Senator David Y. Ige: Committee on Ways and Means, Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani: Committee on Ways and Means, Vice Chair Measure: SB 1124 – Relating to the Dietitian Licensure Special Fund

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Conference Room 211

Dear Senator Ige and Senator Kidani,

I am Ann Ditzler, President of the Hawaii Dietetic Association which represents approximately 300 members throughout the state of Hawai'i, Guam and Saipan. The Hawai'i Dietetic Association is in strong support of SB1124 which authorizes the Department of Health to expend fees from the Dietitian Licensure Special Fund to offset the expenses incurred relating to the licensing of dietitians

As an association of food and nutrition professionals, we believe it is important that our Hawai'i community have access to important nutrition services to ensure the health and safety of our residents. Dietitian licensure has made it possible for the Hawai'i health consumer to identify and distinguish qualified licensed nutrition professionals. The Hawai'i Dietetic Association wishes to recognize the Hawai'i State Department of Health for implementing and administering the Hawai'i dietitian licensure program. The dietitian special fund allows for continued administration and continuing education to ensure the highest level of nutrition services are provided to the people of Hawai'i.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Dietetic Association respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this bill and its passage in an effort to facilitate licensing of dietitians.

Respectfully Yours,

Ann Ditzler, MBA, MS, RD, LD President, Hawai'i Dietetic Association (808) 497-4767 <u>Ditzlera001@hawaii.rr.com</u>