

Testimony of the Board of Public Accountancy

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

On the following measure:

H.B. 983 RELATING TO CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Miyashiro, and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Public Accountancy (Board). The Board offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the education and professional experience requirements for certified public accountant license applicants to establish alternative pathways to licensure.

The Board will review this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on March 14, 2025.

The Board's Permitted Interaction Group evaluated the significance of the Certified Public Accountant Competency Based Experience Pathway exposure draft issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) and recommended an alternate license pathway of completing twelve months of qualifying professional experience in the practice of accountancy in lieu of thirty semester hours of post baccalaureate coursework. The Board believes that working with professionals in the field provides a valuable learning experience for CPA license applicants.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



H S C P A

HAWAII SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
2:00 p.m. In Conference Room 329

**In Support of HB 983 - Relating to Certified Public Accountants
WITH MODIFICATIONS**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Society of CPAs, we support the intent of HB 983, with the specific modifications noted herein. With the critical shortage and demand for accountants and finance professionals, the profession is at pivotal crossroads. Through this measure, we hope to increase the options for people to become CPAs in Hawaii with an alternative pathway to CPA licensure. The current 150-credit hour law remains, with the option to substitute an additional year of experience in public accounting to fulfill the 30 credit hours of post-baccalaureate education.

The amendments to HB 983 - as agreed by the Hawaii Board of Public Accountancy, HAPA and HSCPA are:

Page 2, lines 13 & 14: delete ~~Experience requirements of~~; replace with:

"Experience requirements of Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of subsection (d);

Page 2, line 18: delete "and: and add:

"...university recognized by the board and, which must include at least eighteen semester hours of upper division or graduate level accounting or auditing subjects. The content of these eighteen hours shall be determined by rules adopted by the Board pursuant to chapter 91, and:"

Page 3, lines 8-18: delete lines 8-18

Page 3, line 20: add "an additional":

"...completion of an additional twelve months of ..."

Page 3, line 21: add "only"

"...practice of public accounting "only."

Page 3, line 21: delete ~~"as determined by the board and ..."~~

Page 4, line 1: delete ~~"pursuant to subsection (d); provided that"~~

Page 4, line 2: add "and shall not be counted in,"

"... experience shall be in addition to, and shall not be counted in, any professional ..."

Page 4, line 3: delete ~~"required for a license pursuant to this section."~~

Page 4, line 3: add "required for a license pursuant to this section: meeting the requirements of subparagraph (a)(4) above."

Page 5, line 4: delete ~~"two years of"~~ and add "the required"

"...Completed two years of the required professional ..."

Page 5, line 12: add "required by subsection (a)(4).

"...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ..."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin T. Kudo, President
Hawaii Society of CPAs

HB983

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"...Completed ~~two years of~~ the required professional ..."

Page 5, line 12: add "required by subsection (a)(4)."

"...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ..."



TO: Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi; Vice Chair Cory M. Chun; and Committee

FROM: Adrian Hong, President of Island Plastic Bags, Inc.

RE: HB 983 RELATING TO CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

POSITION: COMMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB 983. My name is Adrian Hong, and I am Managing Member of Hong Consulting, LLC. My firm supports this bill as action is desperately needed to improve the supply of certified public accountants in Hawaii.

Hong Consulting does recommend the following changes to the bill in order for the bill to have its intended effect:

Page 2, lines 13 & 14: delete ~~Experience requirements of~~; replace with:

“Experience requirements of Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of subsection (d);

Page 2, line 18: delete “and: and add:

“...university recognized by the board and, which must include at least eighteen semester hours of upper division or graduate level accounting or auditing subjects. The content of these eighteen hours shall be determined by rules adopted by the Board pursuant to chapter 91, and:”

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“...Completed two years of the required professional ...”

Page 5, line 12: add “required by subsection (a)(4).”

“...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ...”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 983. Should you have any questions or comments about my testimony you can contact me by email at adrianhong@hongconsultingllc.com or by phone at 808-383-5937.

Sincerely,

Adrian K. Hong, CPA

Managing Member

Hong Consulting, LLC.

<https://www.hongconsultingllc.com/>

Email: adrianhong@hongconsultingllc.com | Phone: 808-383-5937

NATHAN A. COLGROVE
101 AUPUNI STREET, SUITE 139
HILO, HAWAII 96720

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329
State Capitol

**In Support of HB 983, WITH MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun and Committee Members:

My name is Nathan A. Colgrove, a member of the firm, Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates, LLC in Hilo, on the Island of Hawaii. Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates, LLC has been practicing since 1983. We are one of the larger CPA firms on the outer islands. The work we do provides a service to our community, and supports families on the Island of Hawaii. **We support HB 983, WITH MODIFICATIONS.**

Our support **WITH MODIFICATIONS** to HB 983 are explained below, and more specifically in the attached:

There is a large shortage of accountants in the public accounting industry. As HB 983 is currently written the shortage is not solved for the public accounting industry. The work experience needs to be in a CPA firm. Otherwise this bill will not help the public accounting industry. The changes to the bill that would achieve this result are outlined in the enclosed attachments.

The goal is to provide another pathway to becoming a certified public accountant by allowing an additional year of public accounting experience in lieu of the 30 credit hours of post-baccalaureate education. The current version of the bill allows the experience to be in business and industry, not necessarily in a CPA firm.

Lastly, as it pertains to experience in private industry, and government, there already is a pathway to becoming a CPA for them that does not require the 30 additional post-baccalaureate credit hours. And finally, as it pertains to government, there are other designations available to accountants working in government that they might aspire to (i.e. Certified Government Financial Manager by the Association of Government Accountants). And on a final note, a CPA designation is not required to advance, or take over ownership, in private industry or government. In the public accounting industry, only a cpa, may become a partner in a CPA firm.

Please modify the bill as outlined here.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



Nathan A. Colgrove, Member

HB 983 Amendments

Amendments to HB983:

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“Experience requirements of Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of subsection (d);

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“...university recognized by the board and, which must include at least eighteen semester hours of upper division or graduate level accounting or auditing subjects. The content of these eighteen hours shall be determined by rules adopted by the Board pursuant to chapter 91, and:”

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“...~~Completed two years of~~ the required professional ...”

Page 5, line 12: add “required by subsection (a)(4).”

“...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ...”



HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Organized August 7, 1943
P.O. BOX 61043
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96839



House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Wednesday, February 19, 2025; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Re: Support for HB983 - With amendments Relating to Certified Public Accountants

Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Association of Public Accountants (HAPA) is the only statewide public accounting organization with active chapters on Oahu, Maui, Big Island, and Kauai. It has approximately 450 members, consisting primarily of small to mid-sized CPA firm owners and employees who are in the active practice of public accountancy.

My name is Marilyn M. Niwao, M.S.P.H., J.D., CPA, CGMA, and I am a past State President and currently a State Director of the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants. I am a Hawaii licensed CPA and Attorney, and a principal of a well-established Maui CPA firm, Niwao & Roberts, CPAs, a P.C.

I am also the immediate past Vice Chair of the Hawaii Council on Revenues, a former Commissioner of the Hawaii Tax Review Commission, and a Past President of the National Society of Accountants. However, I am testifying here solely in my capacity as a State Director of the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants and co-chair of its legislative committee, while drawing upon my knowledge obtained while serving in the above positions.

HAPA Supports HB 983 - With Amendments

After extensive discussions regarding providing an alternative pathway for students to meet the educational requirements for obtaining a Hawaii CPA license, HAPA agreed to support legislation specifically allowing one year of public accounting experience in a CPA firm only to substitute for the extra 30 semester hours of college education past the bachelor's degree. This alternative pathway is not meant to satisfy the experience requirement for CPA candidates, which requires two years of professional experience in accounting or auditing work in public accounting or private industry and government accounting.

Many HAPA members engaged in the practice of public accounting or who have subsequently gone on to practice in private industry or government accounting believe that candidates who initially obtained public accounting experience in a CPA firm prior to licensure gained a better understanding of the ethical and professional obligations needed to practice as a CPA serving the public. As CPAs in the practice of public

HAPA Testimony
Support for HB983 – With Amendments
February 19, 2025, Page 2

accounting are required to obtain continuing professional education each year (unlike CPA license holders in private industry or government without a permit to practice), the practical and broader education obtained by a candidate working for a CPA firm is directly relevant to learning about the practice of public accountancy. At the same time, the CPA candidate would get compensated for working to achieve his or her CPA license.

Please note that historically, substitution of public accounting experience was accepted for CPA licensure in Hawaii, although 4 ½ years of public accounting experience was required for those who wished to obtain a CPA license with a bachelor's degree.

HAPA respectfully requests amendments for HB 983 as follows:

The amendments to HB 983 - as agreed to by the Hawaii Board of Public Accountancy, HAPA and HSCPA are:

Page 2, lines 13 & 14: delete ~~Experience requirements of~~; replace with:
"Experience requirements of Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of subsection (d);

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HAPA Testimony
Support for HB983 – With Amendments
February 19, 2025, Page 3

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“...Completed ~~two years of~~ the required professional ...”

Page 5, line 12: add “required by subsection (a)(4).”
“...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ...”

Please support HB983, with amendments as shown above. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions by contacting me at niwao@mauicpa.com or at (808) 242-4600, ext. 224.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn M. Niwao, M.S.P.H., J.D., CPA, CGMA
Hawaii State Director and Legislative Committee Co-chairperson

LATE

ERIC H. MATSUDA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
1481 S. King St., Suite 523
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
(808) 949-7651

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Wednesday, February 19, 2025; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
State Capitol

**Re: Support for HB983 - With amendments
Relating to Certified Public Accountants**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eric H. Matsuda, CPA, and I am the Oahu Chapter President of the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants and a practicing CPA in Honolulu. HAPA supports HB983 with amendments relating to certified public accounting.

I support the intent of HB983, but the currently-existing HB983 would not actually achieve the intended result. Showing changes in wording that would bring the HB983 version into alignment with what the supporters of this Bill are trying to achieve.

The goal here is to allow more people to pursue careers as Certified Public Accountants, by creating an alternative pathway to CPA licensing. Basically, an additional year of experience, working in a CPA firm, could be substituted for the existing requirement of 30 credit hours of post-baccalaureate education.

The language needs to be carefully crafted, however, because existing law allows experience in business and industry (and not necessarily in a CPA firm) to count toward the experience requirement. The intent is **not** to change that, but to require that the additional year of experience for the alternative pathway must be in a CPA firm.

HAPA suggests amendments as follows:

Proposed HB983 Amendments

Page 2, lines 13 & 14: delete ~~Experience requirements of~~; replace with:

“Experience requirements of Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of subsection (d);

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"...Completed ~~two years of~~ the required professional ..."

Page 5, line 12: add "required by subsection (a)(4)."

"...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ..."

Please support HB983 with amendments.

Eric H. Matsuda, CPA
HAPA Oahu Chapter President

LATE

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:35:17 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantal Mentzer	Chantal Mentzer Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Page 2, lines 13 & 14: delete ~~Experience requirements of~~; replace with:

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“...Completed ~~two years of~~ the required professional ...”

Page 5, line 12: add “required by subsection (a)(4).”

“...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ...”

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:03:02 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in favor HB 983 to provide alternate pathway to be CPA. The 30 additional credits is a barrier to entry for many graduates and is reducing the number of candidates for the state of hawaii. We need more CPAs to prepare tax returns and provide accounting services to our local business.

Mahalo

Wendell

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:03:08 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kolina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of HB983 to provide and alternate pathway to become a CPT. The additional 30 credits is expensive especially in Hawaii and not necessary. It is a barrier to entry for many graduates and peers. Which reduces the number of candidates for the state of Hawaii. We need more CPA's!

Mahalo,

Kolina

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:03:24 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Anne Mendoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:03:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to help alleviate additional unnecessary hindrance for upcoming accountants.

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:04:50 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Nardi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor HB 983 to provide an alternative pathway to be a CPA. More accessible to students like me who are not really financially ready for extra credits in order to become a CPA.

Mahalo,

Mary Nardi

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:05:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill because it does help me become a CPA and it will help other people. As it does show, it is an expensive thing to do.

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:05:51 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christa Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill and alternative way to become a CPA. As a student, this bill will allow less barriers to entry into this field. The 30 extra credits are not necessary and can be gained by experience.

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:05:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe the addition credits to become a CPA is cumbersome and unnecessary considering the amount of school we complete to finish our bachelors.

Ronald I. Heller
700 Bishop Street, Suite 1500
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

phone 808 523 6000 fax 808 523 6001
rheller@torkildson.com

Before the House Committee on
Consumer Protection and Commerce

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Testimony of Ronald I. Heller

In Support of HB 983, WITH MODIFICATIONS

RELATING TO CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

I support the intent of HB 983, but the currently-existing Bill would not actually achieve the intended result. Attached is a copy showing changes in wording that would bring the existing version into alignment with what the supporters of this Bill are trying to achieve.

The goal here is to allow more people to pursue careers as Certified Public Accountants, by creating an alternative pathway to CPA licensing. Basically, an additional year of experience, working in a CPA firm, could be substituted for the existing requirement of 30 credit hours of post-baccalaureate education.

The language needs be carefully crafted, however, because existing law allows experience in business and industry (and not necessarily in a CPA firm) to count toward the experience requirement. The intent is **not** to change that, but to require that the additional year of experience for the alternative pathway must be in a CPA firm. Thus, two different definitions of qualifying experience exist. An applicant could potentially have two years of experience under one definition, and then one year of experience under the other definition.

Basically, the corrections attached are meant to make this clear. The changes may be summarized as follows:

Page 2, lines 13 & 14: delete ~~Experience requirements of~~; replace with:
“~~Experience requirements of~~ Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of subsection (d);

Page 2, line 18: delete “and: and add:
“...university recognized by the board ~~and~~, which must include at least eighteen semester hours of upper division or graduate level

accounting or auditing subjects. The content of these eighteen hours shall be determined by rules adopted by the Board pursuant to chapter 91, and:"

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"...Completed ~~two years of~~ the required professional ..."

Page 5, line 12: add "required by subsection (a)(4)."

"...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ..."

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald I. Heller

Ronald I. Heller

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that business and
2 commerce continue to grow more complicated, increasing the need
3 for well-qualified certified public accountants in the State and
4 nationwide. At the same time, however, a declining percentage
5 of students in accounting classes are pursuing certified public
6 accountant (CPA) licenses. In part, this decline is due to the
7 requirement of thirty additional semester hours of education,
8 beyond the requirements of a bachelor's degree, to obtain a CPA
9 license. The time and monetary costs of this additional
10 education can be a serious obstacle for many students. Thus,
11 the additional education requirement effectively blocks many
12 potential candidates from obtaining CPA licenses, at a time when
13 more qualified CPAs are needed.

14 The purpose of this Act is to generate more qualified CPAs
15 by establishing alternative pathways to licensure that eliminate
16 certain barriers for eligible applicants.



1 SECTION 2. Section 466-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsections (a) through (d) to read as
3 follows:

4 "(a) A license and a permit are required to practice
5 public accountancy. The board may license and grant the
6 designation of "certified public accountant" to any person who
7 has met the following:

- 8 (1) Attained eighteen years of age;
- 9 (2) Possesses a history of competence, trustworthiness,
10 and fair dealing;
- 11 (3) Educational requirements of this section [~~or~~
12 ~~section 466-5.5~~];
- 13 (4) ~~Experience requirements of~~ subsection (d);
- 14 (5) Examination requirements of subsection (e); and
- 15 (6) Paid the appropriate fees and assessments.

Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of

16 (b) The educational requirement for a license shall
17 include a baccalaureate degree conferred by a college or
18 university recognized by the board and:

which must include at least eighteen semester hours of upper division or graduate level accounting or auditing subjects

- 19 (1) Completion of not less than thirty semester hours of
20 study in addition to those semester hours required for
21 a baccalaureate degree [~~. The baccalaureate degree and~~

The content of these eighteen hours shall be determined by Rules adopted by the Board pursuant to Chapter 91.



1 ~~the thirty semester hours of additional study shall~~
 2 ~~include a minimum of eighteen semester hours of upper~~
 3 ~~division or graduate level accounting or auditing~~
 4 ~~subjects. The]; provided that the content of the~~
 5 ~~additional qualifying hours of study shall be~~
 6 ~~determined by rules adopted by the board pursuant to~~
 7 ~~chapter 91; [or] and *or*~~

- 8 (2) ~~[If the applicant has a] A minimum of eighteen~~
 9 ~~semester hours of upper division or graduate level~~
 10 ~~accounting and auditing subjects[, the applicant may~~
 11 ~~elect to replace the thirty semester hours with an~~
 12 ~~additional thirty months of professional experience in~~
 13 ~~a public accounting practice. This experience shall~~
 14 ~~not be credited toward the experience requirements in~~
 15 ~~subsection (d).]; provided that the content of the~~
 16 ~~additional qualifying hours of study shall be~~
 17 ~~determined by rules adopted by the board pursuant to~~
 18 ~~chapter 91.~~

19 In lieu of paragraph (1), the applicant may demonstrate
 20 completion of *an additional* twelve months of professional experience in the
 21 practice of public accounting, *only.* as ~~determined by the board and~~



1 ~~pursuant to subsection (d); provided~~ ^{DT} that this professional
 2 ~~experience shall be in addition to any professional experience~~
 3 ~~required for a license pursuant to this section.~~ ^{and shall not be counted in,}
 4 ^{meeting the requirements}

^{of}
^{subparagraph}
^{(a)(4) above.}

(c) A person shall be exempt from the requirements in
 subsection (b) [~~or section 466-5.5~~] if that person:

(1) Holds a current license as a public accountant under
 section 466-6; or

(2) Holds, and has continued to hold, a valid comparable
 certificate, registration, or license of certified
 public accountant of another state for a period of not
 less than ten years preceding the date of the person's
 application under this section, and has been in active
 practice of public accountancy in one or more states
 for a period of not less than five years preceding the
 date of the application.

(d) Each applicant shall present satisfactory evidence in
 the form of a certified statement, from present or former
 employer(s), that the applicant has [~~met one of the following~~
~~experience requirements for license:~~

~~(1) Completion of one thousand five hundred chargeable~~
~~hours in the performance of audits involving the~~



1 application of generally accepted accounting
 2 principles and auditing standards earned while in
 3 public accounting practice; or
 4 (2) Completion of] completed ~~two years of~~ professional *the required*
 5 experience in public accountancy practice as defined
 6 in section 466-3. Completion of experience in private
 7 or government accounting or auditing work, deemed by
 8 the board to be equivalent to professional experience
 9 in public accountancy practice as defined in
 10 section 466-3, may be substituted for all or part of
 11 the two years of professional experience in public
 12 accounting practice *required by subsection (a)(4).*
 13 of acceptable private or government accounting or
 14 auditing experience shall be defined by the board in
 15 its rules."

16 SECTION 3. Section 466-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 17 repealed.

18 [~~"§466-5.5 Educational requirements for licensure~~
 19 ~~effective December 31, 2000.~~ Effective December 31, 2000, an
 20 applicant for licensure shall have at least one hundred fifty



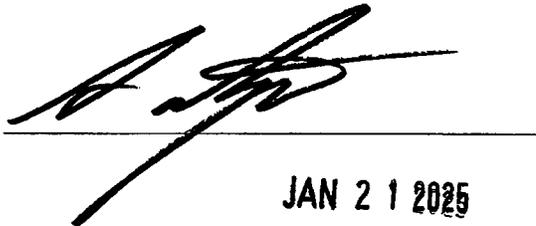
1 ~~semester hours of college education. Within the~~
 2 ~~one hundred fifty semester hours, the applicant shall have:~~
 3 ~~(1) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a~~
 4 ~~college or university acceptable to the board; and~~
 5 ~~(2) An accounting concentration or its equivalent as~~
 6 ~~specified in the rules of the board;~~
 7 ~~except that applicants for licensure who have successfully~~
 8 ~~completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination~~
 9 ~~before December 31, 2000, or held conditional credit before~~
 10 ~~December 31, 2000, and subsequently completed the examination~~
 11 ~~before the conditional credit expired, may continue to meet the~~
 12 ~~educational requirements of section 466-5(b)."]~~

13 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

16

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 21 2025



H.B. NO. 933

Report Title:

Board of Public Accountancy; Qualifications; Licensure;
Certified Public Accountants

Description:

Clarifies the education and professional experience requirements for certified public accountant license applicants to establish alternative pathways to licensure.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 1:35:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica-Ann Harumi Herman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of the HB983 to provide an alternate pathway to become a CPA. As a student creating this pathway, save us a lot of money as obtaining an additional 30 credit a lot to ask for especially as someone who is paying for school themselves. Creating an alternate pathway to becoming a CPA ensures that we will have more CPAs for our local businesses. As we know that there is a shortage of CPAs in our communities it is very important to pass this HB 983 as it will be beneficial to our economy. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:54:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darryl Nitta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

in support with the following modifications:

The amendments to HB 983 - as agreed by the Hawaii Board of Public Accountancy, HAPA and HSCPA are:

Page 2, lines 13 & 14: delete ~~Experience requirements of~~; replace with:

“~~Experience requirements of~~ Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of subsection (d);

Page 2, line 18: delete “and: and add:

“...university recognized by the board ~~and~~, which must include at least eighteen semester hours of upper division or graduate level accounting or auditing subjects. The content of these eighteen hours shall be determined by rules adopted by the Board pursuant to chapter 91, and:”

Page 3, lines 8-18: delete lines 8-18

Page 3, line 20: add “an additional”:

“...completion of an additional twelve months of ...”

Page 3, line 21: add “only”

“...practice of public accounting “only.”

Page 3, line 21: delete “~~as determined by the board and ...~~”

Page 4, line 1: delete “~~pursuant to subsection (d); provided that~~”

Page 4, line 2: add “and shall not be counted in,”

“... experience shall be in addition to, and shall not be counted in, any professional ...”

Page 4, line 3: delete “~~required for a license pursuant to this section.~~”

Page 4, line 3: add “~~required for a license pursuant to this section.~~ meeting the requirements of subparagraph (a)(4) above.”

Page 5, line 4: delete “~~two years of~~” and add “the required”

“...Completed ~~two years of~~ the required professional ...”

Page 5, line 12: add “required by subsection (a)(4).”

“...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ...”

LATE

HB-983

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:56:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trisha Nomura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

In Support of HB 983 - Relating to Certified Public Accountants WITH MODIFICATIONS

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

I support the intent of HB 983, with the specific modifications noted herein. With the critical shortage and demand for accountants and finance professionals, the profession is at pivotal crossroads. Through this measure, we hope to increase the options for people to become CPAs in Hawai‘i with an alternative pathway to CPA licensure. The current 150-credit hour law remains, with the option to substitute an additional year of experience in public accounting to fulfill the 30 credit hours of post-baccalaureate education.

The amendments to HB 983 - as agreed by the Hawai‘i Board of Public Accountancy, HAPA and HSCPA are:

- Page 2, lines 13 & 14: delete ~~Experience requirements of~~; replace with:

“~~Experience requirements of~~ Completed two years of professional experience meeting the requirements of subsection (d);”

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- Page 3, line 20: add “an additional”:

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- Page 3, line 21: add “only”

“...practice of public accounting “only.”

- Page 3, line 21: delete “, as determined by the board and ...”
- Page 4, line 1: delete “pursuant to subsection (d); provided that”
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- Page 4, line 3: delete “~~required for a license pursuant to this section.~~”
- Page 4, line 3: add “~~required for a license pursuant to this section.~~ meeting the requirements of subparagraph (a)(4) above.”
- Page 5, line 4: delete “~~two years of~~” and add “the required”

“...Completed ~~two years of~~ the required professional ...”

- Page 5, line 12: add “required by subsection (a)(4).”

“...accounting practice required by subsection (a)(4). The nature, variety, ...”

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Trisha Nomura