

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
and
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 319, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE RECOGNITION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PERSONNEL LICENSURE INTERSTATE COMPACT**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

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

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish a working group to study the feasibility and effects of the State adopting the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (Compact); and (2) require a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2024.

While the Board appreciates the intent of this measure to create a working group to determine the feasibility and effects of the State adopting the Compact, it should be noted that the Board's concerns as outlined in its testimony before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will remain the same. As the Committees may be aware, the Compact language, if adopted by the State, must be adopted unamended to ensure that the same standards are applied by all participating jurisdictions. Due to the inability to amend Compact language, the Board is unsure whether a working group can address its concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole and
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chairs, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJ: DoD Support – SB 319 SD1 (Relating to the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact)

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and military families, I am writing to express strong support for the policy addressed in Senate Bill (SB) 319 SD1.

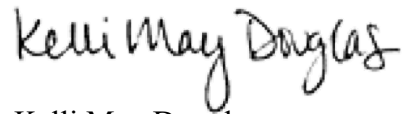
DoD has advocated for improved licensure and career portability for military Service members and their spouses for several years. Military spouses are disproportionately affected by state-specific professional licensing requirements that can cause delays and gaps in employment, with thirty-six percent requiring a state license to practice in their professions and an annual cross-state relocation rate more than ten times higher than their civilian counterparts. Accordingly, military spouses experience unemployment and underemployment at significantly higher rates than their civilian peers.

State policies enacting interstate licensure compacts, such as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Compact, relieve one of the many stressors of frequent military moves by enabling military spouses to transfer their licenses more quickly across state lines and obtain employment as soon as they relocate to a new state. These policies facilitate greater career sustainability for military spouses, improving their families' financial security and overall resilience.

Finally, interstate licensure compacts benefit not only military spouses, but also apply to all eligible professionals to include active duty Service members, members of the reserve components, veterans, and civilians. By enacting the EMS Compact policy, Hawaii would have the opportunity to increase its healthcare workforce available to serve the local community while supporting military families. The Department welcomes the opportunity to provide input to a working group evaluating the feasibility of Hawaii joining the other twenty-two states who have approved this compact.

In closing, the U.S. Department of Defense is very appreciative of Hawaii's ongoing commitment and efforts to support members of the military and their families who sacrifice much in service to our country. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to provide comments in support of this policy proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli May Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelli May Douglas
Pacific Southwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office
DoD, Military Community & Family Policy
571-265-0075



March 1, 2023

To: Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: March 1, 2023; 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211/Videoconference

Re: Testimony in support of SB 319 SD1 – Relating to the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services personnel Licensure Interstate Compact.

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 319. HAHP is a statewide partnership that unifies Hawaii’s health plans to improve the health of Hawaii’s communities together. A majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a plan associated with one of our organizations.

HAHP appreciates the compact’s ability to relieve some of the burden on our health care providers and increase resources and access for rural communities. HAHP also recognizes that the pandemic highlighted gaps in our health care system. Workforce support and expansion is important to strengthening Hawaii’s health care network. While we recognize that participation in all of the compacts is probably not doable immediately, we support a prioritized and systematic approach to participation in interstate compacts to expand Hawaii’s “toolkit” for providing essential care for our members and our community and support a working group to study feasibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 319 SD1.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee
cc: HAHP Board Members

[AlohaCare](#) | [HMAA](#) | [HMSA](#) | [Humana](#) | [HWMG](#) | [Kaiser Permanente](#) | [MDX Hawaii](#) | [Ohana Health Plan](#) | [UHA Health Insurance](#) | [UnitedHealthcare](#)

hahp.org | 818 Keeaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96814 | info@hahp.org



March 1, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 211

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: SB319 SD1 — RELATING TO THE RECOGNITION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PERSONNEL LICENSURE INTERSTATE COMPACT

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [SB319 SD1](#), which would create a working group to review the feasibility and possible consequences of Hawaii joining the Recognition of Emergency Medical Service Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA).

As we discuss in a new policy brief [“How changing Hawaii’s licensing laws could improve healthcare access.”](#) licensing compacts are one reform that might make it easier for Hawaii to attract and retain healthcare professionals.¹

“Joining multiple interstate compacts could be the simplest route to address the difficulties medical professionals face in moving to Hawaii.

¹ Malia Hill, [“How changing Hawaii’s licensing laws could improve healthcare access.”](#) Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, Feb. 2023.

“Most important, the compact approach has support from within the medical community,” the report states.

Numerous other states have adopted this compact and others, and the various compact commissions are more than happy to assist state regulators in the implementation phase.

At present, [REPLICA](#) includes 22 states, with approximately 325,000 compact providers. The successful implementation of REPLICA speaks to the safety and effectiveness of this approach to license reciprocity.

Even though this bill does not outright adopt REPLICA, we hope that the working group will examine the costs and benefits of joining the compact and that the Legislature might consider it again next session.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns,
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii