



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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March 25, 2025

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and
Honorable Members

From: John C (Jack) Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA and
Senior Advisor to Governor Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: **SB1365, HD1 - RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL
LICENSURE COMPACT**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2025 @ 2:00 pm, Conference Room 308

Position: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SB 1365 authorizes the Hawaii Medical Board to request criminal background checks on all physicians seeking licensure through the INTERSTATE Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). The IMLC facilitates recruitment of physicians by making it far easier for physicians in participating states to become licensed and then provide healthcare services in Hawai'i. Given our physician workforce shortage, this is important.

That said, while background checks were presumably conducted by the participating states when physicians were originally licensed there, Hawai'i must run criminal background checks at the time of application here, and for which this measure is required. This oversight must be corrected.

SB 1365, HD1, therefore, is a critically important and simple protection for both consumers and medical profession here that needs to be immediately addressed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

-- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA



March 28, 2025 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
AVP, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Support**
SB 1365 HD 1, Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

We write today in **support** of this measure, which authorizes the Hawaii Medical Board to conduct criminal background checks as required to issue licenses under the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. This measure is a necessary step to ensure Hawaii's full participation in the compact and to expand access to healthcare across our islands.

This measure ensures that Hawaii can fully implement the compact by authorizing the Hawaii Medical Board to conduct required criminal background checks as part of the licensure process. These background checks are a standard component of physician licensing nationwide and serve as an important safeguard to protect patients and uphold the integrity of our medical system. Without this authority, Hawaii risks being unable to issue licenses under the compact, limiting the benefits that our state sought in joining this national effort.

Hawaii has long faced challenges in recruiting and retaining physicians, particularly in rural and underserved areas. By joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the state has taken a significant step forward in streamlining the licensing process for qualified physicians, allowing them to practice in Hawaii with greater ease. This will help increase the number of available providers and improve timely access to care for our residents.

We appreciate the legislature's continued support of recruiting and retaining physicians and for the opportunity to support this measure.

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Finance**

**Friday, March 28, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1365, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE
COMPACT**

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Hawaii Medical Board as a state of principal license, to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensure or license renewal through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact).

For the Committees' information, partial implementation of the Compact went into effect in Hawaii on January 1, 2025. To date, 253 physicians have been issued licenses to practice in Hawaii through the IMLC. The Board is hopeful that the expedited licensure process that the Compact offers will allow physicians to quickly obtain licenses to practice; thereby increasing access to health care within the State.

In order to fully participate in the Compact, authorization to conduct criminal history record checks is required. The ability to conduct criminal history record checks will enable Hawaii to be designated as a state of principal licensure within the Compact, allowing physicians to apply for multi-state licensure through Hawaii. In addition, this would also assist the Board in screening applicants to ensure that licenses are issued to qualified, safe, and competent physicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Friday, March 28, 2025; 2:00 pm
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB 1365, HD1
Relating To Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of SB 1365, HD1 which authorizes the Hawai'i Medical Board (Board), as a state of principal license, to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensure or license renewal through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC).

Partial implementation of the IMLC went into effect in Hawai'i on January 1, 2025. To date, 183 physicians have been issued licenses to practice in Hawai'i through the IMLC. The purpose of the IMLC is to streamline the licensing process for physicians who wish to practice in multiple states, including Hawai'i. Part of the application process requires applicants to authorize a criminal history check. Allowing the Board to conduct criminal history record checks will enable Hawai'i to be designated as a state of principal licensure within the Compact, which in turn would enable physicians to apply for multi-state licensure through Hawai'i.

This measure would enable Hawai'i to fully participate in the IMLC, and may help in reducing the physician shortage. Additionally, participation in the IMLC provides Hawai'i patients with greater access to physicians in specialties that may not be available in the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 28, 2025

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: SB1365 HD1 - RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE
COMPACT

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1365 HD1, which authorizes the Hawaii Medical Board as the State of Principal License to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensing through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and appropriates funds.

Hawaii's participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) is one of many important pieces of the statewide strategy to address our healthcare workforce shortage. This measure is important to ensure that appropriate background checks can be completed by the Hawaii Medical Board which further strengthens our licensing process and ensures the highest quality care and safety for all of Hawaii. This bill will also allow Hawaii to fully participate as a state of principal license in the IMLC with all reciprocal privileges and help to strengthen our process and streamline the experience particularly for Hawaii providers wishing to participate.

We appreciate the legislatures efforts to ensure that we are addressing strengthening our healthcare workforce in multifaceted ways and your foresight in passing the original IMLC bill in 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 28, 2025

Re: Support of SB1365 HD1: Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC)

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong **support** of SB1365 HD1, which authorizes the Hawai'i Medical Board (HMB), as the State of Principal License, to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensing through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). This measure will help modify the existing IMLC statute to ensure that the benefits of entering the compact can be fully realized in our state. We thank the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for their diligence in implementing Act 112 (2023).

The intent the IMLC is to safely streamline the licensing process for physicians who want to practice in multiple states – including Hawai'i. The compact makes it possible to extend the reach of physicians, improve access to medical specialists, and leverage the use of medical technologies, such as telemedicine. While making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states, the compact also has the added benefit of enhancing the ability of partner states to share investigative and disciplinary information.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of SB1365 HD1.

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



Government Relations

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

Before:
House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

March 28, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference

Re: SB 1365, HD1, Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1365, HD 1, which authorizes the Hawaii Medical Board, as a state of principal license, to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensure or license renewal through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (“IMLC”).

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i SUPPORTS SB 1365, HD1.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 271,000 members in Hawai‘i. In Hawai‘i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the people living in the communities we serve.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i supported the passage of the IMLC because it streamlines the licensing process for physicians who want to practice in multiple states while maintaining quality and safety. By making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses in multiple states, the IMLC increases access to health care – particularly for patients in underserved or rural areas. According to the state, 202 physicians have been issued licenses to practice in Hawaii through the IMLC. Hawaii joining the IMLC allows us to extend the reach of our Permanente physicians, improving access to medical specialists, and leveraging telehealth services. Furthermore, it relieves our physicians who need licensing in multiple states from certain administrative delays and burdens.

For the state to fully implement the IMLC, the Board of Medicine must be authorized to conduct criminal history record checks. The ability to conduct criminal history record checks will enable Hawaii to be designated as a state of principal licensure within the Compact, allowing physicians to apply for multi-state licensure through Hawaii. In addition, this would also assist the Board in screening applicants to ensure that licenses are only issued to qualified, safe, and competent physicians. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports providing the Board of Medicine with this authority so the Department can fully implement the IMLC.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Hawaii Medical Association

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Kyle T Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Date: March 28, 2025
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)
Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: SB 1365 HD 1 RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT

- Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Hawai'i Criminal Justice Data Center; Hawai'i Medical Board; Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; Criminal History Record Checks; Appropriation

Position: Support

This measure would authorize the Hawai'i Medical Board as the State of Principal License to investigate and request criminal history records of qualified physicians seeking licensing through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, and appropriate funds.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) promotes uniformity in requirements for state licensure and strengthens public protection by facilitating state medical board sharing of investigative and disciplinary information. The ability to check the criminal history record of applicants is necessary for the Hawaii Medical Board to fully comply with the statute, rules, policies, and bylaws of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact as a state of principal license.

In Hawaii, patient access to necessary medical services has been limited by the severe physician workforce shortages of our state, particularly on the neighbor islands. HMA supports this measure that will allow the Hawaii Medical Board to be in full compliance with the requirements of the IMLC and improve Hawaii healthcare access.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

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