

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, S.D.2, H.D.1, RELATING TO RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE
LICENSURE ACTIONS AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS.

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports this administration bill.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses of registered sex offenders.

The impetus for this administrative bill was the discovery that Hawaii, unlike the State of California, does not have a law that allows the Department's professional and vocational licensing boards, commissions, and programs (Boards) to act more swiftly to safeguard clients and customers when a convicted licensee is required to register as a sex offender. This measure changes that.

First, section “a” calls for the immediate revocation of a license, and denial of an application, when a person is convicted of an offense warranting registry, or, is required to be registered as a sex offender.

Second, section “b” and “c” of the measure affords due process by allowing the registrant an opportunity to immediately appeal the Board’s action to revoke or deny licensure.

Third, the measure is narrowly construed to apply only to those regulated professions and vocations that have close, physical contact with customers and clients in a private or semi-private setting such as healthcare practitioners; and where counseling and advising in a private or semi-private setting occurs; and where a licensee may obtain or have access to private or sensitive information from or about a customer or client.¹

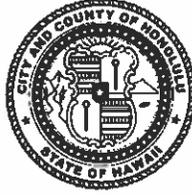
We ask that the bill be passed out of committee so that the Department and its Boards can better protect consumers through swifter action against individuals who have been convicted of certain crimes mandating that they be registered as sex offenders, and, for those who are required to register as such.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ These professions and vocations are governed by the Boards listed on page 1, lines 12 – 16, and, page 2, lines 1 – 11.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
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DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE **CL-DNK**

March 25, 2025

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and
Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members:

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Administrative
Licensure Actions Against Sex Offenders**

I am Carlene Lau, Major of the Records and Identification Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D.1, Relating to Administrative Licensure Actions Against Sex Offenders. This bill allows the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and certain licensing boards the ability to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional license for certain professions when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

Current laws do not facilitate the timely revocation or denial of a renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license for certain professions (e.g., masseuse, acupuncturist, athletic trainer, barber, cosmetologist, and therapist) when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

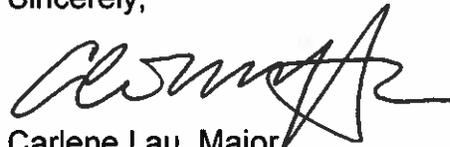
This addition to the statute would allow the DCCA and certain licensing boards the ability to take a more expeditious approach against registered sex offenders who are in certain professions that involve close physical contact with consumers and require a professional license to operate.

Due to the nature of these professions, which involve close physical contact, any delayed action in revoking a license and preventing further practice by a registered sex offender places consumers in unnecessary risk.

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
and Members
March 25, 2025
Page 2

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Administrative Licensure Actions Against Sex Offenders, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Carlene Lau, Major
Records and Identification Division

APPROVED:



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

Testimony of the Board of Dentistry

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B.1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Dentistry (Board). The Board supports sections 6 and 7 of this bill and takes no positions on the other sections of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of registered sex offenders.

The professional relationship between licensed dentists and dental hygienists with patients is built on trust, with the provider holding a position of power due to their expertise, authority, and ability to make decisions that impact a patient's health. The imbalance of power makes trust essential, as patients rely on health professionals to act in their best interests. In the health setting, there are one-on-one interactions between the dentist or dental hygienist and patients, increasing the need to safeguard against misconduct; pediatric patients are particularly vulnerable. The amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 447 in section 6 and HRS chapter 448 in section 7 of this bill will facilitate a more expeditious removal of registered sex offenders from practice than current laws allow.

The Board appreciates the intent of this bill to enhance protections safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Board of Massage Therapy

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B.1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Massage Therapy (Board). The Board supports section 11 of this bill and takes no positions on other sections of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of registered sex offenders.

The professional relationship between licensed massage therapists and patients is built on trust, with the therapist holding a position of power due to their expertise, authority, and ability to make decisions that impact a patient's health. The practice of massage therapy necessarily involves physical contact with clients, often in a private one-on-one setting, where proper draping ensures that clients' privacy is respected if they are not fully clothed. Given these factors, it is vital that clients can trust massage therapists to provide safe touch in a secure setting. The amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 452 in section 11 of this bill will facilitate a more expeditious removal of registered sex offenders from practice than current laws allow, providing greater protection to an already vulnerable client population.

The Board appreciates the intent of the bill to maintain the integrity of the massage therapy profession, and safeguard against inappropriate conduct that jeopardizes the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Psychology

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board supports this measure and offers the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses of registered sex offenders.

Current laws do not facilitate the timely revocation of a license and denial of a renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license for certain professions when the licensee becomes or is found to be a registered sex offender. This bill allows for the automatic revocation of a license or denial of an application to renew, reinstate, or restore a license for certain professions when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of the Board of Nursing

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alexander Pang, and I am an Executive Officer for the Board of Nursing (Board). The Board supports section 15 of this bill and takes no position on other sections of this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of registered sex offenders.

The proposed amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 457 will facilitate the swift revocation of nurse licensure for registered sex offenders. The Board appreciates the enhanced public protection that this bill provides.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Naturopathic medicine

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board). The Board supports this measure and offers the following comments on this measure.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses of registered sex offenders.

Current laws do not facilitate the timely revocation of a license and denial of a renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license for certain professions when the licensee becomes or is found to be a registered sex offender. This bill allows for the automatic revocation of a license or denial of an application to renew, reinstate, or restore a license for certain professions when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of the Board of Physical Therapy
Before the
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rochelle Araki, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Physical Therapy (Board). The Board supports section 23 of this bill and takes no positions on other sections of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses of registered sex offenders.

Current laws do not facilitate the timely revocation of a license and denial of a renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license for certain professions when the licensee becomes or is found to be a registered sex offender. This bill allows for the automatic revocation of a license or denial of an application to renew, reinstate, or restore a license for certain professions when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, S.D. 2., H.D. 1 RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas 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 sections 12 and 24 of this bill and takes no positions on other sections of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of registered sex offenders.

The amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 453 and HRS chapter 463E, will provide enhanced protections for the public by facilitating the timely revocation of licenses for individuals found to be a registered sex offender. Further, the provisions which enable the Board to automatically deny the renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of licenses for individuals found to be a registered sex offender will allow for a more expeditious removal of these individuals from practice than current laws allow.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Board of Acupuncture

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas 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 section 2 of this bill and takes no positions on other sections of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of registered sex offenders.

The amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 436E will enable the Board to automatically deny, renew, restore, or reinstate the of licenses for individuals found to be a registered sex offender and will provide enhanced protections for the public. Further, the bill will also facilitate the timely revocation of licenses for individuals found to be a registered sex offender; removing these individuals from practice more expeditiously than current laws allow.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Optometry

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerrie Shahan, and I am the Executive Officer of Hawaii Board of Optometry (Board). The Board supports section 21 of this bill and takes no positions on other sections of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of registered sex offenders.

Current laws do not facilitate the timely revocation of a license and denial of a renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license for certain professions when the licensee becomes or is found to be a registered sex offender. This bill allows for the automatic revocation of a license or denial of an application to renew, reinstate, or restore a license for certain professions when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this administration bill.

Testimony of the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerrie Shahan, and I am the Executive Officer of Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board). The Board supports section 4 of this bill and takes no positions on other sections of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses, registrations, or certifications of registered sex offenders.

Current laws do not facilitate the timely revocation of a license and denial of a renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license for certain professions when the licensee becomes or is found to be a registered sex offender. This bill allows for the automatic revocation of a license or denial of an application to renew, reinstate, or restore a license for certain professions when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this administration bill.



March 24, 2025

The Honorable Senator Tarnas and members of the committee:

We offer testimony in support of SB 1373 (Senator Kouchi), which would prevent registered sex offenders from holding professional medical licenses. All patients, and especially survivors of sexual assault, deserve to know that their healthcare provider has not been convicted of a sex crime. We urge you to support this legislation.

As you may be aware, RAINN is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. Founded in 1994, RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE and hotline.rainn.org). RAINN also carries out programs to support victims, educate the public, and improve public policy.

Crimes of sexual violence are already severely underreported, and reports of physician-perpetrated sexual assaults are even more rare, with less than 1-in-10 victims filing a complaint.¹ Physician-perpetrated sex abuse is a crime based on trust where the doctor is often alone with the patient (85.1% of the time), and the abuse occurs repeatedly (96% of the cases).² One study reported that approximately 10% of medical professionals had sexual contact with at least one patient.³ Because of the power dynamic at play in the medical environment, patients cannot give consent to sexual conduct.

Survivors rely on a relationship of trust and transparency with their medical providers. Someone convicted and required to register as a sex offender should not be allowed in a position of intimate trust. Without the authorization to automatically revoke or deny renewal of licenses, registered sex offenders may continue to see patients and put them at risk. SB 1373 creates this authorization, allowing for the automatic revocation and denial of a license for licensed medical professionals when the licensee is a registered sex offender. We particularly commend the legislation for ensuring that no license renewal will occur if the offense involved a patient or client. Such a commonsense measure would improve transparency in the medical profession and protect patients from perpetrators of sexual misconduct and abuse.

We urge you to support this bill. Thank you for your continued leadership and for supporting victims of sexual violence in New York. Respectfully submitted,

Mollie Montague

Director of State Legislative Affairs

¹ James Dubois, et al. "Sexual Violation of Patients by Physicians: A Mixed-Methods, Exploratory Analysis of 101 Cases." *Sexual Abuse*. Vol. 31(5). 2019. P. 503-523. Available at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1079063217719217>.

² *Id.*

³ Gartrell NK, Milliken N, Goodson WH 3rd, Thiemann S, Lo B. Physician-patient sexual contact. Prevalence and problems. *West J Med*. 1992 Aug;157(2):139-43. PMID: 1441462; PMCID: PMC1011231.; Marisalva Fávoro, et al. "Sexual Violence Perpetrated by Health Professionals." *Frontiers in Psychology*, vol. 13, 3 Apr. 2023, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1005696>.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Chiropractic
Before the
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rochelle Araki, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Board of Chiropractic (Board). The Board supports section 5 of this bill and takes no positions on other sections of the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses of registered sex offenders.

Current laws do not facilitate the timely revocation of a license and denial of a renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license for certain professions when the licensee becomes or is found to be a registered sex offender. This bill allows for the automatic revocation of a license or denial of an application to renew, reinstate, or restore a license for certain professions when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this administration bill.



March 23, 2025

Position: Support of SB1373, SD2, HD1

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Llasmin Chaîne, LSW, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support of SB1373, SD2, HD1, Relating to Administrative Licensure Actions

Hearing: Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this important bill. I would like to express **my support of SB1373 SD2, HD1**, Relating to Administrative Licensure Actions Against Sex Offenders, which would authorize the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses of registered sex offenders.

Organizations need better mechanisms to ensure service providers are safe and to create protective environments. Given the detrimental effects of sexual violence upon survivors' well-being¹, community members and organizations need to know if licensed service providers can be trusted to conduct themselves appropriately with those in their care². **We need this change to ensure offenders** with a history of sexually inappropriate behavior **aren't put into subsequent positions of power, capitalizing on vulnerable clients/patients**, while delivering care in semi-private or private settings, **enabled to abuse again**³.

Creating protective environments is one of CDC's recommended strategies for stopping sexual violence (SV) from happening in the first place. "Such approaches address community-level risk factors by changing, enacting, or enforcing laws, regulations, or organizational policies or by changing the physical environment, economic or social incentives (or consequences) for behavior, or other characteristics of the community, which have the potential for population-level impact on SV outcomes, often at low cost for implementation."⁴

I respectfully urge this Committee to pass **SB1373, SD2, HD1**, in **support of community safety, offender accountability, and protective environments**⁵ in which clients/patients can thrive⁶.

¹ About Sexual Violence. CDC – Sexual Violence Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/sexual-violence/about/index.html>

² Child Sexual Abuse By K-12 School Personnel in Canada – Executive Summary. Canadian Centre for Child Protection. https://content.c3p.ca/pdfs/C3P_CSainSchoolsReport_en.pdf

³ What Parents Need to Know – Grooming in Sport. U.S. Center for SafeSport. https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021_HPCourse_Grooming_v7.pdf

⁴ Sexual Violence Prevention: Resource for Action: A Compilation of the Best Available Evidence. CDC. <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/158967>

⁵ Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect. CDC – Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/child-abuse-neglect/prevention/index.html>

⁶ Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences. CDC – Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). <https://www.cdc.gov/aces/prevention/index.html>

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Speech Pathology & Audiology

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS
AGAINST SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology (Board). The Board supports this measure and offers the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses of registered sex offenders.

Current laws do not facilitate the timely revocation of a license and denial of a renewal, restoration, or reinstatement of a license for certain professions when the licensee becomes or is found to be a registered sex offender. This bill allows for the automatic revocation of a license or denial of an application to renew, reinstate, or restore a license for certain professions when the licensee is a registered sex offender.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-1373-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 9:54:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Subject: Support for S.B. 1373 – Cracking Down on Sex Offenders in Licensed Professions

To the Honorable Legislators of the State of Hawaii,

I’m throwing my full weight behind Senate Bill 1373 (S.B. No. 1373)—a no-nonsense move to yank professional licenses from registered sex offenders and keep them out of positions of trust. This bill is about consumer safety, accountability, and cutting through the red tape that’s left Hawaii vulnerable, as spotlighted in that October 2024 Civil Beat article. Let’s dig into why this matters, with local and national stats to back it up, plus the trafficking and crime ties that make this urgent.

- What S.B. 1373 Does:
 - Automatic Revocation: Forces boards like acupuncture, dentistry, nursing, and more to revoke licenses or deny renewals for anyone convicted of a sex offense under Chapter 846E—or required to register as a sex offender, appeal or not.
 - No Second Chances for Predators: If the victim was a patient or client (even former ones targeted post-relationship), reinstatement’s off the table.
 - Transparency: Every disciplinary action goes public—no hiding behind bureaucracy.
- Hawaii’s Reality Check:
 - 26.7% of clients served by Child and Family Service across five islands in 2019 reported sex trafficking (2020 ASU/Hawaii Commission report)—many predators start in trusted roles.
 - 2,780 kids at risk annually for sexual exploitation, average age 11 (Dept. of Human Services). Professionals with access amplify this danger.
 - Zero convictions under Hawaii’s 2016 sex trafficking law as of 2022 (Honolulu Civil Beat)—weak enforcement lets offenders slip through, including licensed ones.
- National Picture – The Threat’s Real:
 - 10,583 trafficking cases in the U.S. in 2022, with 16,554 victims (National Human Trafficking Hotline)—sex offenders in professions like medicine or therapy can exploit trust to feed this.

- 38.7% of global trafficking is sex trafficking (ILO, 2021), often tied to organized crime using drugs to control victims (U.S. Dept. of Justice). Licensed predators could be cogs in this machine.
- 1,912 trafficking referrals to U.S. attorneys in 2022 (BJS)—yet Hawaii lags. S.B. 1373 could shift that.
- Sex Offenders, Drugs, and Organized Crime:
 - Trust as a Weapon: Nationally, 60% of child sex trafficking victims had prior welfare involvement (HHS)—professionals like doctors or counselors can prey on vulnerable clients, especially kids.
 - Drug Link: Traffickers use substances to trap victims (U.S. Dept. of State, 2022). A licensed pharmacist or nurse offender could funnel drugs to these networks.
 - Hawaii’s Exposure: The Susannah Wesley Community Center sees trafficking survivors statewide—delayed license revocations let offenders keep working, risking more victims.
- Why S.B. 1373 is a Must:
 - Closes Loopholes: That Civil Beat piece nailed it—current boards can’t act fast. S.B. 1373 makes revocation automatic, no dawdling.
 - Protects Consumers: Patients trust licensees—dentists, therapists, massage therapists. A registered sex offender in those roles is a ticking time bomb.
 - Fights Trafficking: By sidelining predators in professions, we disrupt access to victims, hitting organized crime where it hurts.
- The Bottom Line:
 - Hawaii’s kids and families deserve this: With trafficking’s average entry age at 11 here, we can’t let sex offenders hide behind licenses.
 - National stats scream urgency: Over 16,000 victims in one year—Hawaii must lead, not lag.
 - Drugs and crime don’t wait: S.B. 1373 is a hammer to smash these networks’ tools.

Legislators, S.B. 1373 isn’t just policy—it’s a stand for safety and justice. Vote YES to protect our communities and send a message: Hawaii won’t harbor predators in plain sight.

Mahalo,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

www.Ohanaunityparty.com

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.

SB-1373-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 5:09:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/25/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support