



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1149, SD 1  
RELATING TO DIETITIAN LICENSURE SPECIAL FUND.**

SENATOR DONAVAN M. DELA CRUZ  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: Friday, February 26, 2021

Room Number: Video Conference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Lessen dependence on general funds.

2 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Support of this bill.

3 Section 448B-10 HRS established the dietitian licensure special fund and set the spending  
4 ceiling in statute at \$30,000 per year.

5 This bill seeks to remove the spending ceiling in statute and establish the ceiling through  
6 the budget process, which must be done anyway even with the limit in statute and to allow for  
7 retention of special funds for the Department to use and lessen reliance on general funds.

8 The Department has planned and budgeted \$35,000 to be used in FY2022 for dietitian  
9 licensure program activities including some salary costs for the Department's Nutritionist  
10 surveyor position, mileage and for travel costs to provide dietetic education or guidance to  
11 residential care home licensees on Oahu and neighbor islands. Covering salary costs will reduce  
12 reliance on general funds during the state's current budgetary stress. Spending will vary from  
13 year to year based on the current fund balance and annual changes to revenue. The fund balance  
14 is approximately \$80,000 as of June 30, 2020 and average annual revenue is only \$11,400 from  
15 dietitian licensing fees. Dietitian license is for three (3) years so revenue will fluctuate based on

1 the number of license renewals. Activities may also change due to increased or decreased  
2 demand from residential care home licensees for nutrition and dietetic training or guidance. At  
3 the proposed rate of spending the dietitian licensure special fund will be depleted in about 2 ½  
4 years, but this may be sufficient to get the state through the current tough times. Having the  
5 ability to adjust the spending ceiling through the budget process provides a better means of  
6 meeting licensee needs while being less dependent on general funds.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None.