

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1725

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1379
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred H.B. No. 1379, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Allow a pathway for foreign medical school graduates to be licensed as physicians in a manner that was previously only available to graduates who passed the qualifying examination of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates before 1984; and
- (2) Establish an alternative pathway for foreign medical graduates who passed certain examinations, possess an Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates certificate, and have completed two years of post-graduate medical training, to be licensed as physicians.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Medical Board, Hawai'i Pacific Health, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Philippine Medical Association of Hawai'i, Hawaii Medical Association, and Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.



Your Committee finds that the State is facing a health care workforce shortage that threatens public health. As of 2023, the State suffered a physician shortage of nearly eight hundred physicians in comparison to the continental United States. While there are more than twelve thousand licensed physicians in the State, not all are currently providing patient care or practicing full-time. It is therefore critical to explore alternative options to expand the number of practicing physicians in the State. Accordingly, this measure eliminates the time restriction on when the qualifying examination of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates should have been passed and establishes an alternative pathway to licensure, thereby creating a greater pool of foreign medical school graduates eligible for licensure in the State.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1379, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection,



FARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 1379 HD 2 SD 1	Committee Referral: HHS, CPN	Date: 4/1/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEOHOKALOOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	✓			
AWA, Brenton			✓	
TOTAL	4		1	
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>Carol Fukunaga</i> </div>				
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*Only one measure per Record of Votes