

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

**Before the
House Committee on Health
and
House Committee on Intrastate Commerce**

**Thursday, March 12, 2020
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Capitol Auditorium**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2424, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

Chair Mizuno, Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Jone Geimer-Flanders, D.O., and I am the Chairperson of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the definition of the practice of medicine to provide uniformity of practice for both medical and osteopathic physicians.

This bill brings the definition of the practice of medicine to parity with the current practice of medicine and provides uniformity for medical doctors and osteopathic doctors. As the Committee is aware, the definition of the practice of medicine was last amended in 2008 by adding a separate, distinct definition of the practice of osteopathic. The Board notes that medical doctors and osteopathic doctors receive the same education and training and should thus be treated equally. Further, the Board believes that this definition should be updated because the practice of medicine not only includes the treatment of disease, as the current definition provides, but should also include the prevention of disease for the general health and welfare of the consumers of this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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**STATE OF HAWAII
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

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**On the following measure:
S.B. 2424, S.D. 1, RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

Chair Mizuno, Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Esther Brown, and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO). RICO supports this bill and offers enforcement-related comments.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the definition of the practice of medicine to provide uniformity of practice for both medical and osteopathic physicians.

RICO notes that in addition to achieving its stated purpose, the bill will foster consistency in enforcement for these professions because the same scope of practice will apply to both.

S.D. 1 also expands the scope of practice beyond the treatment of disease and delineates additional services that are now common in the practice of modern medicine, including telehealth, medical imaging, and preventing mental and physical diseases,

conditions, injuries, and ailments. Expanding the scope of practice of medicine beyond merely treating disease will not only assist licensee enforcement by providing tangible grounds for evaluating physician compliance with the licensure laws, but also enable RICO to better target and enjoin practices and behaviors as potential unlicensed activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Date: March 12, 2020

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Auditorium

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Re: SB 2424 SD1 Relating to the Practice of Medicine

Position: SUPPORT

The Hawaii Medical Association supports the continued refining of the definition of elements constituting the practice of medicine.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify on this issue.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Michael Champion, MD President-Elect – Angela Pratt, MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD
Immediate Past President – Jerry Van Meter, MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO