

Testimony of the Board of Massage Therapy

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Thursday, February 4, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 223, RELATING TO MASSAGE THERAPISTS**

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is, beginning July 1, 2022, to require massage therapy licensees to complete twelve hours of continuing education (CE) within the two-year period preceding the renewal date, two hours of which shall include first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or emergency related courses.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



amta
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February 4, 2021

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

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

Our chapter **supports House Bill 223**. We view this bill as an effort to elevate the massage therapy profession to the highest standards of quality and safety. By requiring 12 hours of continuing education courses every two years, including CPR training, first aid, or other emergency training, Hawaii residents can be assured they are being treated by a professional who has studied the most current trends and best practices of our industry. For context, continuing education is required in 40 states when relicensing massage therapists.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and we urge you to pass HB223.

AMTA Board of Directors

President Angela Barker | President-Elect Steve Albertson | Immediate Past President Christopher Deery
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LATE

HB-223

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:57:37 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

February 3, 2021

Aloha Chair Representative Aaron Ling Johnson, Vice Chair Representative Lisa Kitagawa and Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

My name is Gwen DeLuze-Coria and I am a licensed massage therapist and member of American Massage Therapy Association. I support HB 223, continue education for massage therapist in the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Gwen DeLuze-Coria, LMT/MAT #8509

HB-223

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 2:54:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lance Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB223 to further legitimize the massage profession. Over 80 percent of other states have followed this course of required continuing education - it's time for Hawaii.

LATE

HB-223

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:48:49 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/4/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sterling Coria	AMTA	Support	No

Comments:

February 4, 2021

My name is Sterling Coria, a licensed massage therapist State of Hawaii and member of American Massage Therapy Association. I am in support of bill HB223.

Mahalo,

Sterling P. Coria, LMT/MAT#13723