

Denice Murphy, L.Ac, Dipl.Ac, MSOM
Malama i ke Ola Holistic Health Center, owner
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P.O. Box 390
Holuaola, Hawaii 96725

30 January 2022

Honorable Chair Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan
Health, Human Services & Homeless Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: HB1679

Dear Honorable Chair Representative Ryan I. Yamane
and Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan,

I am writing this testimony in support of HB1679.

I am a licensed Acupuncture Practitioner (LAc), nationally certified (NCCAOM). I'm also a director for the Hawaii Acupuncture Medical Association, and owner of Malama I ke Ola Holistic Health Care Center, where over 17 licensed health care professionals and therapists practice.

This letter is regarding the important bill that Senator Rosalyn Baker and Representative Aaron Ling Johanson are co-sponsoring for updating Acupuncture Scope of Practice.

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 Hawaii's existing statute, which hasn't been updated in over 20 years, has become outdated in its language, as well as deficient in its standards.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:

- New definitions (436E-2) 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 (436E-3): LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.
- Simplify and rename application for licensure (436E-5) to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education and national board certification. Add continuing education requirements for license renewal (436E-9.2).
- 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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you, to do this by supporting Senator Baker's and Representative Johanson's sponsoring of Bill SB 2276.

I extend to you and your esteemed Representative colleagues our Aloha, and thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Denice Murphy, L.Ac, Dipl.Ac, MSOM



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Date: February 1, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Roger Kimura MD, AMA Delegate for Hawaii

Bernard Robinson MD, AMA Delegate for Hawaii

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

Re: **HB 1679 Acupuncture; Licensure; Continuing Education**

Position: **OPPOSE**

The HMA would like to call attention to issues of terminology, training and consumer protection and safety raised by the proposed comprehensive updating of HRS 436E regarding the practice of acupuncture in Hawaii.

- I. Please note is the use of the term “physician” in the proposed amendment to SECTION 4. Section 436E-2:
““Acupuncture medicine physician” means an acupuncture practitioner engaged in the practice of advanced acupuncture medicine.”

While individuals in diverse fields of intellectual education may call themselves, “Doctor,” by fulfilling education, training, and certification requirements specific to their fields of study, only Doctors of Medicine (MD) and Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) are recognized as physicians. For instance, a PhD Botanist is not recognized as a physician.

The public recognizes MDs and DOs as physicians and places great faith and trust in the treatment that we, as physicians by education, training, and certification in accredited institutions of higher learning, residency programs, and appropriate licensing bodies, provide to them. We are bound by oath to respect science while recognizing that there is an art to medicine that requires compassion. That we will deliver the right care, at the right time and, in recognition of modern realities, at the right price. That we do no (intentional) harm.

It is important that patients, that the public, be able to distinguish MDs and DOs from the many other health care providers who are also addressed as doctors.

This is the American Medical Association’s (AMA) Policy regarding the “Definition and Use of the Term Physician”:

[H-405.951](#): “Our AMA: 1. Affirms that the term physician be limited to those people who have a Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, or a recognized equivalent physician degree and who would be eligible for an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) residency.”

HMA OFFICERS

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We also request that the Committees, with this comprehensive update, maintain the specific requirements for training and eligibility for certification examinations for licensure in acupuncture. The proposed amended language, while allowing flexibility to accommodate changes in existing requirements, might allow for education and training in acupuncture that do not comply with current standards, thereby potentially leading to decreased consumer/public safety.

- II. These are the current requirements to apply for certification as a specialist in Acupuncture and/or Oriental Medicine in the United States as required by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM):

An applicant must have a minimum of 1,905 hours of education and training within a three-year period to qualify for a Masters in Acupuncture. An applicant must have a minimum of 2,625 hours of education and training within a four-year period to qualify for a Masters in Oriental Medicine.

We assume that the education and training requirements commensurate with a Doctorate is greater.

Please note that the above requirements are to qualify for a Masters Degree. A licensed acupuncturist (LAc) requires less education and training. No other profession allows its Masters or Licensed level individuals to be addressed as doctors. An individual must complete four years of formal, intensive training and one-five years of post-graduate residency training to be addressed as a physician, the total of which will easily reach or exceed 10,000 hours.

<https://www.nccaom.org/certification/nccaom-certification-eligibility/educational-eligibility/> (1905/3 years total hours of education and training for M. Ac., 2625 hours/4 years for M. OM.

As an item of information, standard applicants, with training in the United States, for NCCAOM certification must attend an educational institution accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine. ACAOM is recognized by the United States Department of Education as the specialized accreditation agency for institutions/programs preparing acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioners. ACAOM does not accredit any programs at the undergraduate/bachelor level. <https://acaom.org>

According to the ACAOM, there are currently no institutions of acupuncture education that are accredited to grant doctoral degrees in acupuncture (DAc) in Hawaii.

“ Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and its following programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM):

Master of Acupuncture with a Chinese herbal medicine specialization”

<https://acaom.org/directory-menu/directory/?cn-s=&cn-cat=8>

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- III. The American Medical Association has Policy on acupuncture.
AMA Policy regarding Acupuncture, under the Council on Medical Education:
[H-270.974](#): It is the policy of the AMA that nonphysician boards should not regulate the clinical practice of medicine.
- IV. As an additional comment on scope of practice, the HMA is providing the Committee(s) with Medicare policy specific to acupuncture:

Medicare provides for a limited scope of practice of acupuncture, as specified in its coverage for acupuncture therapy.

Medicare reimburses for acupuncture services only for the treatment of chronic low back pain for which known causes have been ruled out. Medicare covers twelve acupuncture treatments within ninety days and will only approve an additional eight treatments per calendar year if the initial series of acupuncture results in improvement, for a limit of twenty treatments per year.

<https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/acupuncture>

The proposed comprehensive amendments to HRS436E includes, 436E-1 Section 4: "Practice of advanced acupuncture medicine" means the practice of acupuncture medicine and the use of advanced diagnostics, specialties, and therapeutics, based on additional traditional and biomedical internal medicine training, as further determined by administrative rules."

An Internal Medicine residency program requires a minimum of three years of intensive training, easily involving 8,000 hours of training, in order to qualify for the certification examination as an Internal Medicine physician. It is unlikely that training and licensure requirements for acupuncturists, as specified in the proposed amendments, will be satisfactory as equivalent training. The inclusion of the language regarding the use of internal medicine training may have the unintended consequences of exposing the consumer/public to harm and the certified acupuncturist to legal exposure. It may also increase the work of the licensing Board. Certified acupuncturists may have difficulty maintaining or obtaining malpractice insurance coverage and malpractice insurance premiums for acupuncturists are likely to increase in price.

The ultimate consequence of the proposed comprehensive update may be a decrease access to acupuncture services for consumers.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The HMA recommends the following amendments in principle, with language to be determined by the Committees.

1. Amend “Acupuncture medicine physician” to “Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) means an acupuncture practitioner engaged in the practice of advanced acupuncture medicine who had completed a doctoral education program, and associated training, at an institution accredited by the ACAOM.”
2. Restore the specific requirement currently in place for education and training for DAcs, MAcs, and LAcs. Language could be included to provide for automatic updates based on NACCAOM revisions, subject to the approval of the Hawaii Acupuncture Board.
3. Remove the language in HRS436 E-1, Section 4 regarding internal medicine training. “...and the use of advanced diagnostics, specialties, and therapeutics, based on additional traditional and biomedical internal medicine training...” so that the proposed language reads:
"Practice of advanced acupuncture medicine" means the practice of acupuncture medicine ~~and the use of advanced diagnostics, specialties, and therapeutics, based on additional traditional and biomedical internal medicine training,~~ as further determined by administrative rules.”

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify on this measure.

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS:

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/definition%20of%20Physicians?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-H-405.951.xml>

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/Acupuncture?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-1869.xml>

<https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/acupuncture>

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Testimony of the Board of Acupuncture

**Before the
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

My name is Risé Doi, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Acupuncture (Board). I apologize for not being able to attend the hearing to present the Board's testimony, I have another board meeting scheduled at the same time.

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.

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 respectfully requests that the requirements for new licensure applications set forth in section 2, page 2, line 5, be amended from January 1, 2023 to July 1, 2023. Similarly, for the legacy exemptions requirements outlined on page 3, line 9, be amended from January 1, 2023 to July 1, 2023. This will give the Board and Division the appropriate time to create applications, update its internal database, and implement any necessary administrative changes. Further, July 1, 2023 will align with the date of the next licensure renewal cycle.

The Board seeks clarification regarding the amendments reflected in section 9, powers and duties of the board. The Board notes that the additional enumerated

language included in numbers (10) and (11) go beyond the typical language associated with this section. The Board believes that numbers (10) and (11) should be addressed in either a new section of the statutory chapter and/or the Board's administrative rules.

Lastly, the Board requests the following amendments to section 10 of the bill:

(b) Beginning with the renewal for the licensing biennium commencing July 1, 2025, and every biennial renewal thereafter, all licensees shall be in compliance with continuing education requirements, as approved by the board, by obtaining at least thirty credit hours, which shall include at least two credit hours of ethics and at least two credit hours of safety.

(c) To determine compliance with the continuing education requirement under subsection (b), the board may conduct a random audit of licensees continuing education documentation. A licensee selected for audit shall be notified by the board. Within sixty days of notification, the licensee shall provide the board documentation to verify compliance with the continuing education requirements.

(d) Licensees shall hold a current and valid cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification."

The requested amendments will allow the Board to: (1) provide ample notice to affected licensees of the CE requirement and for licensees to meet the CE requirement prior to license renewal; and (2) promulgate rules to define the parameters of the CE courses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Honorable Chair Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Honorable Vice chair Representative Adrian K. Tan
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

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

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB1679: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Honorable Representative Yamane, Honorable Vice Chair Representative Tan and Honorable 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.

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

- Legacy exemptions are defined (436E-B)

- Expand and clarify upon the concepts of the two existing license designations: LAc, DAc in line with national trends (436E-3)
- Simplify and rename application for licensure to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education and national board certification, and continuing education (436E-5)
- 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 (436E-2)
- Reciprocity inclusive of applicants who have maintained licensure and certifications in other jurisdictions wanting to be licensed in the state of Hawaii (436E-7)

We ask for your support for HB 1679 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.

Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc
President, Hawaii Acupuncture Association



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

Jan 30, 2022

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan

HB1679 Hearing Date: February 1, 2022 @ 9:00AM

Position on HB1679: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Yamane and Vice Chair Tan, members of the 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: HB1679.

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. (436E-B)
- New definitions (436E-2) reflect current medical terminology, education, training and skills practiced by acupuncturists today.
- Simplify and rename application for licensure (436E-5) to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education, national board certification and continuing education requirements for license renewal (436E-9.2).

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 HB1679.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 12:26:12 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Clara Wong	Acupuncture and Herbs from China LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am the sole member of Acupuncture and Herbs from China LLC and have been licensed to practice acupuncture in the State of Hawaii since 1993. Prior to 1993, I practiced acupuncture in the People's Republic of China for 7 years. In total, I have been practicing acupuncture for over 36 years. I oppose the changes to Chapter 436E of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended, embodied in HB1679 on the grounds that (1) the proposed changes are draconian and severely excessive and will interfere with the practice of acupuncture and (2) no informed survey and impact study has been conducted to assess the many effects of all such embodied changes to practitioners (like me), patients and administrators of acupuncture. The proposers of HB1679 and the companion Senate bill did not contact me or any the many colleagues whom I have spoken to about this proposal before proceeding to attempt to imposed these problems on acupuncture practitioners, patients and administrations. My colleagues were completely surprised when I told them about this problem, as they had no notice of such proposal. I strongly object to both bills.



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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

February 1, 2022

Testimony Supporting HB 1679

Relating to Acupuncture

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Dear Honorable Chair, Ryan I. Yamane and The Honorable Vice Chair, Adrian K. Tam, and Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness:

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** 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 revise HRS 436E, which has not been updated for over 20 years. The Acupuncture profession has been peaceful and collaborates 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, L.Ac.



AcuPlan Hawaii

Oriental Medicine...5000 years of quality healthcare

January 28, 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 Representative Yamane, and all members of the Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness,

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.**

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. And as more insurances cover acupuncture, the language in our scope of practice becomes important in determining coverage and helps to ensure proper treatment including evaluation and treatment.

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.

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 6:50:26 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mariya Gold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a doctor of acupuncture and have been in practice in Kailua for 11 years. I support HB1679. Mahalo for your support in this bill and for the work you do to support our community and our profession. Much aloha, Dr. Mariya Gold, D.Ac.



Dr. Joni Kroll, D.Ac.
Mariya Gold, L.Ac.
320 Uluniu Street Suite 2
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
808-262-4550
855-594-5059 (fax)

January 29, 2022

Hawaii State Legislature
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

RE: SUPPORT OF HB1679

Dear Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam 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 SB2276 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 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

Dr. Joni Kroll, D.Ac.,
Diplomate in Acupuncture NCCAOM
Diplomate in Acupuncture Orthopedics (NBAO)
Chair, State of Hawaii Board of Acupuncture

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 10:09:09 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele Jones	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha,

While I agree with most all of the updates presented in HB1679, I take exception to one thing: "Add continuing education requirements for license renewal."

CEU's have crushed my ability to maintain licensure other than Hawai'i State. The exhaustive requirements at the state and national levels have become unsustainable across the U.S. and I am very reluctant to impose them here. Please reconsider this addition and help practitioners like myself to stay in practice.

I appreciate your help so much,

Michele Jones, L.Ac.

Molokai Acupuncture & Massage

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 11:17:34 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lyna Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I agree to the proposed changes and updates except for the Continuing Ed, CEU

being mandatory for license renewal. I feel strongly that a professional association

should decide, monitor and verify CEUs rather than relegate that to a State dept. that doesn't have the \$\$ and staff to verify each applicants CEU for renewal.

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 1:57:35 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Fechtig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you so much for your consideration of this proposed bill to update our scope of practice as acupuncturists in the State of Hawai'i. The proposed changes therein will help to regulate our profession by modernizing our scope of practice, titles, licensing and renewal requirements, including thirty hours of continuing education per licensing biennium. These changes will allow for enhanced employment opportunities and venues for our profession as part of Hawaii's health care delivery system including facilities such as rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, homeless shelters, hospitals, and veteran facilities. I welcome this opportunity to provide support for this measure and the ways and means it will enhance my ability to provide quality acupuncture and Chinese medicine services to my community here in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Dawn Nicole Fechtig, L.Ac.

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 4:45:36 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Clara K Song	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the revisions of HB1679 that reflect the traditional and amended scopes of practice and licensing for acupuncturists. This includes the betterment of relationships with other healthcare practitioners to provide safe and effective treatment for all.. I am honored to be able to submit testimony on behalf of HB1679 to endeavor positive change..

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 3:48:05 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann Klaft	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Will they be offering FREE CEU for all of us or will we be required to bear the burden of the cost for all of these CEU seminars and online courses?

I let my NCCAOM lapse this past year because I couldn't pay the thousands of dollars, at the time, to take approved (and uninteresting) seminars. I even reached out asking for help with FREE CEU and they didn't have any suggestions for me. So, I didn't renew it because the state of Hawaii doesn't require it, thankfully! I might have renewed just for convenience of transferability from state-to-state, but just didn't have the money to pay for all the CEU course, the NCCAOM certification fees, on top of state licensing fees.

It's all a BIG MONEY GAME.

I spent 5 years in school and have 200K in student loans and have been licensed for 6 years. I don't even utilize a large portion of what I learned in school in my practice and actually learned more about ACTUAL healing work outside of school than IN school. They add a bunch of extra busy work and classes just to make more money for the schools. We've all got to pay rent.

These CEU's and professional seminars are boring and they are great for acupuncturists who want to dive in intellectually and integrate with western medicine.

I prefer tapping into presence and stillness and where the truth lies. WE don't need more mental busy work...that's the antithesis of healing. WE require stillness and BREATH and to cultivate spaciousness within the mental sphere. GO BEYOND THOUGHT. DISCOVER who you are.

I would rather spend my time sitting in meditation and getting to the root and speaking with my intuition, than cramming a bunch of useless information into my brain to fulfill some requirement. I spent 5 years doing that and it was an unhealthy lifestyle as a grad student.

True healing is clearing fear away from the perception. I've moved so far away from Chinese medicine theory because I use my intuition for point and herb selection. No CEU is going to replace one's own deep inner knowing. I use acupuncture as a tool, just the same as I use crystals, herbs, essential oils and any other modality. My patients are stoked. It's not in the particular modality.

Healing work doesn't require government regulation. We all have this innate ability to heal ourselves and in fact I teach my patients how to release pain and empower themselves at home.

Also, how many times do we have to be taught ethics? You either get it the first time or you don't. Why waste our time with all of this? We could be dancing.

If my heart leads me to learn something, I follow it. If I have a patient with specific requirements, I research and review when it is called for. The majority of us are likely lifetime long learners and are quite happy to educate ourselves in the ways in which help in our own unique practice without having to jump through bureaucratic hoops.

I don't even take insurance because it's a soul sucking HASSLE, which seem to be the reason why acupuncture is even being regulated now so we can receive insurance payouts and get some kind of clout in the medical profession just so it can fit into some westernized standard. I'd rather be living joyfully, helping my patients or swimming in the ocean than spending hours trying to get paid for a claim.

There are many masters thru the thousands of years and they all tapped into presence in their own way and they have their own method and belief system about what healing work means to them based on their own personal experiences of it.

We are moving beyond the habitual mind and belief systems at this point and tapping something far greater.

Let it be as it is. We don't need more fear-based rules and mandates and restrictions under the guise of "safety".

I don't require CEU to move and tonify qi or work with plant spirits.

The one common denominator between every single patient that has ever come to my treatment table? It is deep seated guilt and shame and repressed emotion. When patients begin to look at those things, I see miraculous shifts, but they don't teach that in CEU or in school. They focus on learning about particular diseases. I don't focus on or treat disease.

I treat the patient and teach them how to love themselves. That comes with wisdom and wisdom comes from healing ones own pain.

Thanks!

Ann Klaft, L.Ac.

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 5:08:38 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
karen altergott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, KarenAltergott, have practiced in Waikoloa Village, Hawaii since 2003. Hawaii's existing statue of acupuncture has not updated in 20 years. I support HB 1679. Thank you.

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Anna Liza Van Dine, DACM, L.Ac.

E-mail: info@go-aloha.com Phone: (831)316-8757

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022 9:00AM

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB1679: SUPPORT

Dear Honorables Chair and Vice Chair,

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

I reside in Kailua Kona, HI and practice acupuncture medicine in Kailua Kona, HI. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1679

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:

- Legacy exemptions are defined. (436E-B)
- New definitions (436E-2) 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 (436E-3): LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.
- Simplify and rename application for licensure (436E-5) to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education, national board certification and continuing education requirements for license renewal (436E-9.2).
- 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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues our Aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,



Anna Liza Van Dine, DACM, L.Ac.

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 5:40:31 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah McMenemy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the updating of the acupuncture administrative rules; long overdue & much updating needed.

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc

Otab83@gmail.com

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022 9:00AM

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB1679: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Yamane and Honorable Vice Chair Tan and Honorable Committee Members,

I am Dr. Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc and am a licensed Doctor of Acupuncture and an active member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I reside on the Big Island and practice acupuncture medicine here in the South Kohala district, I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1679

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:

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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 the modern medical establishment.

HB 1679 will allow the citizens in Hawaii to be treated 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.

I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679.

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

Respectfully,

Dr. Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc

OceanMed Integrative Medicine Clinic and Kohala Clinic

Kohala Coast, Hawaii

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 8:42:51 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anita Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022 9:00AM

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB1679: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan:

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

I reside in Kailua, HI., and practice acupuncture medicine in Kailua, HI. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of HB1679

Regulated medical professions require the 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's 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:

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- Reciprocity is 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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues our Aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

Anita Chen Marshall, DAOM, Pharm.D, L.Ac.

DrAnitaMarshall@gmail.com



House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness
Honorable Chair Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Honorable Vice Chair Representative Adrian K. Tan

Tuesday February 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Jeffrey A Tice, DACM, DAc
Longevity Health Center
2045 Main St
Wailuku, HI 96793
T (808) 242-8844
F (808) 244-7414
jeff@longevityhealthmaui.com
LongevityHealthMaui.com

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1679

To the Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tan, 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 of Maui Health Systems. I am also vice president of Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I fully support HB1679 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. The scope of practice for acupuncture medicine in Hawaii has not been updated in decades, while the educational demands and testing have increased with the general improvements in all of modern healthcare delivery. Adding continuing education requirements for license renewal also helps improve the standard of care for the acupuncture medicine profession. For the safety of the public and the efficacy of this medicine, these improvements to the scope of practice reflected in HB 1679 are necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jeffrey A Tice, DACM, DAc

Honorable Representative Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Honorable Representative Vice Chair
Adrian K. Tan

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Steven Rosenblatt, MD, PhD, LAc

srosenblatt@doctorRbrand.com

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022 9:00AM

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB1679: SUPPORT

Dear Honorable Chair and Honorable Vice Chair,

I am a licensed medical doctor in the state of Hawaii and an associate member of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I reside in Kamuela, Hawaii and practice integrative medicine on the Kohala Coast. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1679

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:

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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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679.

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

Respectfully,

Steven Rosenblatt, MD, PhD, LAc

OceanMed Clinic

Kamuela, HI 96743



Liberata J. Orallo

DACM, Dipl. Ac (NCCAOM) DAc, LMT
444 Nahua Street Suite 1805 Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
ljorallo@gmail.com (808) 429-4000
Hawaii License Acu 666 NPI 1003406059

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

February 1, 2022

Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. Written Testimony

Testimony in Support of HB 1679

Relating to Acupuncture

To the Honorable Chair, Ryan Yamane and The Honorable Vice Chair, Adrian Tam and Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness:

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 support of HB 1679 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 as set forth by the nationally accredited commissions, but also to designate licensing requirements to be in line with national trends 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.

The Hawai'i Acupuncture Association (HAA) in collaboration with the Hawai'i State Board of Acupuncture (BOA) have worked tirelessly to clarify those parameters in the statutes.

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 HB 1679 As Is.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:54:28 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bernard Sr Robinson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying as a private citizen even though I am a licensed physician and member of the HMA. It is my strong opinion that western medicine and acupuncture are distinctly different from each other. Therefore, it is improper to mislead the public in Hawaii by placing acupuncture and medicine in the same title. A physician practices medicine. An acupuncturist practices acupuncture. This bill tries to falsify acupuncture as western medicine by creating the term "acupuncture medicine. This is wrong and disingenuous. The fields of medicine and acupuncture are evolving and there are circumstances wherein medical doctors become acupuncturist and acupuncturist become physicians after they have achieved the additional education required to practice and to be licensed to practice in both fields. This bill further complicates an already problematic market place regarding who is allowed to be a practicing acupuncturist in Hawaii. This bill would only further add to such problems by creating a false narrative promoting acupuncture as medicine. This testimony is not against the practice of acupuncture, but it is testimony against the state legislature misleading the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard Robinson, M.D.

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Karen MacIsaac, L.Ac.

kmac@westhawaii.net

Hearing Date: February 1, 2022 9:00AM

Position on HB1679: SUPPORT

Dear Honorables Chair and Vice Chair,

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

I reside in Paauilo, Hawaii and practice acupuncture medicine in Kamuela and Kealekekua. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1679

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:

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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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues our Aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

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HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:35:43 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joyce Tamori	Longevity Health Center	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1679

Position on HB1679: SUPPORT

Dear Honorables Chair and Vice Chair,

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

I reside in Waianae and practice acupuncture medicine in Waianae. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1679

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:

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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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues our Aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

Lumiel Kim-Hammerich, L.Ac.

Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 9:14:11 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Catherine Kurosu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As both a licensed acupuncturist and medical doctor in the State of Hawaii, I support HB1679.

Catherine Kurosu, MD, LAc.

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:14:48 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha! I am in full support of this bill because it moves the acupuncture profession forward in addition to protecting the interests of the public it serves. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Mahalo,

Mei Shikiya

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:37:21 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Courtney Wexler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorables Chair and Vice Chair,

I am a student and licensed acupuncture intern enrolled at the The Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

I reside in Honolulu and through my school I am an acupuncture intern at the Rehab Center of the Pacific. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1679

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:

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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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues our Aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

Courtney Wexler

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:18:52 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Koji Kajiwara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the HB1679. This amendment was illustrated by a few Acupuncture association members and Acupuncture Board members. Most of the licensed Acupuncturists in Hawaii were not informed about it. If the 30-hour CE mandatory becomes a law, many local, licensed Acupuncturists will have financial burdens in renewing their licenses. It may result in reducing the number of licensed Acupuncturists in Hawaii, and/or they have to raise the treatment fees, which will affect the public's accessibility and affordability to Acupuncture treatment. I also do not agree that this mandatory is necessary, because Acupuncture practices in state of Hawaii have been extremely safe. The DCCA has not received any significant complaints nor incidents filed by the public relating Acupuncture for all these years. All licensed Acupuncturists are well educated and trained by their accredited schools in public safety and professional ethics, and are competent to practice safely in Hawaii. In addition, I feel some inappropriate intentions hidden in this bill. By raising unnecessary "safety issues", some acupuncturists may intend to profit from CE business rather than serving the public.

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:18:39 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan
House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Dr. Janet Hayden Boyd
7Seasacupuncture@gmail.com

Hearing Date: February 1,

2022 9:00AM

Via Videoconference/online testimony

Position on HB1679 : SUPPORT

Dear Honorables Chair and Vice Chair and Committee Members,

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, Lihue and Kapaa. I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1679.

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:

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New definitions (436E-2) aligned with the current medical terminology, education, training and

skills practiced by acupuncturists, while maintaining and preserving the traditions of this complete medical system.

ng education requirements for license renewal (436E-9.2).

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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please support HB1679.

I extend to you and your esteemed colleagues our Aloha. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully,

Dr. Janet Hayden Boyd

Hawaii House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tan, and Committee Members,

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

1. In Section 4, subsection 1, the definition of the neologism "acupuncture medicine" and the amended definition of "practice of acupuncture" are extremely broad and could encompass any number of medical modalities.
2. Section 5 is worded such that only licensed acupuncturists or licensed doctors of acupuncture may practice "acupuncture medicine." This usurpation of practice areas to the exclusion of other health care professionals lacks any rational basis and runs contrary to public policy which favors maximal accessibility of health care services for the public.
3. In Section 4 the definition of "practice of advanced acupuncture medicine" includes "biomedical internal medicine training." To suggest that the time and experience required for the professional practice of internal medicine is commensurate with that required for "acupuncture medicine" is not based in fact.

An internal medicine physician, or internist, must complete 11 years of post-secondary education to become board eligible. The second biennium of medical school alone encompasses 4000 hours of clinical work. This is followed by a minimum of three years of training in an internal medicine residency program. A review of the doctoral program at the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine shows a total of 3450 hours, a fraction of which pertains to the study of internal medicine subjects.

The proposal by the Hawaii Acupuncture Association that a health care provider with an advanced degree in "acupuncture medicine" is equipped to assume the role of an internist, while an internist is prohibited from performing acupuncture even after completing a 300-hour medical acupuncture program, is clearly out of sync with the fundamental facts regarding the education, training, and experience of these practitioners.

4. The AAMA objects to the use of the title "acupuncture medicine physician." Hawaii Revised Statute 453 refers to medical doctors (MDs) as "physicians" and doctors of osteopathy (DOs) as "osteopathic physicians." The title of "physician" denotes that this specialized training differs from that of other doctors and health care providers. While individuals who have received a doctorate in acupuncture may refer to themselves as "doctors," the use of the title "physician" by acupuncturists may create complications in interpreting legal requirements. It would also cause unnecessary confusion to health care consumers.

The AAMA recommends that HB1679 be rejected.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Donna Pittman, MD

Gavin Elliott, MD

James Bromberg, MD

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:35:28 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle K.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSED because this bill will create an unnecessary burden on those who have been in practice for many decades in Hawaii in terms of time and cost. Also, licensed acupuncturists who speak a foreign language only will have trouble meeting the continuing education if not offer in their language. Overall, licensed acupuncturists are not making enough to justify additional training. If this bill pass, it should only apply to those graduating from acupuncture school in 2022 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration!

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:35:20 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tammy Leung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1679

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 1:36:03 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mee Yuk Chan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I opposed the bill

HB-1679

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:47:41 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/1/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Becky Jacobs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamane and Honorable Vice Chair Adrian K. Tan, House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness,

My name is Rebecca "Becky" Jacobs, and I am a Doctor of Acupuncture in the state of Hawaii (license #930). I reside and practice in Kamuela, Hawaii. I also serve on the Board of the Hawaii Acupuncture Association.

I am writing this testimony in SUPPORT of: HB1679

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:

- Legacy exemptions are defined. (436E-B)
- New definitions (436E-2) 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 (436E-3): LAc, DAc. in line with national trends.
- Simplify and rename application for licensure (436E-5) to eliminate outdated requirements while implementing current national standards for education, national board certification and continuing education requirements for license renewal (436E-9.2).
- 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 the modern medical establishment. I respectfully ask you to please support this HB1679.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Rebecca Jacobs, DACM, DAc.
