

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: carol lin [lin8lin@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 1:07 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2

Carol Lin
4291 Kahala Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

March 15, 2009

To: The Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Health, Twenty-Fifth Legislature Regular Session of 2009
RE: Support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2, Relating to Naturopathic Medicine
Committee on Health Hearing Scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 8:30 a.m., Room 329

Dear Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, and other distinguished Members of the House Committee on Health,

As a Hawaii resident, I am writing to strongly urge your support of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2 relating to naturopathic medicine. I have seen Dr. Laurie Steelsmith for naturopathic medical care, and as a result I have significantly improved my health. Naturopathic physicians have extensive training at naturopathic medical schools, and they are by far the most highly trained preventive medicine experts. However, in Hawaii they cannot yet practice according to the full scope of their medical training and they have minimal insurance coverage. Many other states have passed measures that allow naturopathic physicians a much broader scope of practice than they currently have in Hawaii.

In keeping with the Obama administration's aims to cut health care costs by promoting preventive medicine, it is high time to give Hawaii's naturopathic doctors greater ability to practice preventive medicine according to their training. S.B. No. 420, S.D.2 will give Dr. Steelsmith and other naturopathic doctors in Hawaii a greater scope of practice and enable them to more effectively serve the people of our state.

With the current state of the economy there is a shortage of good primary care physicians in Hawaii, many physicians are leaving the state, and it is often difficult for patients to receive even basic medical care. In order for our state to attract more top-quality naturopathic physicians, it is time to modernize Hawaii's naturopathic law, which has not been revised in 20 years. As general practitioners who are licensed in Hawaii as primary care physicians, naturopathic physicians are an invaluable part of our health care system. They are uniquely qualified to promote a healthier Hawaii while decreasing the long-term financial burden of health care costs. By allowing naturopathic physicians to practice according to their training, S.B. No. 420, S.D.2 will greatly improve the quality of health care available in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing of the passing of S.B. No. 420, S.D.2.

Sincerely,

Carol

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From: sheree latif [sheree.latif@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 7:09 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Re: Naturopathic Physicians scope of practice in Hawaii SB 420, SD2

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I have been practicing Pharmacy in the State of Hawaii for over 21 years. We have not only professional contact with Naturopathic physicians but also see them as our personal Physicians. Their scope of practice is much more limited in the State of Hawaii as compared to most other States. Their training is similar to Allopathic Physicians and due to our isolated location and ethnic mix many people prefer to see Naturopaths in Hawaii. Due to the rural nature of our Island and the health based natural life style of much of the population the ability to see a Naturopath with expanded scope of practice allows people to make personal choices in reference to their health care provider. We support expanded scope for these practitioners and are glad you are considering this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Sheree Latif R.Ph
Magdi Latif R. Ph