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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023  
2:00 p.m.**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 884, H.D.1, RELATING TO TRAVELING TEAM PHYSICIANS**

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

My name is Esther Brown, and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer of the Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO), which is an agency within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. RICO is charged with enforcing the licensing laws of various professional and trade industries in the State through the receipt, investigation and prosecution of, in this case, licensees who fall within the purview of the Hawaii Medical Board. RICO **offers comments** on the measure.

The purpose of this bill is to exempt, from the licensure requirement of Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 453, out-of-state physicians who accompany a sports team to a sporting event in Hawaii or who are invited by a national sport governing body to provide services to sports team members at a national sport training center or event in Hawaii that is sanctioned by the national sport governing body.

We appreciate the amendment that now requires the physician to notify the Hawaii Medical Board in advance of arrival, as set forth in the HD1, at page 2, lines 5 –

8. The new language will assist RICO with enforcement. The language is also flexible enough to accommodate physicians who may not know, until the last minute, that they will be traveling to Hawaii under the conditions set forth in proposed section (a)(1) or (a)(2).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023  
2:00 p.m.  
Room 329 and via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 884, H.D. 1, RELATING TO TRAVELING TEAM PHYSICIANS**

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer for the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to exempt from state licensure requirements out-of-state traveling team physicians who accompany a sports team to Hawaii, under certain conditions.

The Board appreciates the intent of this measure as it provides continuity of care by an out-of-state physician who accompany a sports team to a sporting event in this State. The Board believes this bill is, first and foremost, about the safety of the athlete. A team physician who is on the sidelines to examine athletes' injuries immediately after they occur and to provide the necessary aid is most beneficial for the athletes' well-being. However, the Board seeks clarity regarding what specific organizations are designated as a "national sport governing body" and what facilities are designated as a "national sport training center" in the State.

Further, the Board questions whether an entirely new section needs to be added to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 453 to address this matter since its statutes, specifically, HRS section 453-2, provide certain exceptions to medical licensing requirements. Therefore, the Board believes that the exceptions or exemptions provided in this bill should be added to HRS section 453-2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.