

Testimony of the Board of Acupuncture

**Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1565, RELATING TO ACUPUNCTURE**

Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Acupuncture ("Board"). The Board offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to recognize individuals practicing acupuncture as essential health care providers who are subject to regulation and control.

While the Board has not had the opportunity to review this bill, the Board has been supportive of previous measures that modernize statutory language to align with current professional standards and activities provided by licensed acupuncturists.

For the Committee's information, the Board will review this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on February 27, 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Date: 02/03/2025

4747 Kilauea Ave. #115
Honolulu, HI 96816
bfacupuncturehawaii@gmail.com

808.737.3939 Phone
808.748.0326 Fax
www.bfacupuncturehawaii.com

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My name is Brandon Flewelling, Owner and Operator of Brandon Flewelling, L.Ac, and director on the board of the non-profit organization Acupuncturists of Hawaii.

Over the last 5-6 years I have delved into the world of health insurance trying to expand my client base and people's access to alternative health care. Let along the challenges of teaching myself through trial and error all of the ins and outs of accepting insurance, there have been many uphill battles, many lost, and few won when it comes to being accepted as an essential healthcare provider.

Our profession is becoming more and more recognized in the healthcare, scientific, and public communities as an effective form of healthcare for many different ailments. I take my job very seriously and every patient I see for the first time gets an evaluation and diagnosis before any treatment commences. Often times this initial and crucial part of any treatment gets overlooked by insurance companies and is almost impossible to be paid for.

I believe the laws surrounding issues like this in the acupuncture community should be reviewed and reassessed. I am in complete support of this bill and feel it would be one more step towards recognizing the vast potential health benefits for all who should seek it or be open to trying it.

Thank for the opportunity to testify and for your time in this matter,

Brandon Flewelling, L.Ac
License #: HI-1051



ACADEMY OF INTEGRATED MEDICINE HAWAII

3020 Kaimuki Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816

Tel: (808) 927-3262, aimh808

kanpo@hawaiiantel.net

February 5, 2025

President

Peggy Oshiro, D.Ac.

Vice President

Mike M. Hashimoto,

D.Ac. Ph.D.

Secretary

Pon-Sang Chan, M.D.

Executive Director

Lyna Morimoto, D.Ac.

Associate Member

Acupuncturists of

Hawaii

Senate Committee for Health and Human Services

RE: SB 1565

Relating to Acupuncture

Testimony in Support SB1565

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and Honorable Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino and Members of the Committee.

My name is Mike M. Hashimoto. I am the Vice President of the Academy of Integrated Medicine Hawaii and one of the original introducers of the Statute of Acupuncture in 1974.

We endorse SB 1565, which aims to improve public concepts and insurance companies' recognition of the coverage of natural health practices, including Medicare.

Please adopt the following amendment to 436E-1 Declaration of Necessity for Regulation and Control.

The legislature hereby finds and declares that the practice of acupuncture **includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis** is a theory and method for the treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating the body and, as such, affects public health, safety, and welfare, and therefore, is a necessity for individuals practicing acupuncture **as essential healthcare providers and** subject to regulation and control.

Thank you very much.

Mike M. Hashimoto, D.Ac., Ph.D.

Vice-President of AIMH

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:54:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariya Gold	Testifying for Kailua Acupuncture Clinic	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB1565 and am in agreement with Dr. Wai Low, DAC's suggested ammendments on page 1, line 5, including "...practice of acupuncture {includes examintation, evaluation, diagnosis, and} is a theory..."

Mahalo for your support of this bill.

Dr. Mariya Gold, DACM

Kailua Acupuncture Clinic

Dr. Heather McKay, DTCM, LAc.

73-4100 Kulanui Place, #6

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

HealerHeather@gmail.com

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

February 5, 2025

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. Room 225

Testimony in Support SB 1565

Relating to Acupuncture

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My Name is Dr. Wai Hoa Low, President/CEO, testifying **IN SUPPORT** on behalf of the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM). It has been over 20 years since our Acupuncture statutes have been updated.

The legislature finds that the regulation of health care professionals is important to ensure public safety and promote access to quality care. Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing fields in American health care due to expanded benefits under health insurance policies and Medicare and is a popular treatment among patients seeking an alternative to prescription opioids and those with other medical conditions.

The legislature further finds that many existing state laws regarding acupuncturists have not been updated in over twenty years/ despite the growing demand for acupuncturists, changes to standards for national certifications, and expanded accredited educational programs, which now include master's and doctoral level degrees.

Though we are in **SUPPORT OF SB 1565**, we kindly ask the Committee for consideration on the following amendments in SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5:

- 3 [§436E-1] Declaration of necessity for regulation and
- 4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the
- 5 practice of acupuncture **includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and** is a theory and
- 6 method for treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating
- 7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and
- 8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals
- 9 practicing acupuncture be **recognized as essential healthcare**
- 10 **providers and** subject to regulation and control.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather McKay, DTCM, LAc.

Licensed Acupuncturist in Hawaii since 2018

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:44:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Giuliana Gasparin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura, the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My name is Giuliana Gasparin, and I serve as Acupuncturist/Owner at Dao del Mar. I am honored to testify in support of the bill **SB1565**, which seeks to recognize acupuncturists as essential healthcare practitioners.

Acupuncture has evolved considerably over the past several decades. Initially introduced as an alternative treatment, it has now become a mainstream modality that plays a vital role in modern healthcare. With an ever-growing body of research supporting its efficacy in pain management, stress reduction, and overall wellness, acupuncture offers an effective complement to conventional medical treatments. This is particularly relevant at a time when healthcare providers and patients alike are seeking safe, non-pharmaceutical approaches for conditions such as chronic pain, post-operative recovery, and even mental health challenges.

As our understanding of holistic and integrative medicine expands, it is imperative that our state regulations keep pace with these developments. The practice of acupuncture today not only involves traditional needling techniques but also includes a comprehensive approach that integrates patient assessment, diagnostic evaluation, and individualized treatment planning. Modern educational standards have advanced, with accredited programs now offering master's and doctoral degrees, which underscores the high level of expertise required for safe practice. Recognizing acupuncturists as essential healthcare providers will ensure that patients have access to a regulated and reliable form of treatment while upholding public safety.

I commend the legislature's commitment to public health and safety, and I urge the Committee to consider the following amendment to the bill, which clarifies the role and regulation of acupuncturists:

Proposed Amendment:

"The legislature hereby finds and declares that the practice of acupuncture involves the **examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of illness** and disability, as well as the strengthening and invigorating of the body. Given its significant impact on public health, safety, and welfare, individuals practicing acupuncture must be recognized as **essential healthcare providers** and therefore be subject to appropriate regulation and control."

Including acupuncturists as essential healthcare practitioners not only reflects the realities of modern healthcare but also ensures that patients continue to receive high-quality, safe, and effective treatment. This measure will also help to integrate acupuncture more fully into the broader healthcare system, facilitating greater collaboration between practitioners of conventional and alternative medicine.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration and your commitment to expanding access to high-quality, regulated healthcare services.

Sincerely,

Giuliana Gasparin L.Ac, MSOM

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:55:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mee Yuk Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, I kindly ask the Committee for consideration on the following amendments in SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5: 3 [§436E-1] Declaration of necessity for regulation and 4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the 5 practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory and 6 method for treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating 7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and 8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals 9 practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential healthcare 10 providers and subject to regulation and control.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:51:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tammy Leung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, I kindly ask the Committee for consideration on the following amendments in SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5: 3 [§436E-1] Declaration of necessity for regulation and 4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the 5 practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory and 6 method for treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating 7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and 8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals 9 practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential healthcare 10 providers and subject to regulation and control.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:56:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Deborah Barry, LAc

5 Element Acupuncture of Hawaii

www.5eaHawaii.com

Home address. 643 Ikemaka Place

Kailua, HI 96734

808-731-9062

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

February 5, 2025

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. Room 225

Testimony in Support SB 1565

Relating to Acupuncture

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino,

and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My Name is Deborah Barry, LAc, testifying IN SUPPORT. I am a practicing acupuncturist in Kailua as well as faculty at ICAOM. It has been over 20 years since our Acupuncture statutes have been updated.

The legislature finds that the regulation of health care professionals is important to ensure public safety

and promote access to quality care. Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing fields in American health

care due to expanded benefits under health insurance policies and Medicare and is a popular treatment

among patients seeking an alternative to prescription opioids and those with other medical conditions.

The legislature further finds that many existing state laws regarding acupuncturists have not been updated

in over twenty years/ despite the growing demand for acupuncturists, changes to standards for

national
certifications, and expanded accredited educational programs, which now include master's and
doctoral
level degrees.

Though we are in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, we kindly ask the Committee for consideration on the
following amendments in SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5:

3 [§436E-1] Declaration of necessity for regulation and
4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the
5 practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory and
6 method for treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating
7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and
8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals
9 practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential healthcare
10 providers and subject to regulation and control.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testify on this measure.

Deborah Barry, LAc.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:59:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy K. Sato	Testifying for Needles of Hope Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

We at Needles of Hope Inc. support SB1565. It is essential that acupuncturists be recognized as essential health care providers, and thus be subject to regulation and control.

Thank you,

Kathy K. Sato, Acupuncturist

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:48:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Louie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

February 5, 2025

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. Room 225

Testimony in Support SB1565

Relating to Acupuncture

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino,

and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My Name is Jennifer Louie, future practicing Acupuncturist and recent graduate, am testifying IN SUPPORT of the SB1565 Bill.

As many Americans are discovering the plethora of benefits Acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine can provide on a daily basis, it is now time for Acupuncturists and the profession to be recognized as essential healthcare providers. It has been especially apparent during the recent mass tragedies due to the pandemic, the major floods and fires that Acupuncturists are needed and are well-received as essential health care providers. Acupuncturists Without Borders (AWB) has provided critical trauma-informed, integrative training to care for communities impacted by the pandemic. There are over 8,000 trained practitioners worldwide. I personally volunteered to tend many patients who were impacted by the pandemic in Hawaii and major flooding in North Carolina. Many of my fellow graduates have traveled to Los Angeles to assist with the L.A. fires.

The legislature identifies the importance of the regulation of health care professionals to ensure public safety and promote additional access to quality care. Acupuncture is a continuously growing field in the American health care industry – with policies now including Acupuncture in multiple health insurance policies, Medicare and the V.A. As the popularity of acupuncture and herbal medicine increases, so has the national requirements and standards of education for licensure, certifications and continuing accredited educational programs. SB1565 will update and clarify Acupuncturist's role in healthcare as already perceived by the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Jennifer Louie

Future D.Ac.CHM

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

February 5, 2025

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. Room 225

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB1565

Relating to Acupuncture

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My name is Michelle Hunter and I am a recent doctoral graduate of the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM). I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of SB1565.

As a new graduate, I support public safety and quality alternative health care choices for patients. Acupuncture is in high demand and is one of the fastest growing fields in the healthcare industry. Many health insurance providers now cover acupuncture making it even more accessible. In this current opioid crisis, patients are looking for viable alternatives to prescription drugs, especially for pain relief.

The existing laws regarding acupuncture have not been updated in nearly 20 years. During that time there has been an increased in demand for acupuncturists, increase in national certification requirements, and increase in educational requirements, which now include doctoral level degrees.

Acupuncturists are already operating as essential healthcare providers and SB1565 will help to clarify that and update legislature regarding the industry of acupuncture and acupuncturists.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hunter

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 5:27:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JAI JANG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My Name is Jai Jang,L.Ac., P.hD. testifying IN SUPPORT OF SB 1565. Thank you.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 5:21:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Siriporn Jang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My Name is Dr. Siriporn J. Jang,L.Ac., D.Ac. testifying IN SUPPORT OF SB 1565. Thank you.

Acupuncturists of Hawaii

(A Hawaii Domestic Non-Profit Professional Entity)

100 N. Beretania Street, Suite 203
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
<https://acupuncture808.org/>

808.888.0323 Ph
808.521.2271 Fax
info@acupuncture808.org

Board of Directors

John Abramson

Cindy Chang

Brandon Flewelling

Giuliana Gasparin

Diana Ho

Siriporn Jang

Wai H. Low

Samantha Preis

Antonio Provencio

Billy Schultze

Claire Song

Clara Wong

Officers

Cindy Chang
President

Siriporn Jang
Vice-President

John Abramson
Secretary

Clara Wong
Treasurer

Giuliana Gasparin
Association Coordinator

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

February 5, 2025,

Wednesday, 1:00PM Room 225

Testimony in Support SB 1565 - Relating to Acupuncture

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, and the Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My name is Cindy M. Chang, I am the President of the Acupuncturists of Hawaii. I am honored to testify in **strong support of SB 1565**. While this bill is a step forward in updating Hawai'i's acupuncture regulations, we believe it is essential to clarify the scope of practice and recognize acupuncturists as essential healthcare providers to ensure that the profession is properly defined and integrated into the state's healthcare system.

Clarify the scope of acupuncture by explicitly stating that it includes examination, evaluation, and diagnosis. Acupuncturist undergo extensive training in assessing patient conditions, and this amendment ensures that the law reflects the full extent of our professional expertise.

Recognize acupuncturists as essential healthcare providers under state law. Acupuncture is an evidence -based medical practice that plays and is widely recognized as an effective, non-pharmaceutical treatment option for pain management and other medical conditions. Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing fields in American healthcare, particularly due to its inclusion in health insurance coverage, Medicare, and VA Affairs healthcare benefits.

With these amendments:

1. **“practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, ...”**
2. **“be recognized as essential health care providers...”**

SB 1565 will strengthen and modernize Hawai'i's acupuncture laws, and support both practitioners and the patients who rely on our care.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge the committee to support SB 1565 with these proposed amendments.

Cindy M. Chang, LAc.
President, Acupuncturists of Hawaii
info@acupuncture808.org
(808) 888-0323



Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

100 N. Beretania Street, Suite 203B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
www.orientalmedicine.edu

808.521.2288 Ph
808.521.2271 Fax
info@orientalmedicine.edu

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

February 5, 2025

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. Room 225

Testimony in Support SB 1565

Relating to Acupuncture

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My Name is Dr. Wai Hoa Low, President/CEO, testifying **IN SUPPORT** on behalf of the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM).

The legislature finds that the regulation of health care professionals is important to ensure public safety and promote access to quality care. Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing fields in American health care due to expanded benefits under health insurance policies and Medicare & VA health benefits and is a popular treatment among patients seeking an alternative to prescription opioids and those with other medical conditions.

The legislature further finds that state laws regarding acupuncturists have not been updated in over twenty years despite the growing demand for acupuncturists, changes to standards for national certifications, and expanded accredited educational programs, which now include master's and doctoral level degrees.

Though we are in **SUPPORT OF SB 1565**, in addition we kindly request the Committee to consider amending SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5:

3 “ [{] §436E-1 [+] Declaration of necessity for regulation and
4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the
5 practice of acupuncture **includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and** is a theory
 and method for treatment of
6 illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating
7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and
8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals
9 practicing acupuncture be **recognized as essential health care**
10 **providers and** subject to regulation and control.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I believe PASSING this bill will benefit all Hawaii residents.

Wai Hoa Low, DAc.
President/CEO of ICAOM

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:13:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle K.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on HHS,

I strongly support this bill to recognize acupuncturists who already contributed a lot to the community by preventing people from worsening health. My mom is an acupuncturist and I witness that she resolve many patients' symptoms and kept them from ending up in the hospital. Because of their positive impacts on community health, acupuncturists deserve to be recognized as essential health care providers now, and I thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

Best,
Michelle

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:42:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mei Lin Luo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Mei-Lin Luo, Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, writing IN SUPPORT on behalf of Maunakea Acupuncture & Wellness Center. It has been over 20 years since our Acupuncture statutes have been updated.

Though we are in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, we kindly ask the Committee for consideration on the following amendments in SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5:

[§436E-1] Declaration of necessity for regulation and control.

The legislature hereby finds and declares that the practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory and method for treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential healthcare providers and subject to regulation and control.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Mei-Lin Luo

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 4:06:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela H	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

Aloha

Lahela

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 2:20:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kentaro ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I think it will be good.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:49:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clara Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Hawaii licensed Acupuncturist, I am in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, I kindly ask the Committee for consideration on the following amendments in SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5: 3 [§436E-1] Declaration of necessity for regulation and 4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the 5 practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory and 6 method for treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating 7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and 8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals 9 practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential healthcare 10 providers and subject to regulation and control.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:53:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey A Tice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1565, but would prefer it read: The legislature hereby finds and declares Acupuncture is an evidence-based medicine rooted in traditional and modern modalities and that the practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of the patient with individuals practicing acupuncture to be recognized as essential healthcare providers, therefore, requiring regulation and control for public health, safety, and welfare.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:07:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xiao, Wan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, I kindly ask the Committee for consideration on the following amendments in SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5: 3 [§436E-1] Declaration of necessity for regulation and 4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the 5 practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory and 6 method for treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating 7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and 8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals 9 practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential healthcare 10 providers and subject to regulation and control.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:29:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Ota, D. Ac.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm supporting with questions:

Continuing education supports public safety and is not addressed or required.

CPR continuing education supports public safety and is not addressed or required.

Ethics and Safety continuing education supports public safety and is not addressed.or required

Certification with minimal national standards for acupuncture and herbal medicine supports public safety is not addressed.

Why?

Thank you for your time,

Dr. Barbara Ota, DACM, DAc

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:07:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maire Cahoon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB1565, recognizing acupuncturists as essential health care providers. Acupuncture is a safe, effective, and evidence-based practice that helps patients manage pain, improve fertility, reduce stress and support overall health. As a licensed acupuncturist, I see daily how this medicine changes lives. This bill strengthens access to care and ensures proper recognition of our profession. Please vote in favor of SB1565.

Mahalo,

Maire Cahoon, LAc

Mala Healing Arts

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:03:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Becky Jacobs, DACM, DAc.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:40:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Luong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi I am Raymond Luong, an acupuncture student at ICAOM and I am testifying to be IN SUPPORT.

This will allow us as future acupuncturists to better provide care for those who need it.

Best Regards,

Raymond Luong

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:39:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KENTO KIHARA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this SB1565 because I hope for the development of traditional Chinese medicine and greater opportunities for acupuncturists in the state of Hawaii.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:50:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanne Bernauer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it will help the shortage of doctors in Hawaii. I personally have been healed of pneumonia with only two treatments and back pain. I was able to stop taking the medication for pain as a result of the treatments I receive from the acupuncturist. I believe this bill will benefit many people and in particular the senior citizen population. More and more health care organizations are recognizing the advantages of this essential service. Thank you for your support in assisting in this success of this bill. Jeanne E. Bernauer

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:31:32 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Low	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators:

I strongly support SB1565 relating to Acupuncture which will help the shortage of doctors in Hawaii. Residents will greatly benefit from the passing of this bill.

Cathy

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:21:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Low	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1565 please pass this bill to benefit the people of Hawaii. Thank you.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:46:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah McMenemy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1565 as an acupuncturist in Hawaii.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:55:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angel Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My Name is Angel Park, testifying IN SUPPORT on behalf of the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM). It has been over 20 years since our Acupuncture statutes have been updated.

The legislature finds that the regulation of health care professionals is important to ensure public safety and promote access to quality care. Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing fields in American health care due to expanded benefits under health insurance policies and Medicare and is a popular treatment among patients seeking an alternative to prescription opioids and those with other medical conditions.

The legislature further finds that many existing state laws regarding acupuncturists have not been updated in over twenty years/ despite the growing demand for acupuncturists, changes to standards for national certifications, and expanded accredited educational programs, which now include master's and doctoral level degrees.

Though we are in **SUPPORT OF SB 1565**, we kindly ask the Committee for consideration on the following amendments in SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5:

3 [§436E-1] Declaration of necessity for regulation and

4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the

5 practice of acupuncture **includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis**, and is a theory and

6 method for treatment of illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating

7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and

8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals

9 practicing acupuncture be **recognized as essential healthcare**

10 **providers** and subject to regulation and control.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Angel Park

LATE

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:13:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Cotter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill that will bring further clarification on acupuncturists' scope as essential healthcare providers.

LATE

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:05:22 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Nguyen	Testifying for Acupuncture & Wellness Center, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino,

and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My Name is Timothy Nguyen, President/Founder, testifying IN SUPPORT on behalf of the Acupuncture & Wellness Center, LLC.

The legislature finds that the regulation of health care professionals is important to ensure public safety

and promote access to quality care. Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing fields in American health

care due to expanded benefits under health insurance policies and Medicare & VA health benefits and is a

popular treatment among patients seeking an alternative to prescription opioids and those with other

medical conditions.

The legislature further finds that state laws regarding acupuncturists have not been updated in over twenty

years despite the growing demand for acupuncturists, changes to standards for national certifications, and

expanded accredited educational programs, which now include master's and doctoral level degrees.

Though we are in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, in addition we kindly request the Committee to consider

amending SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5:

3 “ [] §436E-1 []] Declaration of necessity for regulation and

4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the

5 practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory and method for treatment of

6 illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating

7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and

8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals

9 practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential health care

10 providers and subject to regulation and control.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I believe PASSING this bill will benefit all Hawaii residents.

Timothy Nguyen, Dipl. OM, LAc

LATE

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:43:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Kuo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My Name is John Kuo, licensed and active acupuncturist intern, testifying IN SUPPORT of SB1565.

The legislature finds that the regulation of health care professionals is important to ensure public safety and promote access to quality care. Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing fields in American health care due to expanded benefits under health insurance policies and Medicare & VA health benefits and is a popular treatment among patients seeking an alternative to prescription opioids and those with other medical conditions. The legislature further finds that state laws regarding acupuncturists have not been updated in over twenty years despite the growing demand for acupuncturists, changes to standards for national certifications, and expanded accredited educational programs, which now include master's and doctoral level degrees.

Though I am in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, in addition I kindly request the Committee to consider amending SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5:

3 “ [] §436E-1 [] Declaration of necessity for regulation and
4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the
5 practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory
and method for treatment of
6 illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating
7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and
8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals
9 practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential health care
10 providers and subject to regulation and control.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I believe PASSING this bill will benefit all Hawaii residents.

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:56:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Nee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura and the Honorable Vice Chair, Henry J.C. Aquino,

and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My Name is Malia Nee, Student of Acupuncture, testifying **IN SUPPORT** on behalf of the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM).

The legislature finds that the regulation of health care professionals is important to ensure public safety

and promote access to quality care. Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing fields in American health

care due to expanded benefits under health insurance policies and Medicare & VA health benefits and is a

popular treatment among patients seeking an alternative to prescription opioids and those with other medical conditions.

The legislature further finds that state laws regarding acupuncturists have not been updated in over twenty

years despite the growing demand for acupuncturists, changes to standards for national certifications, and

expanded accredited educational programs, which now include master's and doctoral level degrees.

Though we are in SUPPORT OF SB 1565, in addition we kindly request the Committee to consider

amending SB 1565 page 1 on Line 5:

3 “ [] §436E-1 []] Declaration of necessity for regulation and

4 control. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the

5 practice of acupuncture includes examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and is a theory and method for treatment of

6 illness and disability and for strengthening and invigorating

7 the body and as such affects the public health, safety, and

8 welfare, and therefore there is a necessity that individuals

9 practicing acupuncture be recognized as essential health care

10 providers and subject to regulation and control.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I believe **PASSING** this bill will benefit all Hawaii

residents.

Malia Nee

Student of Acupuncture at ICAOM

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:55:26 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirley Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an osteopathic physician who has been in practice for nearly 15 years, now enrolled in the study Acupuncture at the Institute of Clinical Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ICAOM), I am IN SUPPORT of SB1565.

This would be a step towards recognizing the breadth of training, services provided to the community, and most importantly, helping to ensure the highest quality of care and safety to the public at large.

I believe the changes proposed would work towards both bolstering our profession, and maintain accountability, holding us to the standard of care that is expected of other healthcare professionals.

Thank you for your time and attention to the matter.

Shirley Chen, DO

LATE

SB-1565

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:38:52 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Joni Kroll, D.Ac.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been a Hawaii licensed acupuncturist for 36 years. Having served on the Board of Acupuncture for 8 years, including 4 years as Chair, I can unequivocally state that the language around acupuncture practice is long over due for updating and that this straight forward bill is in the best interest of the public and the profession.

I am in support of SB1565 and am in agreement with Dr. Wai Low, DAc's suggested ammendments on page 1, line 5, including "...practice of acupuncture {includes examintation, evaluation, diagnosis, and} is a theory..."

Sincerely,

Dr. Joni Kroll, DAc.



HAWAII
ACUPUNCTURE MEDICINE
ASSOCIATION

LATE

Hawaii Acupuncture Medicine Association
Representing Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine for all of Hawai'i

Testimony of the Hawaii Acupuncture Medicine Association
Before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference
On the following measure:
S.B. 1565, RELATING TO ACUPUNCTURE

Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Becky Jacobs, DACM, DAC. and I am the Treasurer of the Hawaii Acupuncture Medicine Association (HAMA). The HAMA Board of Directors offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to recognize individuals practicing acupuncture as essential health care providers who are subject to regulation and control and to modify language.

HAMA was not notified that this bill was to be submitted. The HAMA Board of Directors did not have time to review this bill and gather member input prior to the Hearing on 2/5/2025. HAMA has previously introduced legislation without success to update language and licensing requirements in an effort to bring Hawaii into alignment with national standards for licensed acupuncturists. HAMA is a member of the American Society of Acupuncturists which is a national organization that was formed to advocate for and advance the acupuncture profession through collaboration amongst the state organizations. For the committee's information there are now two (2) state acupuncture associations in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Hawaii Acupuncture Medicine Association