



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

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**DEAN I HAZAMA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA**  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850  
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the**  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**Friday, February 21, 2025**  
**10:20 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 016 & Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

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<sup>1</sup> These professions and vocations are governed by the Boards listed on page 1, lines 11 – 16, and, page 2, lines 1 – 10.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: [www.honolulu.org](http://www.honolulu.org)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEI'A



ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
CHIEF  
KAHU MĀKA'I

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HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE **CL-DNK**

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

**SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1373, S.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. 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 Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Members  
February 21, 2025  
Page 2

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 1373, S.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



February 19, 2025

The Honorable Senator Roads 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](https://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.<sup>1</sup> 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).<sup>2</sup> One study reported that approximately 10% of medical professionals had sexual contact with at least one patient.<sup>3</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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/10.1177/1079063217712217>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> 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 Board of Physical Therapy**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.**

**Conference Room 016 and Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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 Board of Psychology**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.**

**Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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 Hawaii Board of Naturopathic medicine**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.**

**Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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 will review this bill at its meeting rescheduled to March 14, 2025 and in the meantime, 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 Hawaii Medical Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.  
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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 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.

The amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 453 section 12 and HRS chapter 463E section 24 of the bill 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  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.**

**Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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 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.

While the Board has not had the opportunity to review this bill, the Board has been supportive of previous measures that strengthen public protection.

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.

**Testimony of the Board of Dentistry**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.  
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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 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.

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  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.**

**Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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 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.

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 Chiropractic**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.**

**Conference Room 16 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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.

**Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Optometry**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Tuesday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.**

**Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**

**S.B. 1373, SD1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS AGAINST  
SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Rhoads 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 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.

**Testimony of the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Tuesday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.**

**Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 1373, SD1, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS AGAINST  
SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Rhoads 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 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.

**Testimony of the Board of Nursing**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.  
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 1373, SD1 RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE ACTIONS AGAINST  
SEX OFFENDERS**

Chair Rhoads 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 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.

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 Speech Pathology & Audiology**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, February 21, 2025  
10:20 a.m.  
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Rhoads 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.

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:07:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2025 10:20:00 AM

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

Comments:

Stand in Support

**SB-1373-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:49:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2025 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Arroyo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of SB1373 SD1  
Hawaii State Legislature**

**To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**From: April Arroyo**

**Date: February 19, 2025**

**Subject: Testimony in Support of SB1373 SD1 - Relating to Administrative Licensure Actions Against Sex Offenders**

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1373 SD1, which seeks to authorize the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses of registered sex offenders. This bill represents a significant step toward protecting the public, ensuring that individuals who have been convicted of serious offenses are not allowed to hold positions of trust and responsibility within our state’s licensed professions.

Sex offenders who are registered under Hawaii’s sex offender registry have demonstrated a serious violation of the law that undermines public safety. In professional roles that often involve close contact with vulnerable populations—such as healthcare workers, teachers, or service providers—it is crucial that individuals with a history of such offenses are not in positions where they can potentially harm others again. The passage of SB1373 SD1 will help prevent sex offenders from exploiting their professional licenses to gain access to vulnerable individuals and communities.

By granting the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs the authority to automatically revoke, deny, and refuse the renewal or reinstatement of licenses for registered sex offenders, the State of Hawaii will create a clear and firm stance on protecting the public. This bill acknowledges the serious nature of these crimes and the long-lasting impact that sex offenses have on victims and their families. In many instances, the responsibility of holding a professional license should be considered secondary to ensuring that those in positions of trust have proven themselves to be worthy of that responsibility.

The provisions in SB1373 SD1 are not only necessary but also fair. They ensure that those who have committed heinous acts are held accountable, and that the safety of the public remains a top priority. Professionals should be subject to scrutiny based on their behavior, and this measure will offer a clear mechanism for the state to prevent individuals with dangerous histories from continuing to work in licensed professions. By supporting SB1373 SD1, the legislature will send a message that the safety of our community will always be prioritized over the protection of individual licensees who have demonstrated they are unfit to hold positions of authority and trust.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB1373 SD1 and support the effort to maintain public safety through stronger oversight and automatic revocation of professional licenses for registered sex offenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

**Sincerely,**  
April Arroyo  
86 Poloahilani Street  
Makawao, HI 96768  
808-757-8176  
aearroyo@hawaii.edu

**SB-1373-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:43:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2025 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruth Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with SB1373 that convicted sex offenders should have automatic revocation of professional licensures and should not be able to renew, reinstate or restore their previous professional licensure. This is a way to help protect the public from a group with a very high risk of recidivism or repeating the same behavior.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love