



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
[www.hawaii.gov/dcca](http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca)

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## PRESENTATION OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2014

Wednesday, February 12, 2014  
2:10 p.m.

### TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2042, RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE.

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Sandra Matsushima, Executive Officer for the Occupational Therapy Program of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"), Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2042, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice.

The purpose of House Bill No. 2042 is to improve the regulation of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants by establishing an occupational therapy program and licensing requirements for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

For the Committee's information, on February 7, 2014, the Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection heard the companion measure, Senate Bill No. 2472, and it passed with amendments.

Should this House bill move forward, we respectfully request that you consider the attached proposed H.D. 1, which the Department worked in collaboration with the proponents of the bill, as it is the same as Senate Bill No. 2472 proposed S.D. 1.

We request that you replace this proposed H.D.1 with the bill that is currently before you.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2042, replacing it with the proposed H.D. 1.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that occupational  
2 therapists treat patients with injuries, illnesses, or  
3 disabilities through the therapeutic use of everyday life  
4 activities. Occupational therapy assistants assist occupational  
5 therapists in providing occupational therapy.

6           Although the regulation of occupational therapy practice is  
7 codified in chapter 457G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the language  
8 in this chapter is incomplete in relation to certain aspects of  
9 the profession, and does not require licensure of occupational  
10 therapists or occupational therapy assistants. The legislature  
11 notes that Hawaii is the last state in the country to license  
12 occupational therapists and one of the last three states to  
13 license occupational therapy assistants.

14           The legislature further finds that occupational therapists  
15 and occupational therapy assistants should be licensed in Hawaii  
16 in order to protect public health, safety, and the welfare of  
17 the patients served by occupational therapists and occupational  
18 therapy assistants. Licensing of occupational therapists and



1 occupational therapy assistants will ensure that occupational  
2 therapy in Hawaii is provided by only qualified occupational  
3 therapists and occupational therapy assistants and will help  
4 meet insurer payer requirements, as some insurers require  
5 occupational therapy to be provided by licensed individuals.

6 The purpose of this Act is to improve the regulation of  
7 occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants by  
8 establishing an occupational therapy program and licensing  
9 requirements for occupational therapists and occupational  
10 therapy assistants, including provisions relating to the  
11 qualifications, licensure, practice of occupational therapy,  
12 supervision of occupational therapy assistants, exemptions,  
13 powers and duties of the director, licensure renewal,  
14 restoration, penalty, and revocation or suspension of licenses.

15 Accordingly, effective with the December 31, 2014 renewal,  
16 the occupational therapist registration will be converted to an  
17 occupational therapist license. To effectuate a seamless  
18 conversion, current occupational therapist registrants will be  
19 grandfathered and issued an occupational therapist license upon  
20 renewal.



1           Effective January 1, 2017, except as otherwise provided in  
2 this chapter, no person shall practice as an occupational  
3 therapy assistant or represent himself or herself as being able  
4 to practice as an occupational therapy assistant in this state  
5 without possessing a valid license issued by the director in  
6 accordance with this chapter.

7           SECTION 2. Section 457G-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended as follows:

9           1. By adding new definitions to be appropriately inserted  
10 and to read:

11           "Foreign-trained person" means a person who has completed  
12 an educational program or course of study in occupational  
13 therapy in an institution located outside the United States.

14           "Occupational therapist" means a person who is licensed to  
15 practice occupational therapy in this State.

16           "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who is  
17 licensed to practice occupational therapy under the supervision  
18 of and in partnership with an occupational therapist."

19           2. By repealing the definition of "occupational therapy  
20 services".

21           ~~["Occupational therapy services" include:~~



- 1       ~~(1) The assessment of needs and provision of treatment in~~  
2       ~~consultation with the individual, family, or other~~  
3       ~~appropriate persons;~~
- 4       ~~(2) Interventions directed toward developing, improving,~~  
5       ~~ascertaining, enhancing, or restoring:~~
- 6       ~~(A) Daily living skills, including self-care skills~~  
7       ~~and activities that involve interactions with~~  
8       ~~others and the environment, work readiness or~~  
9       ~~work performance, play skills or leisure~~  
10       ~~capacities, or educational performance skills; or~~
- 11       ~~(B) Sensorimotor, oral-motor, perceptual, or~~  
12       ~~neuromuscular functioning; or emotional,~~  
13       ~~motivational, cognitive, or psychosocial~~  
14       ~~components of performance;~~
- 15       ~~(3) The education of the individual, family, or other~~  
16       ~~appropriate persons in carrying out appropriate~~  
17       ~~interventions;~~
- 18       ~~(4) Design, development, adaptation, application, or~~  
19       ~~training in the use of:~~
- 20       ~~(A) Assistive technology devices; and~~



- 1           ~~(B) Rehabilitative technology such as orthotic or~~  
2           ~~prosthetic devices;~~
- 3           ~~(5) The application of physical agent modalities as an~~  
4           ~~adjunct to, or in preparation for, purposeful~~  
5           ~~activity;~~
- 6           ~~(6) The application of ergonomic principles, and the~~  
7           ~~adaptation of environments and processes to enhance~~  
8           ~~functional performance; and~~
- 9           ~~(7) The promotion of health and wellness." ]~~

10           SECTION 3. Chapter 457G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by adding new sections to be appropriately designated  
12 and to read as follows:

13           **§457G- Occupational therapy program.** There is  
14 established an occupational therapy program within the  
15 department to be administered by the director.

16           **§457G- Powers and duties of the director.** In addition to  
17 any other powers and duties authorized by law, the director  
18 shall have the powers and duties to:

- 19           (1) Grant, deny, renew, refuse to renew, restore,  
20           terminate, reinstate, condition, restrict, suspend, or  
21           revoke a license issued pursuant to this chapter;



- 1       (2) Grant permission to a person to practice occupational  
2       therapy and to use the title of "licensed occupational  
3       therapist" or a description indicating that the person  
4       is a licensed occupational therapist in this State;
- 5       (3) Grant permission to a person to practice as an  
6       occupational therapy assistant and to use the title of  
7       "licensed occupational therapy assistant" or a  
8       description indicating that the person is a licensed  
9       occupational therapy assistant in this State;
- 10      (4) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules pursuant to chapter 91  
11      as the director finds necessary to carry out this  
12      chapter;
- 13      (5) Administer, coordinate, and enforce this chapter;
- 14      (6) Discipline a licensed occupational therapist or  
15      licensed occupational therapy assistant on grounds  
16      specified by this chapter or chapter 436B or for any  
17      violation of rules adopted by the director pursuant to  
18      this chapter;
- 19      (7) Refuse to license a person for failure to meet the  
20      licensing requirements in this chapter or for any  
21      reason specified by this chapter as grounds to



1           discipline an occupational therapist or occupational  
2           therapy assistant; and  
3       (8) Appoint an advisory committee composed of practicing  
4           occupational therapists and occupational therapy  
5           assistants to assist with the implementation of this  
6           chapter.

7           SECTION 4. Section 457G-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9           "§457G-1.5 Practice of occupational therapy

10 [: ~~qualifications; registration~~]. [(a) ~~No person shall~~  
11 ~~represent, advertise, or announce oneself, either publicly or~~  
12 ~~privately, as an occupational therapist, nor use, in connection~~  
13 ~~with the person's name or place of business, the words~~  
14 ~~"occupational therapist", "certified occupational therapist",~~  
15 ~~"occupational therapist registered", or the letters "OT", "COT",~~  
16 ~~or "OTR", or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or~~  
17 ~~insignia indicating or implying that such person is an~~  
18 ~~occupational therapist unless such person registers the person's~~  
19 ~~name and business address biennially with the department of~~  
20 ~~commerce and consumer affairs in a manner established by rules~~



1 ~~adopted pursuant to chapter 91, and meets the qualifications of~~  
2 ~~section 457C-2.~~

3 ~~(b) The department shall maintain and biennially update a~~  
4 ~~list of the names and business addresses of the occupational~~  
5 ~~therapists who are registered under subsection (a).~~

6 ~~(c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit~~  
7 ~~a registered occupational therapist from utilizing occupational~~  
8 ~~therapy support personnel to assist in the practice of~~  
9 ~~occupational therapy; provided that the occupational therapy~~  
10 ~~support personnel shall work under the supervision of or in~~  
11 ~~consultation with the registered occupational therapist.~~

12 ~~"Occupational therapy support personnel" includes a person~~  
13 ~~certified by the National Board for Certification in~~  
14 ~~Occupational Therapy, and who uses the title "occupational~~  
15 ~~therapy assistant" or "certified occupational therapy~~  
16 ~~assistant", the letters "COTA" or "OTA", or any other titles,~~  
17 ~~letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that~~  
18 ~~the person is an occupational therapy assistant.~~

19 ~~(d) A registration granted under this chapter shall mean~~  
20 ~~that the person has met requirements that include minimum~~  
21 ~~practice standards to provide protection to the public and is~~



1 ~~permitted to use the title and engage in the practice as an~~  
2 ~~occupational therapist. In the granting of permission to engage~~  
3 ~~in this profession, and consistent with section 436B-2, the~~  
4 ~~definition for "license" is inclusive of a registration issued~~  
5 ~~under this chapter and, as such, an occupational therapist that~~  
6 ~~holds a registration shall be similarly regarded as an~~  
7 ~~occupational therapist that holds a license.]~~

8 (a) The practice of occupational therapy is the  
9 therapeutic use of everyday life activities with individuals or  
10 groups for the purpose of participation in roles and situations  
11 in home, school, workplace, community, and other settings. It  
12 includes:

13 (1) Evaluation of factors affecting activities of daily  
14 living, instrumental activities of daily living, rest  
15 and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social  
16 participation, including:

17 (A) Client factors, including body functions, such as  
18 neuromusculoskeletal, sensory-perceptual, visual,  
19 mental, cognitive, and pain factors; body  
20 structures, such as cardiovascular, digestive,  
21 nervous, integumentary, genitourinary systems,



- 1           and structures related to movement; values;  
2           beliefs; and spirituality;
- 3           (B) Habits, routines, roles, rituals, and behavior  
4           patterns;
- 5           (C) Occupational and social environments, cultural,  
6           personal, temporal, and virtual contexts and  
7           activity demands that affect performance; and
- 8           (D) Performance skills, including motor and praxis,  
9           sensory-perceptual, emotional regulation,  
10           cognitive, communication, and social skills;
- 11        (2) Methods or approaches selected to direct the process  
12        of interventions, including:
- 13           (A) Establishment, remediation, or restoration of a  
14           skill or ability that has not yet developed, is  
15           impaired, or is in decline;
- 16           (B) Compensation, modification, or adaptation of  
17           activity or environment to enhance performance or  
18           prevent injuries, disorders, or other conditions;
- 19           (C) Retention and enhancement of skills or abilities  
20           without which performance in everyday life  
21           activities would decline;



- 1           (D) Promotion of health and wellness, including the  
2           use of self-management strategies, to enable or  
3           enhance performance in everyday life activities;  
4           and
- 5           (E) Prevention of barriers to performance and  
6           participation, including injury and disability  
7           prevention; and
- 8        (3) Interventions and procedures to promote or enhance  
9        safety and performance in activities of daily living,  
10       instrumental activities of daily living, rest and  
11       sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social  
12       participation, including:
- 13        (A) Therapeutic use of occupations, exercises, and  
14        activities;
- 15        (B) Training in self-care, self-management, health  
16        management and maintenance, home management,  
17        community reintegration, work reintegration,  
18        school activities, and work performance;
- 19        (C) Development, remediation, or compensation of  
20        neuromusculoskeletal, sensory-perceptual, visual,



- 1           mental, and cognitive functions; pain tolerance  
2           and management; and behavioral skills;
- 3           (D) Therapeutic use of self, including one's  
4           personality, insights, perceptions, and  
5           judgments, as part of the therapeutic process;
- 6           (E) Education and training of individuals, including  
7           family members, caregivers, groups, populations,  
8           and others;
- 9           (F) Care coordination, case management, and  
10           transition services;
- 11           (G) Consultative services to groups, programs,  
12           organizations, or communities;
- 13           (H) Modification of environments, such as home, work,  
14           school, or community, and adaptation of  
15           processes, including the application of ergonomic  
16           principles;
- 17           (I) Assessment, design, fabrication, application,  
18           fitting, and training in seating and positioning;  
19           assistive technology; adaptive devices; orthotic  
20           devices; and training in the use of prosthetic  
21           devices;



- 1           (J) Assessment, recommendation, and training in  
2           techniques to enhance functional mobility,  
3           including management of wheelchairs and other  
4           mobility devices;
- 5           (K) Low vision rehabilitation;
- 6           (L) Driver rehabilitation and community mobility;
- 7           (M) Management of feeding, eating, and swallowing to  
8           enable eating and feeding performance;
- 9           (N) Application of physical agent modalities and use  
10           of a range of specific therapeutic procedures,  
11           such as wound care management, interventions to  
12           enhance sensory-perceptual and cognitive  
13           processing, and manual therapy, to enhance  
14           performance skills; and
- 15           (O) Facilitating the occupational performance of  
16           groups, populations, or organizations through the  
17           modification of environments and the adaptation  
18           of processes.
- 19           (b) No person shall practice occupational therapy  
20           gratuitously or for pay, offer to practice occupational therapy,  
21           offer occupational therapy, or represent, advertise, or



1 announce, either publicly or privately, that the person is an  
2 occupational therapist, unless the person is appropriately  
3 licensed under this chapter.

4 (c) No person shall use, in connection with the person's  
5 name or business, the words "occupational therapist licensed",  
6 "registered occupational therapist", "licensed occupational  
7 therapist", "occupational therapist", or "doctor of occupational  
8 therapy", or the letters "OT", "OTR", "OTD", "OT/L", "OTR/L", or  
9 "OTD/L", or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia  
10 indicating or implying that the person is an occupational  
11 therapist unless the person is appropriately licensed as an  
12 occupational therapist under this chapter.

13 (d) Effective January 1, 2017, except as otherwise  
14 provided in this chapter, no person shall practice as an  
15 occupational therapy assistant or represent himself or herself  
16 as being able to practice as an occupational therapy assistant  
17 in this state without possessing a valid license issued by the  
18 director in accordance with this chapter.

19 (d) No person shall use the title "occupational therapy  
20 assistant licensed", "licensed occupational therapy assistant",  
21 the letters "OTA/L" or "COTA/L", or any other words, letters,



1 abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the  
2 person is an occupational therapy assistant unless that person  
3 is appropriately licensed as an occupational therapy assistant  
4 under this chapter."

5 SECTION 4. Chapter 457G-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 **§457G-2 Qualifications of occupational therapists.**

8 (a) Occupational therapists shall have completed the educational  
9 requirements and supervised field work experience required for  
10 certification by the National Board for Certification in  
11 Occupational Therapy, and shall have passed a national  
12 certification examination administered by that association.

13 (b) In the case of foreign-trained persons, the applicant  
14 shall have completed the National Board for Certification in  
15 Occupational Therapy eligibility determination process for  
16 occupational therapist and shall have passed a national  
17 certification examination administered by the National Board for  
18 Certification in Occupational Therapy.

19 SECTION 6. Chapter 457G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding new sections to be appropriately designated  
21 and to read as follows:



1        **§457G- Qualifications of occupational therapy assistants.**

2        (a) Effective January 1, 2017, there shall be licensing for  
3        occupational therapy assistants.

4        (b) Occupational therapy assistants shall have completed  
5        the educational requirements and supervised field work required  
6        for certification by the National Board for Certification in  
7        Occupational Therapy, and shall have passed a national  
8        certification examination administered by that association.

9        (c) In the case of foreign-trained persons, the applicant  
10       shall have completed the National Board for Certification in  
11       Occupational Therapy eligibility determination process for  
12       occupational therapy assistant and shall have passed a national  
13       certification examination administered by the National Board for  
14       Certification in Occupational Therapy.

15       **§457G- Supervision of occupational therapy assistants.**

16       (a) An occupational therapy assistant may practice occupational  
17       therapy only under the supervision of an occupational therapist  
18       who is licensed to practice occupational therapy in the State.  
19       The occupational therapist shall be responsible for occupational  
20       therapy evaluation, appropriate reassessment, treatment  
21       planning, interventions, and discharge from occupational therapy



1 based on standard professional guidelines. The supervising  
2 occupational therapist and the supervised occupational therapy  
3 assistant shall have legal and ethical responsibility for  
4 ongoing management of supervision, including providing,  
5 requesting, giving, or obtaining supervision.

6 (b) The supervising occupational therapist shall:

7 (1) Determine the frequency, level, and nature of  
8 supervision with input from the occupational therapy  
9 assistant; and

10 (2) Base the supervision determination on a variety of  
11 factors, including the clients' required level of  
12 care, treatment plan, and experience and pertinent  
13 skills of the occupational therapy assistant.

14 (c) The supervising occupational therapist shall supervise  
15 the occupational therapy assistant to ensure that the  
16 occupational therapy assistant:

17 (1) Does not initiate or alter a treatment program without  
18 prior evaluation by and approval of the supervising  
19 occupational therapist;



1       (2) Obtains prior approval of the supervising occupational  
2       therapist before making adjustments to a specific  
3       treatment procedure; and

4       (3) Does not interpret data beyond the scope of the  
5       occupational therapy assistant's education and  
6       training.

7       **§457G- Exemptions.** (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be  
8       construed to prohibit any person from acting within the scope of  
9       a license issued to that person under any other law; provided  
10      that the person shall not claim to be an occupational therapist  
11      or occupational therapy assistant, or that the person is  
12      performing occupational therapy, unless the person is also  
13      licensed under this chapter.

14      (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit  
15      students in an educational program for occupational therapists  
16      or occupational therapy assistants from participating in  
17      activities that are conducted as part of the educational program  
18      and are under the guidance and supervision of a licensed  
19      occupational therapist.

20      (c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit  
21      a person licensed as an occupational therapist in another state



1 or foreign country from practicing occupational therapy in this  
2 State if the person is part of an educational demonstration or  
3 instructional program or seminar sponsored by an educational  
4 institution, hospital, medical care program, the Occupational  
5 Therapy Association of Hawaii, or any other similar person or  
6 group, for the duration of the program or seminar and confined  
7 to the purpose of the program or seminar.

8 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit  
9 an occupational therapist who is practicing in the United States  
10 Armed Services, United States Public Health Service, or  
11 Department of Veteran Affairs pursuant to federal regulations  
12 for state licensure of health care providers from practicing as  
13 an occupational therapist; provided that if the person, while  
14 federally employed as an occupational therapist, engages in the  
15 practice of occupational therapy outside the course and scope of  
16 the person's federal employment, the person shall be required to  
17 obtain a license in accordance with this chapter.

18 **§457G- Biennial renewal; failure to renew; restoration,**  
19 **inactive license.** (a) The biennial renewal fee shall be paid  
20 to the department on or before December 31 of each even-numbered  
21 year. Failure, neglect, or refusal of any licensee to pay the



1 biennial renewal fee on or before this date shall constitute a  
2 forfeiture of the license. A forfeited license may be restored  
3 upon written application within one year from the date of  
4 forfeiture and the payment of the delinquent fee plus an amount  
5 equal to fifty per cent of the delinquent fee.

6 (b) Upon written application, the director may place the  
7 licensee's active license on an inactive status. During the  
8 inactive period, a licensee shall not engage in the practice of  
9 occupational therapy. The license may be reactivated at any  
10 time by submitting a written application to the director and by  
11 payment of the renewal and any other applicable fees. A  
12 licensee's inactive status shall not deprive the director of the  
13 director's authority to institute or continue any disciplinary  
14 or enforcement action against the licensee.

15 (c) Effective with the December 31, 2014 renewal, each  
16 active occupational therapist registration becomes an active  
17 occupational therapist license by operation of law. The  
18 conversion from registration to licensure does not:

19 (1) Affect any prior discipline, limitation, or condition  
20 imposed by the director on an occupational therapist's  
21 registration;



1       (2) Limit the director's authority over any registrant; or  
2       (3) Affect any pending investigation or administrative  
3       proceeding.

4       (c) Effective January 1, 2015, the director shall treat any  
5       application pending for an occupational therapist registration  
6       as an application for licensure, which application is subject to  
7       the requirements established by the director in accordance with  
8       this chapter.

9           SECTION 7. Section 457G-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10       repealed.

11           SECTION 8. Section 457G-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12       amended to read as follows:

13           **\$457G-4 [Civil] Penalty.** ~~Any person violating any~~  
14       ~~provisions of this chapter shall be fined a sum of not less~~  
15       ~~than \$500 nor more than \$10,000 for each violation, which sum~~  
16       ~~shall be collected in a civil action brought by the attorney~~  
17       ~~general or the director of the office of consumer protection on~~  
18       ~~behalf of the State.]~~ Any person who violates or fails to  
19       comply with the provisions of this chapter shall be fined not  
20       more than \$1,000 per violation.



1 SECTION 9. Chapter 457G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to include a new section:

3 **§457G- License revocation or suspension; probation of**

4 **licensee.** (a) In addition to any other actions authorized by  
5 law, any license issued under this chapter may be revoked or  
6 suspended by the director at any time for any cause authorized  
7 by law, including but not limited to the following:

- 8 (1) Obtaining a fee on the assurance that a manifestly  
9 incurable disease can be permanently cured;
- 10 (2) Willfully betraying patient confidentiality;
- 11 (3) Making an untruthful and improbable statement in  
12 advertising one's practice or business;
- 13 (4) False, fraudulent, or deceptive advertising;
- 14 (5) Being habituated to the excessive use of drugs or  
15 alcohol or being or having been addicted to, dependent  
16 on, or a habitual user of, a narcotic, barbiturate,  
17 amphetamine, hallucinogen, or other drug having  
18 similar effects;
- 19 (6) Practicing occupational therapy while the ability to  
20 practice is impaired by alcohol, drugs, or mental  
21 instability;



1       (7) Procuring a license through fraud, misrepresentation,  
2       or deceit, or knowingly permitting an unlicensed  
3       person to practice occupational therapy;

4       (8) Professional misconduct, gross negligence, or manifest  
5       incapacity in the practice of occupational therapy;

6       (9) Conduct or practice contrary to recognized standards  
7       of ethics for the practice of occupational therapy in  
8       the United States;

9       (10) Violation of this chapter, chapter 436B, or any rule  
10       or order of the director.

11       (b) To reinstate a suspended license, or to grant  
12       licensure to an applicant whose license was previously revoked,  
13       the director may require further education or training or  
14       require proof of competence in performance.

15       (c) In lieu of revoking or suspending a license, the  
16       director may place the licensee on probation, the terms of which  
17       may require observation of the licensee by a licensed  
18       occupational therapist."

19       SECTION 10. The department of commerce and consumer  
20       affairs may employ necessary personnel without regard to chapter



1 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to assist with the implementation  
2 and continuing functions of this chapter.

3 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the compliance  
4 resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii  
5 Revised Statutes, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so much thereof as may  
6 be necessary for fiscal year 20 \_\_\_\_\_ - 20 \_\_\_\_\_ to implement  
7 occupational therapists licensure program.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
9 commerce and consumer affairs for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 12. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



**Report Title:**

Occupational Therapy; Occupational Therapists; Occupational  
Therapy Assistants; Regulation; Licensing

**Description:**

Improves the regulation of occupational therapists and  
occupational therapy assistants by establishing an occupational  
therapy program and licensing requirements for occupational  
therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is  
for informational purposes only and is not legislation or  
evidence of legislative intent.*



February 11, 2014

The Honorable Angus McKelvey  
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 320  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: House Bill 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

Dear Representative McKelvey;

On behalf of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) I am writing in support of HB 2042, to revise the state occupational therapy practice act. The purpose of the bill is to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare; protect the public from incompetent, unethical or unauthorized persons; assure a high level of professional conduct on the part of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants; and assure the availability of high quality Occupational Therapy services to persons in need of such services.

We are hopeful that Hawaii will become the 50th and final state to license occupational therapists should the bill be signed into law in 2014. Occupational therapists are currently licensed in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico while occupational therapy assistants are licensed in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. AOTA fully supports this licensure effort and urges your committee to consider and pass HB 2042.

AOTA is the national professional association representing the interests of more than 140,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students of occupational therapy. The practice of occupational therapy is science-driven, evidence-based, and enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by promoting health and minimizing the functional effects of illness, injury, and disability.

Thank you for introducing and supporting this important legislation. Please contact me at [jveverka@aota.org](mailto:jveverka@aota.org) if you have questions or need additional information about AOTA's position on this legislation or the practice of occupational therapy.

Sincerely;



Josh Veverka  
State Policy Analyst



February 10, 2014

TO: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2014  
Conference Room 325 – 2:10 p.m.

I am Avis Sakata, OTR, President of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii (OTAH) which represents over 560 occupational therapists (OTR) and 125 occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. Occupational Therapy practitioners are employed in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, skilled nursing facilities, Veterans Administration, Tripler Army Medical Center, mental health and community-based programs to name a few.

Occupational Therapy is a science driven, evidence-based health care profession that focuses on helping people of all ages, regain, develop, or maximize everyday skills in order to live independent and productive lives. Occupational Therapy services are provided for the purpose of promoting health and wellness to those who have or are at risk for developing an illness, injury, disease, disability or condition. Occupational therapy also addresses the physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory and other aspects of performance to support engagement in everyday life activities.

Occupational Therapy practitioners are recognized members of the healthcare rehabilitation and/or educational team which may be comprised of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, social workers, case managers, teachers and others. As a healthcare provider, occupational therapy practitioners :1) assess and evaluate our patients/clients needs and develop an appropriate treatment plan; 2) interventions are focused on daily living skills, work readiness, play or educational performance skills; 3) and interventions include sensorimotor, neuromuscular, cognitive or psychosocial components.

Occupational therapists possess either Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate degrees while occupational therapy assistants graduate with an Associates Degree. Both the occupational therapist and assistant work collaboratively in providing rehabilitation services to their patients and clients.

House Committee Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – 2:10 p.m.  
Conference Room 229  
RE: HB 2042

Occupational therapists (OTR) are currently regulated by Chapter 457G – registration, however, licensure would ensure the highest degree of government regulation that would safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare. Hawaii is the last state to gain licensure regulation for occupational therapists and the last of three states for occupational therapy assistants. Licensure will also protect your constituents from incompetent persons and persons who are not qualified to perform occupational therapy services and require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of the occupational therapy practitioners. Lastly, licensure will also ensure insurance payor reimbursement from private insurers such as HMSA. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid recognize the qualifications of the occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants as proposed in SB 2472 to provide occupational therapy services to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

We strongly support the intent of HB 2042 that will provide for licensure of both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and would further define the practice of Occupational Therapy. We are aware that DCCA has proposed amendments to HB 2042 that would further clarify the initiation of the licensure program. We have worked in collaboration with Sandra Matsushima, Executive Officer for Occupational Therapy and OTAH is in agreement with the amendments.

We ask that you and your committee look favorably on passage of HB 2042 with the given amendments proposed by DCCA. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 522-4602.

Sincerely,

Avis Sakata, OTR  
President, Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii  
(808)522-4602



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

**H.B. 2042**  
**Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**  
**Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce**  
**Rm. 325, February 12, 2014; 2:10 p.m.**

### **In support of H.B. 2042, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

My name is Lucy Lessard, I am the Manager of Inpatient Rehabilitation Services at The Queen's Medical Center. I would like to provide testimony in support of H.B. 2042, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice.

The Queen's Medical Center is the leading medical referral center in the Pacific Basin and offers a comprehensive range of primary and specialized care services, including acute care physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language therapy. As the only Level II Trauma Center and only The Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Center and Hip and Knee Joint Replacement Center in the State of Hawaii, we specialize in the care of complex trauma, stroke, and orthopedics patients.

The Queen's Medical Center employs occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistants throughout our acute care and skilled nursing units. They provide a valuable service to our patients and work alongside other professionals as part of the multidisciplinary team.

Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license occupational therapists and is one of 3 remaining states that do not license occupational therapist assistants. The State of Hawaii educates occupational therapist assistants; however all occupational therapists are educated on the mainland. The licensure of these professionals is necessary to ensure the highest form of oversight in order to protect the public from unqualified individuals, employers from hiring those individuals and to raise the quality of occupational therapy services to equal that which is found on the mainland.

We understand that there are ongoing discussions between the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii in revising the proposal. The Queen's Medical Center is supportive of that dialog and urges passage of H.B. 2042 so that those exchanges may continue to further develop this measure. I am available to respond to questions and can be reached at 691-8940 or [llessard@queens.org](mailto:llessard@queens.org).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Lucy Lessard, PT  
Manager, Rehabilitation Services  
The Queen's Medical Center

**Kaiser Permanente  
 Mapunapuna Clinic  
 Rehab Service  
 432-5888**

# Fax

To	ANGUS M <sup>C</sup> KELVEY	From	JEFF CLARK
Fax	586-8437	Phone	432-5874
Phone		Date	2/11/14
Re	HB 2042	Pages	3
RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY			

Urgent   
  For Review   
  Please Comment   
  Please Reply   
  Please Recycle



**Date:** 02/11/14

**To:** Honorable Chair Representative Angus McKelvey of the House Consumer Protection Committee

**Hearing:** Wednesday, 02/12/14  
2:10 p.m.  
Conference Room 325

**Re:** HB 2042  
Relating to Occupational Therapy

**We are Occupational Therapists employed at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center Outpatient Services. We strongly support of SB2472 to license both Occupational Therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.**

**Hawaii is the only state in the nation that does not license Occupational Therapists. Hawaii is one of three states that do not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.**

**At Kaiser Outpatient Rehabilitation Services, the Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants provide vital therapy services to patients who are recovering from traumatic orthopedic injuries, delicate and specific post-operative procedures, brain injuries, strokes, etc. We also provide work simulation services to those workers who were injured on the job and are in need of learning to safely return to their jobs.**

**We face constant challenges on a daily basis and require providers of Occupational Therapy services to anticipate the probabilities of developing and managing post-op surgical tissue healing, avoiding any development of infection, neurological changes that would indicate that there might be something more occurring in the brain, etc.**

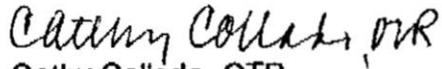
**We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) Safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking Occupational Therapy services from the incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants. and 4) Provide the highest quality of Occupational Therapy services in Hawaii. The bill will further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.**

**Please support the passage of SB 2472 which would provide full licensure for both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. If you have any**

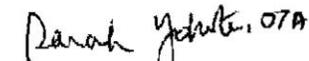
Kaiser Mapunapuna Clinic  
2828 Pa'a Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Phone: (808) 432-5770

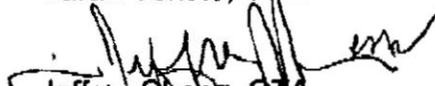
questions, feel free to contact Cathy Collado, OT, at [catherine.collado@kp.org](mailto:catherine.collado@kp.org). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in favor of SB 2472.

Sincerely,

  
Cathy Collado, OTR

  
Kathy Taira, OTR

  
Sarah Yokote, OTA

  
Jeffrey Chang, OTA

**OHANA PACIFIC MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

45-181 WAIKALUA ROAD

KANE OHE, HI 96744

PHONE: (808) 247-0003

FAX: (808) 247-0018

---

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

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TO:	FROM:
Rep. Angus McKelvey – Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee	Richard Kishaba
COMPANY:	DATE:
CPC	2/11/14
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
586-8437, Room 325	2
PHONE NUMBER:	
RE:	
<b>Testimony</b>	

See attached for testimony regarding HB 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice.

Mahalo!

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

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Date: January 27, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Senator Susanne Chun Oakland, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senator Brian Taniguchi, and Senator Glenn Wakai.

Hearing: No scheduled hearing date at this time.

RE: SB 2472 & HB 2042

We employ occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants throughout our organization on Oahu and Kauai. Ohana Pacific Management Company owns and operates four skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers servicing almost 400 clients daily. Many of these clients require intensive therapy services to be able to reach their highest functional level and return to their homes or the least restrictive environment. We support HB 2042 and SB 2472 requiring licensure for both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of three remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At Ohana Pacific Management Company occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in the care and services of Hawaii residents needing therapy modalities. The goal to allow residents to live their life to the fullest possible potential with the highest attainable functionality is necessary through integrated and intensive therapy services. The licensure requirement provides additional confidence in the therapist abilities and knowledge contributing to the health and well-being of those in our care.

We strongly contend that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at 808-284-6762 or email [rkishaba@ohanapacific.com](mailto:rkishaba@ohanapacific.com).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

  
Richard S. Kishaba, President  
Ohana Pacific Management Company  
45-181 Waikalua Road  
Kaneohe, HI 96744



**REHAB Hospital of the Pacific**

226 N. Kuakini Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: (808) 544-3336  
Fax: (808) 566-3425

# Fax

**To:** House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
**From:** Virginia Tully

**Fax:** 808-586-8437  
**Date:** February 11, 2014

**Phone:**  
**Pages:** 3

**Re:** Testimony Re: Occupational Therapy Practice  
**CC:**

**Urgent**     **For Review**     **Please Comment**     **Please Reply**     **Please Recycle**

**Am faxing testimony from staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific for**

**Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce Hearing**

**Date: Weds., Feb. 12, 2014**

**Time: 2:10 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 325**

**Mahalo**

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**Date: February 12, 2014**

**To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, *Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce***

**Hearing:**

**Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014,**

**Time: 2:10 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol**

**RE: *HB2042, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice***

We strongly support **HB2042** to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. At Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

The occupational therapy practitioners provide services to inpatients and outpatients who suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations and other neurological and/or orthopedic related conditions. They optimize each patient's ability to perform life skills at home, at school, at work and in the community.

Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will protect the consumer's health, safety and welfare. Many insurance payers also recognize licensed individuals and reimburse services provided by these licensed individuals. Medicare and Medicaid recognize the qualified occupational therapy practitioners and reimburse their services. This bill also expands the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

We request you and your committee's support by passing this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapists and the 49<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapy assistants. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

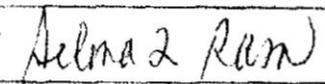
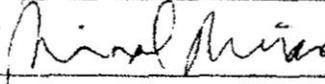
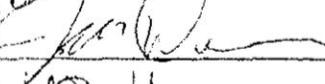
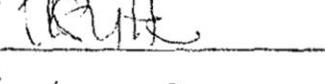
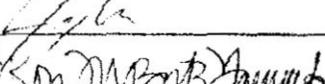
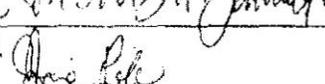
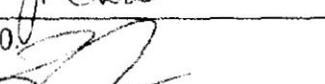
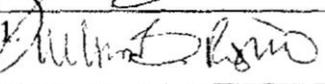
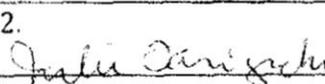
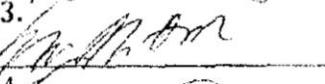
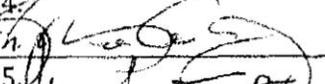
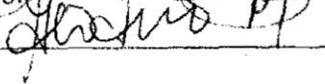
Sincerely,

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

Please see page 2.

HB2042 Relation to Occupational Therapy Practice  
 Committee: House Consumer Protection and Commerce  
 Hearing date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014  
 Time: 2:10 PM  
 Room: Conference Room 325

Page 2

Signature	Print Name	Address
1. 	Selma T. ROSA	47-553 ALANI ST KANEHOE, HI 96744
2. 	Shival Miranda	102 Rosebank PL Hon. HI 96817
3. 	James Low	2429 Makiki Hrs Dr. Honolulu, HI 96822
4. 	Jill Dietzen	PO Box 147 Pearl City, HI 96782
5. 	UISU Hee	PO BOX 6195 KANEHOE, HI 96744
6. 	Nelson Oshiro	3582 KUMUKOHI ST Honolulu 96822
7. 	Jerry Ono	2353 AMICORNE ST Pearl City 96782
8. 	Kori Mizuta-Yamamoto	95-211 Halepilo Pl. Millilani, HI 96789
9. 	Yvonne Pila	1363 Ulupou St Kaula, HI 96734
10. 	Ryan Nomura	226 N. KUKUIA LN Honolulu, HI 96813
11. 	Wilson B. Rosario	91-1137 Kaulaonui St. Ewa Beach, HI 96706
12. 	Julie Taniguchi	1817 Aupuni Hon. HI 96817
13. 	Trace W. Hunter	1050 Loomala St. Pearl City, HI 96782
14. 	John Kawakami	2314 Tantalus Dr. Hon. HI 96813
15. 	Ekin Teramoto PT	1730 Malama St Hon HI 96826

Staff at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific



# Fax

*Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services, LLC  
1401 S Beretania St, Suite #730  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
TEL: (808) 593-2830 / FAX: (808) 593-2840*

<b>To:</b>	Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection	<b>From:</b>	Ashly (Receptionist)
<b>Fax:</b>	(808) 586-8437	<b>Pages:</b>	3 (Including cover page)
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	02/11/14
<b>Re:</b>	HB 2042	<b>cc:</b>	

Urgent     For Review &/or Signature     Please Reply     Medical Records Attached

Hi Mr. McKelvey,

Please find attached testimony for the support of HB 2042. If you have any questions please call our office at (808) 593-2830.

Thank you,  
Ashly

This communication is intended solely for the individual or the entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, CONFIDENTIAL, or prohibited from disclosure. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of the information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the address listed above via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you.

Date: February 11, 2014

TO: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of Representatives  
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

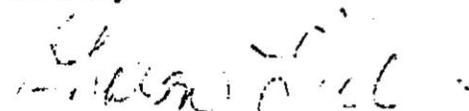
Hearing: February 12, 2014 at 2:10PM in Room 325

My name is Sharon Lieberman and I was a patient at Occupational Therapy services at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I fractured my wrist in a fall and was initially seen and treated by an orthopedic surgeon. He placed me in a cast for a period of time and after removing the cast he referred me for occupational therapy. The occupational therapists custom fabricated the splint the surgeon requested to continue to protect the wrist from further injury during the remainder of the healing process. The therapists I worked with at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation worked with me and trained me on exercises I could do on my own at home as part of the treatment plan to ensure that I attained the strength in my wrist and range of motion in my wrist that I had before the injury. It took a period of time working with the therapists to achieve our goals, but their professionalism and desire to see me recover enabled me to do so in a very efficient and effective manner.

I ask your committee look favorably upon licensing Occupational Therapists and Assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Sharon Lieberman  
808-781-6211

**Date: February 11, 2014**

**TO: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of Representatives  
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection**

**RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

**Hearing: February 12, 2014 at 2:10PM in Room 325**

My name is Walter Lieberman and I have been a patient at Occupational Therapy services at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services LLC. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I had to undergo surgery by an orthopedic surgeon. After my surgery, my hand was very stiff and my range of motion very limited. My surgeon referred me for occupational therapy services. The occupational therapists I worked with at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services were very professional and extremely knowledgeable in working with me to improve my condition, so the I could begin the required exercises and treatments to enable me to regain the range of motion that was lost and the strength to do my required daily activities. It is amazing how we all take the simple things in life for granted until we you are no longer to complete these simple tasks on our own any longer. With the professional treatment that I received by these occupational therapists, I was quickly able to regain the ability to once again complete these daily living tasks on my own.

I strongly urge your committee look favorably upon licensing Occupational Therapists and Assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Walter Lieberman  
808-781-6210

Date: February 4, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey

Hearing: *February 12, 2014 2:10 pm ; room #325*

RE: *Bill # HB2042*

We are occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, clerks and volunteers, employed at *REHAB at Aiea, a satellite clinic of the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific*. We strongly support Bill # HB2472 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At *REHAB at Aiea*, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in assisting our patients to regain hand function and independence with self care, activities of daily living, community activities and work activities. Our occupational therapy services assist patients with safely following post hand surgery protocols. We fabricate hand splints to support fragile joints, protect healing fractures, and rest spastic or weak hand, wrist and elbow muscles. We educate our patients in body mechanics and adaptive aids which allow them to be safe, independent, and prevent injury.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, we can be reached at 486-8000. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
*Gwen Ing, OTR, REHAB at Aiea Clinic Manager*

*Deborah Suan, OTR*

*Rachelle Lam, OTR*

*Jaymie Nishimura, DPT*

*Ken Mormimoto, DPT*

*Mavis Yokoyama, PT*

*Derek Atta, DPT*

*Erin Moore, DPT*

*Matthew Potts, CCC-SLP*

*Sheryll Paglinawan Ramones, Clerk*

*Michelle Kashiwabara, Clerk*

*Kalei Doane, Clerk*

*Lori Ann Raguindin, Clerk*

*Francis Chee, PT*

*Charlene Kobayashi, PT*

*Jensen Ishida, Volunteer*

*REHAB at Aiea*

*Pearlridge Center Phase II Suite 425*

*98-1005 Moanalua Road*

*Aiea, Hawaii 96701*

February 10, 2014

TO: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 2:10 p.m. – Conference Room 325

RE: HB 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are occupational therapy practitioners employed at Straub Clinic & Hospital and we support HB 2042 which would license both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

At Straub, the occupational therapists play an integral role in the rehabilitation of our patients many of whom have sustained an injury or illness such as strokes, burns, amputations, hip/knee replacements, neurological injuries, arm and shoulder injuries or fractures. Our services encompass both on the acute inpatient units as well as outpatient services.

Occupational therapy services include: 1) assessment and evaluation of our patients followed by development of a treatment plan, 2) interventions focusing on activities of daily living, work readiness, return to hobbies/sports, 3) therapeutic exercises, therapeutic activities, physical agent modalities, cognitive or psychosocial components, 4) education of family members or significant others in carrying out appropriate interventions, 5) adaptation or recommendations for home modifications or other environments to allow our patients to return home safely.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of three remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA). Licensure would protect the public from incompetent practitioners from practicing in Hawaii and would require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of both OT's and OTA's. This bill would also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

We hope that your committee will look favorably upon passage of HB 2042. If you have any additional questions, we can be reached at 522-4602. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Avis Sakata, OTR

Tisha Taba, MS, OTR

Ashley Bagorio, MOT, OTR

Katie Tam, MS, OTR

Quiara Cruel, MA, OTR

Andrea Muraoka, MA, OTR

Farrah Dimagiba, OTR

Mari Wood, MA, OTR

Andrea Fong, MA, OTR

Bernice Oishi, COTA

Melissa Pang, MOT, OTR, CHT





**REHAB Hospital of the Pacific**

226 N. Kuakini Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: (808) 544-3336  
Fax: (808) 566-3425

# Fax

**To:** House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
**From:** Virginia Tully

**Fax:** 808-586-8437  
**Date:** February 11, 2014

**Phone:**  
**Pages:** 3

**Re:** Testimony Re: Occupational Therapy Practice  
**CC:**

**Urgent**     **For Review**     **Please Comment**     **Please Reply**     **Please Recycle**

**Am faxing testimony from Dr. Roe, President and CEO at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific for**

**Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce Hearing**

**Date: Weds., Feb. 12, 2014**

**Time: 2:10 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 325**

**Mahalo**

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# REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

OF THE PACIFIC

Rebuilding Lives Together

**Date: February 12, 2014**

**To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair, Committee on  
Consumer Protection and Commerce**

**Hearing:**

**Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014,**

**Time: 2:10 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol**

**RE: HB2042, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

I strongly support **HB2042** to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. At Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

The occupational therapy practitioners provide services to inpatients and outpatients who suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations and other neurological and/or orthopedic related conditions. They optimize each patient's ability to perform life skills at home, at school, at work and in the community.

Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will protect the consumer's health, safety and welfare. Many insurance payers also recognize licensed individuals and reimburse services provided by these licensed individuals. Medicare and Medicaid recognize the qualified occupational therapy practitioners and reimburse their services. This bill also expands the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

I request you and your committee's support by passing this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapists and the 49<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapy assistants. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Roe, MD MBA

President and Chief Executive Officer



# Fax

*Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services, LLC  
1401 S Beretania St, Suite #730  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
TEL: (808) 593-2830 / FAX: (808) 593-2840*

To:	Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection	From:	Ashly (Receptionist)
Fax:	(808) 586-8437	Pages:	7 (Including cover page)
Phone:		Date:	02/11/14
Re:	HB 2042	cc:	

Urgent     For Review &/or Signature     Please Reply     Medical Records Attached

Hi Mr. McKelvey,

Please find attached testimony for the support of HB 2042. If you have any questions please call our office at (808) 593-2830.

Thank you,  
Ashly

This communication is intended solely for the individual or the entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, CONFIDENTIAL, or prohibited from disclosure. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of the information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the address listed above via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you.

Date: February 11, 2014

TO: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of  
Representatives Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: February 12, 2014 at 2:10PM in Room 325

My name is Dr. Melvin Yee. I am a Neurologist practicing in Hawaii. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients many of which have sustained serious neurologic impairments from diseases such as Stroke, Parkinson's, Alzheimers, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophies and a host of other conditions which affect the brain, muscles and nerves. Occupational Therapists help my patients once again become functional members of the community.

The occupational therapists have demonstrated competency by adhering to my rehabilitation protocol in guiding my patients to have the best functional recovery which in turns leads them to returning to their daily activities without significant complications or impairments.

Due to the varying degrees of injury and severity with my patients, I feel that licensure is imperative in ensuring that qualified occupational therapists continue to provide my patients, your family members and your constituents with optimum care. I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Melvin Yee, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Division of Neurology  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
523-5885

Sincerely,

Bonnie Moy, MS, OTR *Bonnie J. Moy, MS, OTR*  
 Sheri Azama, OTD, OTR, CHT *Sheri Azama, OTD, OTR, CHT*  
 Tammy Momohara OTR, CHT *Tammy Momohara OTR, CHT*  
 Kelli Higuchi MOT, OTR, CHT *Kelli Higuchi MOT, OTR, CHT*  
 Michele Sugihara, MS, OTR, CHT *Michele Sugihara, MS, OTR, CHT*  
 Carol Yee, MPH, OTR, CHT *Carol Yee, MPH, OTR, CHT*

Hawaii Hand and Rehabilitation Services  
 1401 S. Beretania Street, Suite 730  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
 593-2830

Date: February 11, 2014

TO: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of Representatives  
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

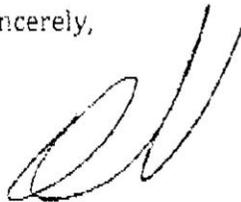
Hearing: February 12, 2014 at 2:10PM in Room 325

My name is Dr. Daniel Singer. I am a board certified Orthopedic Hand and Upper Extremity Surgeon. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients, many of which have sustained injuries ranging from hand and wrist fractures, tendon injuries, amputations, joint replacements, nerve injuries and microvascular reconstruction in both children and adults.

The occupational therapists have demonstrated competency by adhering to my rehabilitation protocol in guiding my patients to have the best functional recovery which in turns leads them to returning to their daily activities without significant complications or impairments.

Due to the varying degrees of injury and severity with my patients, I feel that licensure is imperative in ensuring that qualified occupational therapists continue to provide my patients, your family members and your constituents with optimum care. I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Daniel Singer, M.D.  
Orthopedic Associates  
1401 Beretania Street, Suite #750  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
521-8109

Date: February 11, 2014

TO: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of Representatives  
- Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: February 12, 2014 at 2:10PM in Room 325

My name is *Francine Champoux* and I have been a consumer of Occupational Therapy services at Hawaii Hand & Rehabilitation Services. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I was very fortunate to have a competent and caring occupational therapist that worked with me to regain use of my hand for my injury. Therefore, I kindly ask that you look favorably on this bill that would allow full licensure for Occupational Therapists in Hawaii. These services are invaluable.

*Injury/condition sustained: fracture & tendon injury*

*Course of therapy: improve range of motion & hand function*

*Services I received: (brace, home program, formal therapy) brace, home exercise program, formal therapy.*

*What I couldn't do: could not bend finger; could not grab; could not carry - or type!*

*What I can do now: much improved flexibility; decreased pain; still current patient with goal of improving hand function, to use hand normally*

For the sake of consumers like myself, I ask that your committee look favorably upon licensing Occupational Therapists and Assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Francine Champoux*

Patient Name *FRANCINE CHAMPOUX*

Telephone Number *941-8311 (Home & message phone)*

Date: February 11, 2014

TO: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of Representatives  
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

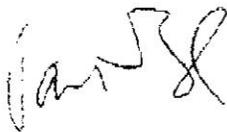
Hearing: February 12, 2014 at 2:10PM in Room 325

My name is Dr. Gary Blum. I am a board certified Orthopedic Hand and Upper Extremity Surgeon. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients, many of which have sustained injuries ranging from hand and wrist fractures, tendon injuries, amputations, joint replacements, nerve injuries and microvascular reconstruction in both children and adults.

The occupational therapists have demonstrated competency by adhering to my rehabilitation protocol in guiding my patients to have the best functional recovery which in turns leads them to returning to their daily activities without significant complications or impairments.

Due to the varying degrees of injury and severity with my patients, I feel that licensure is imperative in ensuring that qualified occupational therapists continue to provide my patients, your family members and your constituents with optimum care. I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Gary Blum, M.D.  
Orthopedic Associates  
1401 Beretania Street, Suite #750  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
524-2663

Date: February 11, 2014

TO: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair of the House of Representatives  
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: February 12, 2014 at 2:10PM in Room 325

My name is Dr. Robert Atkinson. I am a board certified Orthopedic Hand and Upper Extremity Surgeon. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients, many of which have sustained injuries ranging from hand and wrist fractures, tendon injuries, amputations, joint replacements, nerve injuries and microvascular reconstruction in both children and adults.

The occupational therapists have demonstrated competency by adhering to my rehabilitation protocol in guiding my patients to have the best functional recovery which in turns leads them to returning to their daily activities without significant complications or impairments.

Due to the varying degrees of injury and severity with my patients, I feel that licensure is imperative in ensuring that qualified occupational therapists continue to provide my patients, your family members and your constituents with optimum care. I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Robert Atkinson, M.D.  
Orthopedic Associates  
1401 Beretania Street, Suite #750  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
521-8128



FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

Date: February 11, 2014 FAX# (808) 586-8437

To: House - Consumer Protection Committee Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

From: Kuakini Medical Center FAX# (808) 547-9528

Department: Rehab Services Phone: (808) 547-9128

Subject: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Message: Testimony

Number of Pages (including this cover sheet) 3

The original document will be mailed.

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347 NORTH KUAKINI STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817-9980 • www.kuakini.org
Kuakini Medical Center • Kuakini Geriatric Care, Inc. • Kuakini Support Services, Inc. • Kuakini Foundation • Kuakini Development Corp.
Caring is Our Tradition



## Kuakini Health System

*A Health Care Organization*

Date: February 10, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair, Consumer Protection Committee

Hearing: February 12, 2014, 2:10 PM, Conference Room 325

RE: HB2042 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are Occupational Therapists employed at Kuakini Medical Center. We strongly support HB2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At Kuakini Medical Center, Occupational Therapy practitioners play an integral part in helping patients reach their highest level of function and independence through the use of functional tasks and therapeutic exercise.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking Occupational Therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of Occupational Therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, we can be reached at 547-9128. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Joan Kawai, OTR, Manager  
Rehabilitation Services, Kuakini Medical Center

KUAKINI HEALTH SYSTEM

*Myra Nishimoto, OTR*  
Myra Nishimoto,OTR

*Sheila Bosque-Banez, OTR*  
Sheila Bosque-Banez, OTR

*Cindy Odo, COTA*  
Cindy Odo, COTA

*Catherine Sakai, OTR*  
Catherine Sakai,OTR

*Amanda Habermann, OTR*  
Amanda Habermann, OTR

*Lisa Mann, COTA*  
Lisa Mann, COTA



## THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • FAX: (808) 691-4646 • www.queens.org

Date: *February 11, 2014*

To: Representative *Angus McKelvey*- Chair of House Consumer Protection Committee

Re: *HB 2041* • *Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice*

Hearing: *Wednesday, February 12, 2012* - 2:10 p.m. - Conference Room 325

I am an occupational therapist employed at Queen's Medical Center. I strongly support HB 2014 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At Queen's Medical Center, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in outpatient services. We evaluate and treat hand and arm injured patients by developing an individualized therapy program. We guide each patient to regain functional use of their extremities and maintain as much independence as possible.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [bnakamura@queens.org](mailto:bnakamura@queens.org). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

*Brooke A. Nakamura, OTD, OTR*  
*Queen's Medical Center, Outpatient Rehabilitation Services*

Founded in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV

**Date: February 12, 2014**

**To: Honorable Representative *Angus McKelvey, Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce***

**Hearing:**

**Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014,**

**Time: 2:10 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol**

**RE: *HB2042, Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice***

I am an occupational therapist who is employed at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. I strongly support HB 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

At the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in the rehabilitation process of those who suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fractures, amputations and other neurological and/or orthopedic related conditions.

Licensure provides the highest form of government regulation and will continue to: protect the public's health, safety and welfare. Insurance payers reimburse services provided by licensed individuals. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

I am aware that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is proposing amendments to HB2042 as HB2042, HB1. I agree with the proposed changes which clarifies the regulation and does not change the intent of HB2042, which is licensure of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

I request that you and your committee support passage of this bill, which would make Hawaii the 50<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapists and the 49<sup>th</sup> State to license occupational therapy assistants. If you have any additional questions, I may be reached at [vtully@rehabhospital.org](mailto:vtully@rehabhospital.org) or 544-3336. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Virginia Tully, OTR, MBA  
Director, Continuous Improvement and Compliance  
Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

Date: February 10, 2014

To: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee  
Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 – Room 325, 2:10 p.m.  
RE: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy

From: Masako Imanishi

Re: **Testimony in support of HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy**

The experience of disability is a concern for Hawaii. According to a 2011 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation, an estimated 10.2% of Hawaii's population experiences some type of disability. Disability not only impacts the individual that presents with some type of physical, sensory, cognitive, and/or psychosocial impairment but also impacts members of our community who directly or indirectly provide and/or fund care-related services. It is in our best community interest to equip and empower persons with disabilities to live with independence, self-respect, and meaning.

One way in which the quality of life for a person with disability can be enhanced is through occupational therapy. Occupational therapy practitioners are health care professionals who are trained to enable individuals with various disabilities across the age span by creating opportunities to meaningfully engage in roles and activities to "live life to the fullest."

I am an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program student at Kapi'olani Community College. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistant in Hawaii as well as would establish an occupational therapy program in Hawaii to improve regulation of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

I am a college student who is also a mother of son with disability. I and my son used to be a consumer of occupational therapy services for his symptom of Asperger's Syndrome by an occupational therapist. Due to his hypersensitivity of smell, taste, and auditory sensory, he was a severe picky eater. However, after getting occupational therapy evaluation and several occupational therapy services, his symptom was dramatically improved. Now my son as well as I can live life to the fullest by grace of the occupational therapist.

I was very fortunate to have competent and caring occupational therapist that worked with my son to reduce his difficulties. Therefore, I kindly ask that you look favorably on this bill that would allow full licensure for occupational therapists in Hawaii. Their services are invaluable.

I, as an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program student, strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health

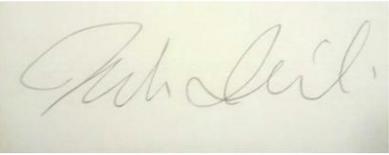
safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy Practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reach at [masako4@hawaii.edu](mailto:masako4@hawaii.edu). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Masako Imanishi, Occupational Therapy Assistant Student

Kapi'olani Community College

X   
Masako Imanishi  
OTA Student

Date: February 10, 2014

To: Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee

RE: HB 2042 Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 – Room 325, 2:10 p.m.

You're sitting in front of me because of numerous reasons. You're in the seat because maybe you were voted in to represent a community that believes in you to lead and make changes to help a whole. You're probably sitting in front of me because you have a passion and motivation to help a body of people and you represent that voice.

But let us imagine that an impairment has struck and physically or mentally, you are unable to sit here and listen. Internally, you still have motivation. But due to a cognitive impairment, you can't even recall on having that passion. If you were in this position, who can help you? Who adheres to your motivation and your needs? Who takes into consideration you as a whole? Not merely one impairment relative to one body system but YOU as a whole? *The practitioners working in occupational therapy do.*

I am a student in the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program and I am engaging into a career that help individuals with disabilities improve their quality of life. As a student in the OTA program, I'm learning about the field that I aspire to work in one day and learning about educating how to adapt to new experiences that may be perceived as challenging, discovering and engaging in meaningful activity, rehabilitation and habilitation, and formulating client-centered intervention in hopes to helping our client return to occupation and immerse themselves in the community.

As you may know, Hawaii is the ONLY state in America that isn't licensed and I ask if you hear our voices out and change that. Licensure will ultimately lead to a high level of competency and validates our services at a higher quality. As the AOTA moves forward with the centennial vision 2017 of strengthening our capacity to influence and lead, linking research, education, and practice, and articulate our value, I ask that you help Hawaii move forward as well. I advocate for my profession to move forward and become licensed.

I hope that you hear our testimonies as we educate you on our profession and the importance of licensure for working occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. As individuals living within our community in Hawai'i, let us work with each other side by side to improve the quality of life for all. Let licensure for occupational therapy practitioners pass. Thank you!

Thank you for your time,

Kevin Quitoriano  
OTA Student

Date: 2/5/2014

To: Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee

RE: HB 2042 Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2014- Room 325, 2:10 p.m.

Good Morning, my name is Lauren Gomez and I am a consumer of occupational therapy and an Occupational Therapy Assistant student at Kapi'olani Community College. I would like to ask for your support in favor of bill SB2472 that will provide licensure for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii.

Occupational Therapy is a holistic client-centered approach that assists individuals by restoring or enabling function and independence of daily living through various activities and modalities that provide purpose and meaning, thus enhancing quality of life. The perfect phrase of what occupational therapy entails is "Living Life to Its Fullest" which is currently the Occupational Therapy Brand, a promise to help individuals live life to it's fullest. Occupational therapy is an amazing profession that provides services for individuals across the lifespan throughout many settings that can range from prevention to the last moments of ones life. Occupational therapy provides an opportunity to increase and maintain the highest level of independence, by enabling individuals to live productive and satisfying lives. The profession is very broad and provides services within a variety of demographics ranging anywhere from mental health, rehabilitation, pediatrics, geriatrics, assistive technology, health and prevention and many more. The skill set acquired by occupational therapy practitioners allows for competent and efficient services rendered. Occupational therapy continues to grow as an evidence-based practice with high standards of education and care. Occupational therapy practitioners must graduate from an accredited program and complete fieldwork requirements, pass a national certification exam and abide by the continuing education requirements set forth by The National Board Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) and their state. With such stringent guidelines and expected high standards from this profession, it has been able to maintain the highest of standards. Obtaining licensure in Hawaii will ensure efficacy of the profession.

I would like to make a statement as a parent as well as a student pursuing the profession. I first became exposed to the OT profession through my son whom was diagnosed with autism. Seeing the positive effects that OT has had not only in his life but also our family life speaks volumes about this amazing profession I'm pursuing. On the side of a parent I would like to mention how licensure protects my son as well as the public at large. I want to feel safe and confident that my child is getting the services he deserves by a competent and legitimate occupational therapy practitioner. I had an unfortunate incident happen where my son was charged for services that were not rendered, so he lost out in getting appropriate therapy due to this mishap. Although in this case it was not occupational therapy, these are the kinds of mishaps we are responsible for avoiding by setting guidelines that make fraud difficult. Licensure will protect those individuals seeking occupational therapy services from fraudulent claims. As clients of various outpatient services and/or parents of children receiving these services we want to be protected and have accountability of those professionals that are rendering that treatment. So once again I mention as a consumer please be in favor of the bill going forward on licensure for the Occupational therapy profession here in Hawaii.

Licensure in Hawaii is an integral part of providing the highest quality of occupational therapy service. This licensure bill safeguards the public's health, safety and welfare, by protecting those individuals seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services. This licensure will also require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistants. This bill will also further define the scope of occupational therapy practice.

I ask that you please look favorably upon the passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Gomez, OTA Student

Date: 2/10/14

TO: Representative Angus McKelvey - Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee

Hearing: Wednesday February 12, 2014 - 2:10 p.m. - Conference Room 325

Re: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an Occupational Therapist and I strongly support HB 2042 to license both Occupational Therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license both Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of three remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

Occupational Therapy practitioners play an integral part in helping people across the lifespan participate meaningfully in the things they want or need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities (occupations).

I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) protect those seeking Occupational Therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy assistants and 4) provide the highest quality of Occupational Therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [christygrayot@gmail.com](mailto:christygrayot@gmail.com). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christy L. Gray, OTR".

Christy L. Gray, OTR

Date: 2/10/14

To: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – Room 325, 2:10 p.m.

RE: HB 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy

I am an occupational therapist employed at Pali Momi Medical Center. I strongly support HB 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at 808-389-5842. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Nakanishi, OTR  
Manager, Rehabilitation Services

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection

From: Tiffany-Joy H. Kawaguchi, OTD, BSOT

Date: February 10, 2014

Re: **Testimony in support of H.B. 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

The experience of disability is a concern for Hawaii. According to a 2011 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation, an estimated 10.2% of Hawaii's population experiences some type of disability. Disability not only impacts the individual that presents with some type of physical, sensory, cognitive, and/or psychosocial impairment but also impacts members of our community who directly or indirectly provide and/or fund care-related services. It is in our best community interest to equip and empower persons with disabilities to live with independence, self-respect, and meaning.

One way in which the quality of life for a person with disability can be enhanced is through occupational therapy. Occupational therapy practitioners are health care professionals who are trained to enable individuals with various disabilities across the age span by creating opportunities to meaningfully engage in roles and activities to "live life to the fullest."

I am an occupational therapist employed at Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. I am also an educator in a local occupational therapy assistant program where more than 30 students are trained in the art and science of enabling individuals through every day activities known as "occupation." I strongly support HB-2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA).

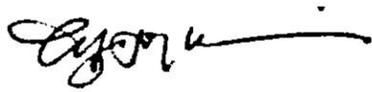
At the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific as well as in other traditional and non-traditional health care settings where OT and OTA students are trained, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in the process of rehabilitation and habilitation. Occupational therapists are skilled at facilitating pro-social behaviors in consumers who have mental illness, teaching adults who have experienced neurological diseases and disorders to perform everyday activities such as eating, dressing, and bathing, engaging children to thrive in occupations of childhood such as playing with peers and learning in inclusive classroom settings, evaluating persons who have various impairments for eligibility with adapted public transportation services, and stimulating aged adults with or without cognitive and memory impairments in culturally-sensitive, orienting activities.

I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) Safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare, 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services,

3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [tkawagu@hawaii.edu](mailto:tkawagu@hawaii.edu) or (808) 734-9229. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany-Joy H. Kawaguchi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tiffany-Joy H. Kawaguchi, OTD, BSOT

**kawakami3-Benigno**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2014 9:53 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Cc:** nanakuli5@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2042 on Feb 12, 2014 14:10PM

**HB2042**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for CPC on Feb 12, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pamela Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Pamela K. Anderson and I am a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). I have been a COTA for over 18 years in Acute Care. HB 2042 relating to Occupational Therapy Practice, seeks Licensure of Occupational therapists and Occupational therapy assistants here in Hawaii. We are the last state to license occupational therapists and one of the last of three states that does not currently license Occupational therapy assistants. There is a pressing and immediate need to license the profession of occupational therapy in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the individuals served. Licensure of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants is also needed to meet insurance payor requirements. Please support HB 2042 for licensing Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants. thank you for your time. Aloha no, Pamela Anderson, COTA ph 351-7281

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## **kawakami3-Benigno**

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**From:** Donna Lee <smilingheart@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2014 10:28 PM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 2042 relating to Occupational Therapy

Date: February 10, 2014

To: Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee and Rep. Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair

Hearing: Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 – Room 325, 2:10 p.m.

Re: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy

I am an occupational therapist employed at the Department of Veterans Affairs (Pacific Island Healthcare Systems). I strongly support HB 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At the VA occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in providing services to our veterans at both inpatient and outpatient services physical disabilities and mental health areas.

I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [donna.lee@va.gov](mailto:donna.lee@va.gov) or work at 433-0613. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony!

Sincerely,

Donna Lee, OTR, BCMH, CAPS  
AOTA Board Certification in Mental Health VA-PIHCS  
459 Patterson Rd – 116  
Honolulu, HI 96819

To: Rep. Angus McKelvey - Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee

From: Cheryll S. Macaraeg, OTA student

Date: January 30, 2014

Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 - 2:10 p.m. - Conference Room 325

Re: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

Imagine you have a disability whether it is a stroke or cognitive impairment. Would you want to play with your kids, grandkids, or participate in family functions? Still drive a vehicle? Do you want to live your life to the fullest and independently? How would you do that despite your health condition? Young or old, we all have a job to do- the job of living. Learning, growing, playing, working, managing our homes and caring for our families are among the “occupations” of life. When we struggle with the above mentioned, it is devastating. Occupational therapy will help you bring back those valued occupations.

I am a second year Occupational therapy assistant student at Kapi’olani Community College. I strongly support Bill # SB 2042 to license both Occupational Therapist (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. I am writing to you as a future OT practitioner, today I ask you to consider licensing both OT’s and OTA’s in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that do not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

The experience of disability is a concern for Hawaii. According to a 2011 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation, an estimated 10.2% of Hawaii’s population experiences some type of disability. Disability not only impacts the individual that presents with some type of physical, sensory, cognitive, and/or psychosocial impairment but also impacts members of our community who directly or indirectly provide and/or fund care-related services. It is in our best interest to equip and empower persons with disabilities to live with independence, self-respect, and meaning.

Occupational Therapy is a holistic, dynamic, and evolving profession, characteristic of the diversity of individuals that we serve in order to meet everyday needs of our clients in our ever-changing world in which we all live in. Occupational therapy teaches people how to live their life to the fullest, by helping people functionally engage in their everyday roles. Its helping others find what is meaningful to them, what really drives their lives, and to overcome their challenges; using the most useful and creative therapy. OT is a caring profession. What we really do is help patients who have lost or some of their disability to perform everyday tasks to do those same activities- just in a different way. How can you live

Testimony in Support of SB2042

January 30, 2014

Page 2 of 2

your life to the fullest if the OT practitioner you are working with is incompetent, unqualified, and giving poor quality of care? Your health may be at stake.

As a OTA student and future practitioner, I strongly feel that licensure will help: 1.) demonstrate the level of competency, 2.) Safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare, 3.) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services, 4.) require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, and 5.) Provide the highest quality of occupational services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [csajo@hawaii.edu](mailto:csajo@hawaii.edu)

Sincerely,

Cheryll S. Macaraeg, OTA student

Date: February 10, 2014

To: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair – House Consumer Protection Committee

Hearing: February 12, 2014, 2:10PM, Conference Rm. 325

RE: HB 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an occupational therapist employed at a behavioral health facility. I strongly support HB 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At the behavioral health facility where I am currently employed, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral role in each patient's recovery. We teach daily living, communication, and coping skills, and provide opportunities to practice functional life skills for patients with mental illness. We help them to successfully reintegrate into the community.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [craftotlady@gmail.com](mailto:craftotlady@gmail.com). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Dawn Noguchi-Lui, OTR

Date: February 10, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair –Consumer Protection Committee

Hearing: February 12, 2014, 2:10PM, Conference Rm. 325

RE: HB 2042

I am an occupational therapist, currently employed at a behavioral health hospital. I strongly support HB 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR), and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At the behavioral health hospital where I am currently employed, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral role in each patient's recovery. We work with patients (ages 4 through adult) who are struggling to deal with their life circumstances, while managing the symptoms of a mental illness. We teach important life skills and coping skills to support their successful reintegration into the community. It is only through our knowledge and the application of evidenced based OT principles as it relates to psychosocial functioning, that we are able to provide the most effective care and treatment.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon the passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at naklt@yahoo.com. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lorene Nakagawa, OTR  
Rehab Services Manager

To: Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014, Conference Room #325 – 2:10 p.m.

From: Jennifer Davis, OTAS

Date: February 10, 2014

I am a current student of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Kapiolani Community College located in Honolulu, Hawaii. I strongly support SB2472 to license both Occupational Therapist (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. I support licensure of occupational therapy practitioners because it provides guidelines and standards that protect consumers and improve the profession as a whole.

Occupational therapy is a science-driven, evidence-based profession that enables people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health and prevent—or live better with—illness, injury or disability. Occupational therapy practitioners play a vital role as health care professionals to assist these individuals in developing and/or regaining skills important for independent functioning, health and well-being. They assist patients and their families in efforts to adapt to disruptions in lifestyle.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicted an increase in demand for occupational therapists of 29% from 2012 to 2022. Increasingly, OTs are developing new practice areas including school violence reduction, driver rehabilitation, ergonomics consulting, wellness, aging in place, and welfare to work programs.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapist (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

As a future occupational therapy practitioner, I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy Practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [jdavis4@hawaii.edu](mailto:jdavis4@hawaii.edu) or (808)312-1995. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Davis, OTAS

Date: February 11, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair  
House Consumer Protection Committee

From: Tracee Miyake, Occupational Therapy Assistant Student

Hearing: February 12, 2014 at 2:10 p.m., Conference Room # 325

RE: Testimony in support of H.B. 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am a student enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Kapi'olani Community College. I strongly support H.B. 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As a student and future occupational therapy practitioner, I believe that licensure will benefit the citizens of Hawaii and further expand the services of occupational therapy. The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) brand "Living Life To Its Fullest" is a national statement encompassing the scope of the professions practice. Teaching and enhancing life skills to everyday people, in everyday situations, in varying environments and settings; occupational therapy practitioners are able to adapt and improvise creative solutions to meet the needs of the individual focusing on intrinsic motivation to engage in participation and performance of daily activities.

A simple question of how do you want to live life to its fullest can be asked. Throughout the life span, occupational therapy provides endless possibilities concentrating on the meaning, purpose, and quality of life through independence. Occupation can take many forms and may mean various roles to one individual. In each context, occupational therapy can address the needs of each occupation in a holistic approach to enable the individual to overcome obstacles and/or disabilities in both traditional and non-traditional health care settings and emerging areas of practice. Occupational therapy practitioners are innovators, modifiers, and defenders of what is meaningful in life.

Occupational therapy often has a name recognition problem in that most people do not know what occupational therapy is unless they have experienced it first hand. Licensure may help resolve the name recognition problem by validating professional credentials. As the profession improves in evidence-based practice and health care trends it is vital to secure licensure to protect the profession from other encroaching health care professions.

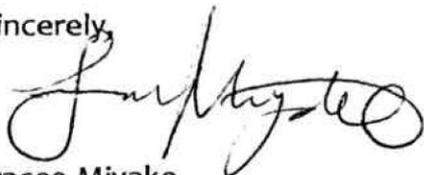
As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license occupational therapists (OTR) and is one of three remaining states that does not license occupational therapy assistants (OTA). Providing licensure for occupational therapy assistants along with occupational therapists will benefit the profession due to the fact that occupational therapy

assistants are not always supervised by an occupational therapist. Depending on level of competence, area of specialty, and practice setting occupational therapy assistants may practice and implement treatment. Both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants must pass national certification exams and fulfill continuing education requirements to renew certification. The profession requires both levels of practitioners to evolve and increase in knowledge to remain in practice.

The purpose of acquiring licensure is to protect the profession and enhance the quality and availability of services occupational therapy provides. Licensure is the most restrictive form of occupational regulation and provides the highest form of government oversight. Licensure will aid the profession to 1) Safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare, 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill to provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [metracee@gmail.com](mailto:metracee@gmail.com) or (808)391-8994. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tracee Miyake in black ink, written in a cursive style.

02/11/14

Tracee Miyake

Occupational Therapy Assistant Student

Date: 2/11/2014

TO: Representative Angus McKelvey - Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee

RE: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 - 2:10 p.m. - Conference Room 325

My name is Paul Morinaka and I have been a consumer of Occupational Therapy services at Hawaii Health and Therapeutic Bodywork. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I received treatment from my occupational therapist for chronic pain in my ankles and back that have resulted from my active lifestyle and work environment. My Occupational Therapist assisted me with pain management, taught my proper stretching techniques to relieve tension in my ankles and back, and taught me exercises which helps me with my posture and body alignment/strength/motor control. My Occupational Therapist helps me to be more aware of my movement patterns that are harmful, and teaches me better movement strategies to move more efficiently and be more stable.

My Occupational Therapist promotes health and wellness in her practice and is helping me be and stay productive and independent as I age. I feel I can keep being active as I can and enjoy the activities that I love to do because of what she does and has taught me.

For the sake of consumers like myself, I ask that your committee look favorably upon licensing Occupational Therapists and Assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul Morinaka

TO: Rep. Angus McKelvey - Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee

Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 - 2:10 p.m. - Conference Room 325

Re: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

From: Sean McGirr

Date: February 11, 2014

Re: Testimony in support of H.B. 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am currently enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Kapiolani Community College, and I ask for your support concerning upcoming legislation as it pertains to licensure for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in the state of Hawaii.

2014 is an exciting year for my classmates and I. As we make our final preparations to enter the profession, we are also approaching an exciting time for the profession in the state of Hawaii as we await approval of the proposed licensure bill. During my last two years of attending classes, and throughout my fieldwork experience, my educators have stressed that becoming an occupational therapy practitioner is a process of continuous learning. Occupational therapy practitioners are committed to their profession, and committed to delivering services of the highest quality to their clients. To meet these standards, those entering the profession not only need to complete their educational and fieldwork requirements, but they must also pass a national certification exam. Once entering the profession, this commitment to delivering quality services is then met through continuing education requirements, service competency, and providing interventions through practice that is evidence based.

The American Occupational Therapy Association best sums up the goal of occupational therapy, and that is to help clients live life to the fullest. Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants work with clients across the life-span, in a variety of settings, working with clients and their families to maximize their independence in occupations they find meaningful. You can find occupational therapy practitioners in the school setting working with a child who has a learning disability develop strategies to improve educational performance. You can find them in a hospital setting teaching a patient who recently suffered a stroke new techniques to feed, dress and bathe themselves using adaptive equipment. You may find them in the community helping those suffering from mental illness develop skills to seek employment or maintain a budget. Or you may find them planning and leading activities for a group of senior citizens. These are only a few examples, and while treatment methods are considerably different in all of these examples, they share one thing in common, and that is helping clients live life to the fullest.

Practitioners take into consideration all factors that may affect a client's ability to live life to the fullest, whether it be physical, behavioral, cognitive, or limitations brought upon by the environment. This client centered, holistic approach is what truly makes the profession unique.

Occupational therapy practitioners possess an exceptional skill set that includes clinical knowledge, observation skills, creativity, and an ability to problem solve, just to name a few.

Passing the proposed licensure law has benefits, not only to the profession, but to the consumer as well.

Approval of this bill will define the scope of practice of occupational therapy in the state, and gives those who receive services confidence that they are receiving said services from qualified professionals. I ask that when considering passage of the proposed bill, you take into consideration the high professional standards that occupational therapy practitioners hold themselves to, and I ask that you consider the unique skill set that they possess. Your support of this bill will help the profession maintain these standards and help ensure that consumers will be receiving quality services in the state of Hawaii. I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sean McGirr

## kawakami3-Benigno

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**From:** Margie And Rich Stercho <alohastercho@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 7:44 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Subject:** HB2042- Relating to Occupational Therapy

Rep. Angus McKelvey,

My name is Margie Stercho and I have been an occupational therapist for over 30 years. We came to Hawaii over 13 years ago with a contract job with the DOE. I cannot begin to tell you the amazement I had that this state did not have therapist licensed.

It's time. Our national board, AOTA, has mandated that all 50 states get licensed. We are the only state that does not have licenses for our Occupational Therapist.

I work for Harris Therapy Inc. We provide rehab and home health services. It's a dynamic company and a great place to work. It's good to help people feel better. We are very excited about this movement to licensure. It makes sure people have board certified therapist caring for them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter,

Margie Stercho OTR  
Lead Occupational Therapist for Harris Therapy Sent from my iPad

February 6, 2014

To: Honorable Representatives for State of Hawaii  
Committee on Health  
Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Re: Senate Hearing on Friday, 2/7/14, 9:00am  
Licensure for Occupational Therapy practitioners  
HB 2042  
SB2472

I have been an occupational therapist for over 25 years and am currently employed at Queen's Medical Center and Castle Home Care. In my practice I have provided services to a broad spectrum of age groups here in Hawaii -from birth to centenarians. I have worked with families of children with special needs, clients with severe mental illness and our homebound fragile aging population. I feel deeply entrusted with the safety, health and wellbeing of these vulnerable clients I see. I work hard to assure that I am providing treatment that is professional, high quality, safe and identified as current best practice in the field of occupational therapy. Hawaii's citizens deserve the highest form of government oversight to safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare.

Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapist (OTR). I feel strongly that licensure provides the highest form of oversight to ensure that incompetent persons with inadequate training, education or unethical conduct do not perform occupational therapy services. Our citizens deserve to have the same oversight of health services that are provided in other states.

Mahalo for your time. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shawhan, OTR  
Castle Home Care  
Queen's Medical Center  
© 674-7034  
shawhaka@ah.org

Date: 2/11/14

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey

Hearing: February 12, 2014, Room 325

RE: HB 2042

I am an occupational therapy assistant with 16 years of experience, currently self-employed and providing child care for keiki's in Maui. I am writing to strongly support bills SB 2472 and HB 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

As an occupational therapy assistant, it is my role to enhance and establish treatment plans for adults and children experiencing disabilities or developmental delays in the areas of fine motor skills, visual-perceptual motor skills, sensory awareness, and cognitive skills. I have had many wonderful experiences to help and assist people in our community within nursing facilities, public schools, and in early intervention programs.

I feel strongly that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to:

- 1) Safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare.
- 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services.
- 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.
- 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [dnlmaui@hotmail.com](mailto:dnlmaui@hotmail.com). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Laura-Lee Hufalar, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant

Owner of Happykidz Developmental Child Care, LLC.

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Honorable Representative Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection

From: Raquel D. Algono, OTAS

Date: February 11, 2014

Re: **Testimony in support of H.B. 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

My name is Raquel Algono; I'm an Occupational Therapy Assistant student at Kapiolani Community College and I look forward towards your support regarding the current licensure issue of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

So, what do you need to “Live Life to its Fullest?” This brand that AOTA uses to describe Occupational Therapy provides a clear painted picture of what Occupational Therapists strive for their clients everyday. As Occupational Therapists, we do best at assisting a person achieve their fullest extent and obtain life goals in order to fulfill their aspiring roles; either as a parent, a worker, an independent human being.

“Live Life to its Fullest” is universal and customizable. You could ask anyone how they live their life or what they want in order to live their life to its fullest; you’ll always have get answer. As occupational therapists we take those different aspects and form them into something achievable.

The brand that we so proudly advocate serves as an explanation. It’s not set for just one type of client or one type of setting. We serve all across the lifespan and in many various environments. To maintain the respect of our profession, we must be able to safely say that all of our practitioners and services are beyond than that is expected. To ensure that we are enforcing the best quality care, we must strive for licensure. Licensure will protect our clients from unqualified practitioners and incompetent behaviors.

It's baffling that we're waiting for a detrimental occurrence to happen that will scar our profession. By not passing the bill that can protect our consumers and our profession, we're waiting for the extinction of our recognition as a fully capable and well-worthy profession. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Raquel Algono, OTAS

## kawakami3-Benigno

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**From:** Vernon Charles <vernon@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 11:59 AM  
**To:** CPCtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2042

TO: Rep. Angus McKelvey - Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee  
Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 - 2:10 p.m. - Conference Room 325  
Re: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

People living with disabilities are an important topic within the state of Hawaii. A 2011 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation states approximately 1 in 10 (10.2%) of people in Hawaii live with a disability. The disability can be cognitive, sensory, physical, or psychosocial; it can also be a combination of these. An individual living with a disability can directly and indirectly affect family members, friends, or any health care workers within his or her life. The goal is for our community as a whole to provide services that enable and encourage people living with disabilities to lead self-reliant, purposeful, and virtuous lives.

Occupational therapy is an excellent way to improve the life of a person living with a disability. Occupational therapists are health care professionals who are experienced in working with a variety of disabilities. Occupational therapists are also trained to work with anyone from infants to elders. The goal is to devise innovative ways that encourage people living with disabilities to participate in meaningful activities and occupations “to live life to the fullest.”

I am currently an Occupational Therapy Assistant student studying at Kapiolani Community College. I am on track to complete the program in July of this year, and I strongly support HB-2042 to license both Occupational Therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of three remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA).

As an Occupational Therapy student at KCC, I am in the process of understanding how to apply theories I have learned in lectures and labs in real-life situations through fieldwork. Occupational therapists are essential in the rehabilitation process because they can influence a positive outcome in the following arenas: individuals with neurological disorders can be taught to perform activities such as eating, dressing, grooming, and showering; children with developmental disabilities can be taught to play with peers or learn in a normal classroom setting; individuals with mental health disorders can be taught to socialize more effectively with others; individuals with cognitive disabilities can be stimulated with various sensory techniques.

I feel that licensure will continue to: 1) Safeguard the public’s health, safety, and welfare; 2) Protect anyone seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and those not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct from occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope you and your committee will look favorably upon the passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at [vernon@hawaii.edu](mailto:vernon@hawaii.edu). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Vernon Charles III, OTAS  
Kapi'olani Community College  
4303 Diamond Head Rd.  
Honolulu, HI 96816

February 11, 2014

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee.

Hearing: Wednesday 12, 2014 Room 325-2:10pm Bill # HB 2042

RE; Relating to Occupational Therapy.

We are occupational therapists employed at Chart Rehabilitation. We strongly support *HB 2042* to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

*At Chart Rehabilitation*, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in helping people with a variety of injuries, return to work and/or obtain the highest level of function with their daily activities of life.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, we can be reached at *808-540-0422*, Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
James S. Nakada, COTA  
Chart Rehabilitation  
826 S. King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**HB 2042 Relating to Occupational Therapy**

**TO:** Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee

**Hearing:** February 12, 2014; 2:10 p.m.; Room 325

**RE: HB 2042**

I am an occupational therapist employed at the Queen's Medical Center. I strongly support HB 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At the Queen's Medical Center, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral part in maximizing one's independence in activities of daily living and mobility which is a vital part in resuming one's prior level of functioning after sustaining a traumatic injury or life threatening illness. Without the skilled training of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, families or loved ones take on additional roles as caregivers. As skilled professionals, we guide and train families/caregivers on how to work with and managed their loved ones in addition to treating and progressing the patients to their maximum level of independence.

I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and; 4) provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have additional questions, I can be reached at [hataek001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hataek001@hawaii.rr.com) or 691-4655. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

*Kendra Hatae, OTR, CAPS*

Kendra Hatae, OTR, CAPS

February 10, 2014

To: Representative Angus McKelvey – Chair, Consumer Protection

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2014, Room 325 – 2:10 p.m.

Re: HB 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an occupational therapist employed at Kaiser Permanente in Wailuku, Hawaii. I strongly support HB 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

Currently, Hawaii is the only state that does not license occupational therapists. In addition, Hawaii is the one of 3 remaining states that does not license occupational therapy assistants.

At Kaiser Permanent, occupational therapy practitioners play an integral role in the rehabilitation of patients with a variety of diagnoses. I work with people who are trying to regain their independence after stroke, burns, bone fracture, head injury, cardiac events, spinal cord injury and many more. I provide care for every age group from newborns to our most elderly members. We keep people in their homes and as independent and as active in their communities as possible.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare along with protecting those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons or persons not qualified to perform these services. Licensure will also require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of OT practitioners in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice in Hawaii.

I hope that your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill. If you have any questions, I can be reached at [Nancy.Zionkowski@KP.org](mailto:Nancy.Zionkowski@KP.org). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Nancy Zionkowski, OTR  
Kaiser Permanente  
Maui Lani Elua Clinic  
75 Maui Lani Parkway  
Wailuku, HI 96793

January 28, 2014

Dear Respected Members of Government,

My name is Kimberley Wirsing and I am a board certified orthopaedic surgeon with a fellowship specialization in hand surgery. The occupational therapist plays an integral and equal role in the care and rehabilitation of the majority of my patients. Together we treat such injuries as fractures of the hand and wrist, tendon injuries, amputations, and nerve injuries.

The occupational therapists that I have been fortunate enough to work with here in Hawaii demonstrate competency daily by adhering to rehabilitation protocols and guiding my patients to their best functional outcome. This allows patients to return to their daily activities in an efficient and wise manner. An additional benefit of the therapist/patient interaction is that by actively participating in their own recovery patients are empowered and feel like they are taking ownership of their own health and recovery.

Due to the complexity of my patients with upper extremity injuries and the important constant role the therapists play in their care I feel that licensure is imperative in ensuring that qualified occupational therapists can continue to serve in this role. For the sake of my patients many of whom are not only your constituents but may be family members and friends, I urge you and your committee members to pass this bill.

Sincerely,



Kimberley Wirsing

80 Mahalani Street

Wailuku, HI 96793

February 10, 2014

TO: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair - Consumer Protection

RE: Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

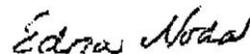
Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 - 2:10 p.m. Room 325

My name is Edna Noda and I have been a consumer of Occupational Therapy services at Straub Clinic and Hospital. I am asking that you support this bill that would license both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii.

I injured all of my fingers in both hands while trying to prevent an iron gate from falling off its track. Needless to say, I had to undergo surgery by an orthopedic surgeon to place pins in my fingers to repair all of the broken bones. After surgery, my doctor referred me to Straub where the occupational therapist had to design and make two special hand splints to not only protect the pins, but to allow healing of all of the bones. After one month, I was sent back to see my occupational therapist and under her guidance I was taught exercises that would help me regain the motion and strength in my hands. One takes things for granted, but the simplest things like brushing your teeth, washing your hair, cutting with a knife and even driving were challenges that I faced. My occupational therapist encouraged me and provided step-by-step instructions and I have now "graduated" from O.T. Without rehabilitation professionals like the occupational therapists, I would probably have not been able to regain my hand function.

For the sake of consumers like myself, I ask that your committee look favorably upon licensing Occupational Therapists and Assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Edna Noda

Occupational Therapy Patient  
(808) 342-1726

February 10, 2014

TO: Representative Angus McKelvey - Chair, Consumer Protection

RE: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 - Room 325 - 2:10 p.m.

My name is John A. Giuliano, M.D. and I am a board certified Orthopedic Hand and Upper Extremity Surgeon. The occupational therapist plays an integral and important role in the rehabilitation of my patients many of which have sustained injuries ranging from hand and wrist fractures, tendon injuries, amputations, joint replacements, nerve injuries and microvascular reconstruction in both children and adults.

The occupational therapists have demonstrated competency by adhering to my rehabilitation protocol in guiding my patients to have the best functional recovery which in turn leads them to returning to their daily activities without significant complications or impairments.

Due to the varying degrees of injury and severity with my patients, I feel that licensure is imperative in ensuring that qualified occupational therapists continue to provide my patients, your family members and your constituents with optimum care. For the sake of my patients and your constituents, I urge you and your committee members to pass this HB 2042.

Sincerely,



John A. Giuliano, M.D.  
1329 Lusitana Street, Suite 501.  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 522-9633

**Date:** 02/11/14

**To:** Honorable Chair Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee

**Hearing:** Wednesday, 02/12/2014  
2:10 p.m.  
Conference Room 325

**Re:** HB 2042  
Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

We are Occupational Therapists employed at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center Outpatient Services. We strongly support of HB2042 to license both Occupational Therapists (OTR) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

Hawaii is the only state in the nation that does not license Occupational Therapists. Hawaii is one of three states that do not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

At Kaiser Outpatient Rehabilitation Services, the Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants provide vital therapy services to patients who are recovering from traumatic orthopedic injuries, delicate and specific post-operative procedures, brain injuries, strokes, etc. We also provide work simulation services to those workers who were injured on the job and are in need of learning to safely return to their jobs.

We face constant challenges on a daily basis and require providers of Occupational Therapy services to anticipate the probabilities of developing and managing post-op surgical tissue healing, avoiding any development of infection, neurological changes that would indicate that there might be something more occurring in the brain, etc.

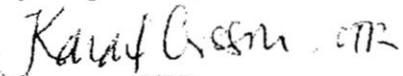
We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) Safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking Occupational Therapy services from the incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants. and 4) Provide the highest quality of Occupational Therapy services in Hawaii. The bill will further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

Please support the passage of HB 2042 which would provide full licensure for both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in Hawaii. If you have any

questions, feel free to contact Wendy Aruga-Goto, OTR, at [Wendy.k.aruga-goto@kp.org](mailto:Wendy.k.aruga-goto@kp.org).  
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in favor of HB 2042.

Sincerely,

  
Wendy Aruga-Goto, OTR

  
Kara Crosson, OTR

Date: February 11, 2014  
To: Rep. Angus McKelvey - Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee  
Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 - 2:10 p.m. - Conference Room 325  
Re: HB 2042 - Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

I am an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) who has practiced Occupational Therapy and I am an educator. I strongly support SB 2472 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

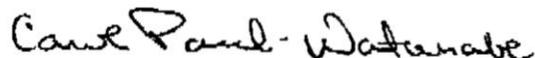
As an Occupational Therapy Assistant, I understand that Occupational Therapy practitioners play an integral part in assessing children and adults with physical or mental health disabilities and in developing client centered interventions to maximize the individual's potential to function independently. The impact that Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants have on positive health outcomes for our community is deserving of support for SB 2472.

As an educator, I see enthusiastic students who are drawn to the dynamic profession of Occupational Therapy. They strive to learn and develop their skills in order to help others. When students are trained, certified and licensed in our state, they will become the practitioners for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, helping to fill Hawaii's need for caring, competent healthcare workers.

I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, we can be reached at 737-0905. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Carol Paul-Watanabe, COTA, MPH

To: Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014, Conference Room #325 – 2:10 p.m.

From: Jacquelyn La Pierre

Date: 02/11/14

I am an occupational therapy practitioner employed by Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
I strongly support H.B. 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapist (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants. Occupational therapy is a holistic client-centered approach that assists individuals by restoring or enabling function and independence of daily living through various activities and modalities that provide purpose and meaning, thus enhancing quality of life. Occupational therapy provides an opportunity to increase and maintain the highest level of independence, by enabling individuals to live productive and satisfying lives. The profession is very broad and provides services within a variety of demographics ranging anywhere from mental health, rehabilitation, pediatrics, geriatrics, assistive technology, health and prevention and many more. The skill set acquired by occupational therapy practitioners allows for competent and efficient services rendered. Occupational therapy continues to grow as an evidence-based practice with high standards of education and care.

As an occupational therapy practitioner, I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy Practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at 808-433-0681

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



To: Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair Consumer Protection Committee

RE: HB 2042 A Bill for an Act Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014, Conference Room #325 – 2:10 p.m.

From: William Kealoha OTR/C, MPT

Date: 02-11-14

I am an occupational therapy practitioner employed by Dept. of VA.  
I strongly support H.B. 2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapist (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants. Occupational therapy is a holistic client-centered approach that assists individuals by restoring or enabling function and independence of daily living through various activities and modalities that provide purpose and meaning, thus enhancing quality of life. Occupational therapy provides an opportunity to increase and maintain the highest level of independence, by enabling individuals to live productive and satisfying lives. The profession is very broad and provides services within a variety of demographics ranging anywhere from mental health, rehabilitation, pediatrics, geriatrics, assistive technology, health and prevention and many more. The skill set acquired by occupational therapy practitioners allows for competent and efficient services rendered. Occupational therapy continues to grow as an evidence-based practice with high standards of education and care.

As an occupational therapy practitioner, I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy Practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill, which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at William.Kealoha@va.gov.  
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

WJ Kealoha OTR/C, MPT

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House Consumer Protection Committee

Testimony for House Bill HB 2042  
Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice

Date: 2/10/14

To: Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Honorable Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Hearing: *Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:10 pm*  
*Conference Room 325 State Capitol*  
*415 South Beretania Street*

I am an Occupational Therapist employed with Physical Therapy Services, LLC. Our company provides Physical, Occupational, and Speech and Language Therapies at Arcadia Retirement Residence and 15 Craigside for their ICF and SNF units. I strongly support *HB 2042* to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

As part of the Rehabilitation Team for Physical Therapy Services, LLC, Occupational Therapists play an integral part in returning the patient to their prior level of function after an illness/injury/and or a catastrophic medical incident such as stroke; in the areas of self-care (bathing, dressing self, toileting, self-feeding) and home management tasks (cooking/kitchen activities, laundry, etc.). I do home assessments and make recommendations for adaptive devices/aides/tools to increase the patient's independence and safety to return back to his/her own home upon discharge. We work with patients to improve their arm and hand function. We work with physical therapy to improve the patient's ability to transfer oneself from one surface to another, but applying it to transferring to the toilet, or tub/shower stall. We also work closely with Speech Therapist when the goal is for the person to feed him or herself. We communicate and work with the nursing staff about the patient's bowel/bladder program and self-management in regards to their medications. At the SNF, Occupational Therapists are key players in the interdisciplinary approach for the success of the patients' rehabilitation program. We are a vital part of the team and we provide specialized and highly skilled services to improve the patient's function and skill level sooner by working with the patient based on our scope of practice that is different than Physical Therapy and or Speech-Language Therapy.

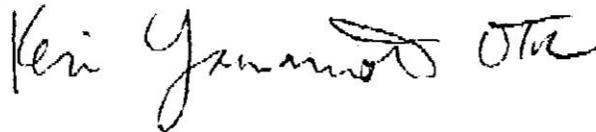
I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare since we work

2 | Page

in critical care areas and medical facilities; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and/or persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, I can be reached at 808 389 9638 or email at [hawaiiellerwork@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiellerwork@gmail.com). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Keri Yamamoto OTR in cursive script.

Keri Yamamoto, OTR

**LATE**

West Kauai Medical Center/KVMH- Waimea Kauai

Date: *February 11, 2014*

To: CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Hearing: Wednesday February 12, 2014

RE: *2042*

We are occupational therapists employed at the West Kauai Medical Clinic/KVMH. We strongly support *House Bill # 2042* to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants.

*At the West Kauai Medical Center/KVMH*, Occupational Therapy practitioners play an integral part in Acute, Outpatient, Sports Medicine-Hand Therapy, and Long Term Care.

We strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to: 1) safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare; 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services; 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii. This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

We hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, we can be reached at (808) 338-9452. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Kline, OTR/CEAS  
Director of Occupational Therapy  
West Ksauai Medical Center/KVMH  
4643 Waimea Canyon Road  
Waimea, HI 96796  
(808) 338-9452



**LATE**

To: Rep. Angus McKelvey - Chair, House Consumer Protection Committee

Hearing: Wed. Feb. 12, 2014 - 2:10 p.m. - Conference Room 325

From: Jennifer Renasia

Date: February 11, 2014

Re: **Testimony in support of H.B. 2042 – Relating to Occupational Therapy Practice**

I am a student from the Kapiolani Community College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. As a future occupational therapy assistant (OTA), I am training in the art and science of enabling individuals through every day activities known as “occupation.”

As you may be aware, Hawaii is the only state that does not currently license Occupational Therapists (OTR) and one of 3 remaining states that does not license Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA).

Students of the KCC OTA program receive training at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific as well as in other traditional and non-traditional health care settings. Occupational therapy practitioners, both therapists (OTR) and assistants (OTA) work together and play an integral part in the process of rehabilitation and habilitation. Occupational therapists are skilled at facilitating pro-social behaviors in consumers who have mental illness, teaching adults who have experienced neurological diseases and disorders to perform everyday activities such as eating, dressing, and bathing, engaging children to thrive in occupations of childhood such as playing with peers and learning in inclusive classroom settings, evaluating persons who have various impairments for eligibility with adapted public transportation services, and stimulating aged adults with or without cognitive and memory impairments in culturally-sensitive, orienting activities.

The experience of disability is a concern for Hawaii. According to a 2011 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation, an estimated 10.2% of Hawaii’s population experiences some type of disability. Disability not only impacts the individual that presents with some type of physical, sensory, cognitive, and/or psychosocial impairment but also impacts members of our community who directly or indirectly provide and/or fund care-related services. It is in our best community interest to equip and empower persons with disabilities to live with independence, self-respect, and meaning.

One way in which the quality of life for a person with disability can be enhanced is through occupational therapy. Occupational therapy practitioners are health care professionals who are trained to enable individuals with various disabilities across the age span by creating opportunities to meaningfully engage in roles and activities to “live life to the fullest.”

I strongly feel that licensure provides the highest form of government oversight and will continue to:

- 1) Safeguard the public’s health, safety and welfare,
- 2) Protect those seeking occupational therapy services from incompetent persons and persons not qualified to perform these services,
- 3) Require the highest degree of professional conduct on the part of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, and
- 4) Provide the highest quality of occupational therapy services in Hawaii.

This bill will also further define the scope of Occupational Therapy practice.

Testimony in Support of HB 2042  
January 26, 2014  
Page 2 of 2

I strongly support HB-2042 to license both occupational therapists (OTR) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) in Hawaii. I hope that you and your committee will look favorably upon passage of this bill which would provide full licensure for both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Renasia

KCC OTA program student

LATE

**[PASS]**  
THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE  
TO STOP SLAVERY

February 10, 2014

**COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Rep. Chris Lee  
Rep. Tom Brower  
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima  
Rep. Romy M. Cachola  
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro  
Rep. Richard Creagan  
Rep. Clift Tsuji  
Rep. Cindy Evans  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane  
Rep. Sharon E. Har  
Rep. Bob McDermott  
Rep. Ken Ito  
Rep. Cynthia Thielen

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 2014

TIME: 2:10 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 325, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2042 PENDING AMENDMENTS  
RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE**

Aloha, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery stands in strong support of this measure and respectfully request that the Committee amends HB2042 as follows, on page 23:

**SECTION 7**

**§436B- Sexual orientation change efforts prohibited. (a) No person who is licensed to provide professional counseling, including but not limited to a physician specializing in the practice of psychiatry, physician assistant, psychologist, social worker, mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, or a person who performs counseling as part of the person's professional training for any of these professions, shall engage in sexual orientation change efforts on a person under eighteen years of age.**

**(b) Any person who is licensed to provide professional counseling and attempts to engage in sexual orientation change efforts on a person under eighteen years of age shall be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate professional licensing authority.**

(c) For the purposes of this section, "sexual orientation change efforts" means the practice of attempting to change a person's sexual orientation, including but not limited to efforts to change behaviors, gender identity, or gender expressions; or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward a person of the same gender. "Sexual orientation change efforts" shall not include counseling for a person seeking to transition from one gender to another or counseling that:

(1) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; and

(2) Does not seek to change sexual orientation.

SECTION 7 8. In codifying the new sections added by section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute 6 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating 7 8 the new sections in this Act.

SECTION 8 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed 9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION-9 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian  
Executive Director