an integrative approach, especially when positive evidence about the efficacy and safety of TM for certain conditions and diseases is documented.”

The Hawai'i Acupuncture Association (HAA) and the Hawai'i State Board of Acupuncture (BOA) have worked tirelessly to clarify the parameters in the revision of HRS 436E.

Hawai'i has the highest per capita of Acupuncture Practitioners of any State. What is paramount in this measure is ensuring that the health, safety, and welfare of the public has been met. The public deserves no less than competent practitioners.

I kindly ask the Committee for the passage of **HB 1679 HD2 AS IS**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure and for your time and consideration.

Lam, W.C., Lyu, A. & Bian, Z. ICD-11: Impact on Traditional Chinese Medicine and World Healthcare Systems. *Pharm Med* **33**, 373–377 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40290-019-00295-y>

HB-1679-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:51:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Billy Schultze	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HEARING DATE/TIME: Thursday, February 24, 2022/2:00PM

SUBJECT: Support HB1679 HD2

FROM: Billy F. Schultze, Acupuncture Medicine Student and Intern

TO: Honorable Chair Representative Sylvia Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, and House of Representatives Committee on Finance

I am a U.S. Army Officer (Retired), Acupuncture Medicine student, patient, and active member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association. I reside and own my home in Makakilo and practice Acupuncture Medicine as an intern at the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM). I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB1679 HD2.

Regulated medical professions require safety of the public and access to care to be of primary importance. Acupuncture Medicine has been one of the fastest growing segments in American healthcare and with this the profession has seen standardization of education, national certifications, and the formation of both Master and Doctoral degrees. Hawaii's existing statute, which hasn't been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards. The proposed Scope of Practice addresses these issues, while also improving the structure of the Bill for future updates. Below are the highlights-

- Simplify and rename application for licensure to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education, national board certification and continuing education requirements for license renewal.

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- Expand and clarify upon the concepts of the two existing license designations: LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.

- Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii.

It is time for Hawaii, with its long history of Acupuncture Medicine, along with the highest per capita Acupuncture Practitioners of any state, to integrate the profession into the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please SUPPORT this HB1679 HD2.

Of special note, as a career Army Officer and Combat Veteran of the Global War on Terrorism, most specifically the Iraq Campaign, and various other restricted deployments, like the Korean Armistice, I am personally familiar with the seen and unseen wounds that unfortunately occur in service to our country at both peacetime and in war. Acupuncture medicine successfully treats the signs and symptoms of these wounds like tinnitus, hearing loss, insomnia, anxiety, depression, musculoskeletal pains of the back and all joints. More specifically the signs and symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) that predominately occur in war, are also successfully treated with Acupuncture Medicine, of which I can personally testify to as both a patient and intern provider.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues my Aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration and any questions you may have please contact me via email at billyschultze@hotmail.com.