

LARE

March 16, 2009

**Testimony in support of SB 1332 SD2 for  
March 17, 2009 Hearing @ 8:30 in room 329**

Testimony to: House Committee on Health  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

By:

CHEULPIN LEE

**Re: SB 1332 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE – Establish  
licensing requirements for Respiratory Care Practitioners**

Chairs and Committee Members:

I support the intent of bill SB 1332 SD2, which would license respiratory care practitioners in Hawaii.

Because Hawaii is only one of two States that does not have oversight over the profession, we are in a situation that unlicensed practitioners from other states can come to Hawaii and practice here, without a license. Worse yet, if they lose their license elsewhere, they can still practice here.

We realize that the last Auditors Report opposed licensing with a major part of the opposition based on cost. Because of this, we suggest that licensing be done with DCCA rather than a board, which would eliminate the need for state funding, with the costs of licensing included in license fees.

What licensing will do is to assure that all respiratory care therapy is done by practitioners that are qualified with minimum qualifications, which does not now exist, since it is entirely left up to those that purchase the services.

Thank you



Respiratory Care Practitioner

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KENNETH NG**Re: SB 1332 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE – Establish  
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Chairs and Committee Members:

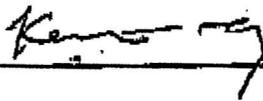
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LEANN GAROUVE

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Chris Aguillon

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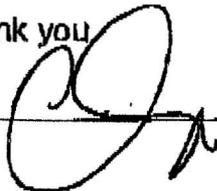
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By: BRIAN KUSANO

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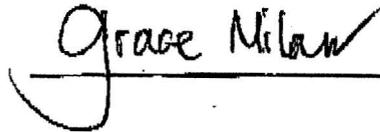
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Nancy Ho R.R.T.**Re: SB 1332 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE – Establish  
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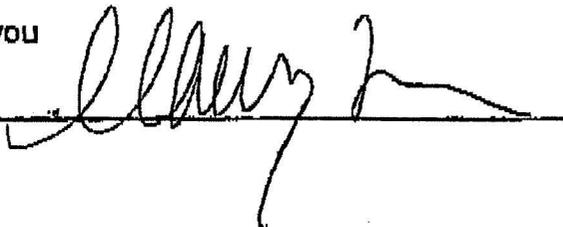
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By: April M. Mabe

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Nancy C. Totentino**Re: SB 1332 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE – Establish  
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Virginia Alatasi**Re: SB 1332 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE – Establish  
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V. Alatasi

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**To:** House Committee on Health  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

**By:** Diane Brenessel, BS, D.Ed., RRT, AE-C  
Clinical Educator for Respiratory Care

**Re: SB1332, SD2 Relating to Healthcare  
Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:**

I strongly support the intent of SB1332 SD2 to regulate the practice of respiratory care in Hawaii.

- ◆ The need for licensure is now and there are enough Respiratory Care Practitioners working in Hawaii to support a licensing process and still maintain a "budget neutral" status.
- ◆ Federal Medicare laws for reimbursement are currently undergoing a significant change that affects reimbursement to all Medical Centers. Medicare soon will not reimburse for patient care given by an unlicensed healthcare provider. This would reduce the Federal dollars to our state as Medicare is reformed on this important point.
- ◆ As Physician's patient-loads are increasing, especially on the neighbor islands, they are relying on Respiratory Care Practitioners more than ever, to manage their most challenging patients, those with pulmonary diseases, such as COPD.

Thank you for your kind consideration,  
Diane Brenessel, BS, D.Ed., RRT, AE-C  
Clinical Educator for Respiratory Care

