

ACT 242

S.B. NO. 225

A Bill for an Act Relating to Ocularists.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that existing law in Hawaii relating to ocularists, those who design, fit, and fabricate artificial eyes under the supervision of a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist, provides that a certified ocularist may perform within the scope of the ocularist's certification if the certified ocularist is "recognized" by the American Society of Ocularists. The legislature further finds that the American Society of Ocularists is not a certifying board or organization. Therefore, the standard to allow an ocularist to conduct business in Hawaii should be whether an ocularist is certified by a nationally recognized ocularistry certifying board.

SECTION 2. Section 458-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit a certified ocularist ~~[as recognized by the American Society of Ocularists]~~ who is certified by the American Board of Ocularistry, the National Examining Board of Ocularists, or any other nationally recognized ocularistry certifying board from performing within the scope of such certification; provided that the ocularist performs only those functions dealing with the designing, fitting, and fabricating of artificial eyes, and not contact lenses of refractive value, and is under the supervision of a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist. The ocularist shall inform the ~~[board]~~ director in writing of the name of the supervising ophthalmologist or optometrist."

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved July 2, 2019.)