

**TESTIMONY OF JAN K. YAMANE, ACTING STATE AUDITOR,
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2341, SD1,
RELATING TO RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS**

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

March 28, 2016

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2341, SD1. The purpose of the bill is to make permanent the regulation of regulation of respiratory therapists under Chapter 466D, HRS.

As you know, our Report No. 15-08, *Sunset Evaluation: Respiratory Therapists* (June 2015) recommended, among other things, that the Legislature continue to regulate respiratory therapists by repealing Section 26H-4(b), HRS, thereby reenacting Chapter 466D, HRS (*Respiratory Therapists*). This bill would implement that recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2341, SD1. I am available to answer any questions you may have.



DAVID Y. IGE
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
cca.hawaii.gov/pvl

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Monday, March 28, 2016
2:20 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2341, S.D. 1, RELATING TO RESPIRATORY
THERAPISTS.**

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

My name is May Ferrer, Executive Officer for the Respiratory Therapists Program, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"), Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. The Department appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2341, S.D. 1, Relating to Respiratory Therapists.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2341, S.D. 1, is to make permanent the regulation of respiratory therapists under chapter 466D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The legislature finds that, based on the auditor's report from June 2015, regulation of respiratory therapists is reasonably necessary to protect the health and safety of consumers due to the nature of services offered by respiratory therapists.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2341, S.D. 1.

March 26, 2016

Dear Senator Baker,

I am one of the students of the Respiratory Therapy Program and I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapist in Hawaii continue to be licensed. Licensure provides many benefits including protection from individuals who have committed crimes or lost their license to practice in another state. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapist helps to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Daniela Cavato
Student
Respiratory Therapy Program
Kapiolani Community College



Testimony to: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Angus McKelvey Chair
Representative Justin Woodson, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORTING SB 2341, SD1 RELATING TO RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS
Monday, March 28, 2:20pm, Conference Room 325

Chairs and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 2341, SD1 which would eliminate the sunset provision of respiratory care practitioners' licenses and make such regulation permanent.

My name is Valerie Chang. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii COPD Coalition. Our organization provides services and support to Hawaii's people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, more commonly known as emphysema, chronic bronchitis and similar conditions. COPD is the third leading cause of death in the US and a major cause of disability in the US and worldwide. Over 56,000 Hawaii adults have COPD. Many, many more people in Hawaii suffer from asthma, tuberculosis, pneumonia and other respiratory conditions.

Respiratory Therapists are a very important of the healthcare team for COPD patients and their loved ones. They help the patients get their medication, keep their lungs clear, and learn to manage their breathing conditions. As has been noted, it is very significant that only Alaska lacks certification for respiratory therapists. Have a certification process in place and certifying the respiratory therapists will help to insure that all of our therapists meet appropriate standards and are providing quality care to our many people in Hawaii who need respiratory care. Respiratory therapists are those who are charged with keeping the airways clear to keep patients alive in hospital settings, as well as training patients how to use their new medications and equipment, including ventilators for lungs too tired to breathe on their own, CPAP for Obstructive Sleep Apnea, oxygen for people whose lungs cannot provide enough oxygen throughout their bodies, and much, much more.

As mentioned in paragraph two of the bill, the legislature has found from the auditor's report from June 2015 that the regulation of respiratory therapists is reasonably necessary to protect the health and safety of consumers and consistent with other health-related occupations.

My husband, children, and I have asthma and additionally, I have severe emphysema. We have all used the services of respiratory therapists to test how well our lungs are working. I have also been fortunate enough to have a respiratory

therapist in Colorado help me develop a personalized exercise program which is safe and appropriate for my lung condition. Respiratory nurses and respiratory therapists have also provided me with education on how to live actively with asthma and emphysema.

I have also enjoyed working with many respiratory therapists with our Hawaii COPD Coalition where we:

- (1) Conducted free breathing testing at various locations throughout the state;
- (2) Hold regular free support groups (run by respiratory therapist and health educator); and
- (3) Hold a free annual education day with many respiratory therapists participating.

I strongly SUPPORT the prompt passage of legislation to establish licensing and regulatory requirements for practice of respiratory care and to create a board for respiratory care, as written in SB 2341, SD1. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Aloha,
Valerie Chang, JD
Executive Director
Hawaii COPD Coalition
<http://hawaiicopd.org>
copd.hawaii@yahoo.com
(808)699-9839
700 Richards Street, Suite 2410
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Angus McKelvey
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection
House District 10
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 320
phone: 808-586-6160
fax: 808-586-6161
repmckelvey@Capitol.hawaii.gov

25 March, 2016

Dear Representative McKelvey:

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state. For example, we have 60 "travelers" in Hawaii right now and they have to get a license and clear the database hurdle before they can work. Prior to licensure, they simply came and worked and we could not properly assess them to ensure safe practice.

In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice.

Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours

Ryan Bellomy, BS, MBA, RRT
Director of Respiratory Care Services
Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children
Vice President, Hawai'i Society for Respiratory Care

The Honorable Angus McKelvey
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection
House District 10
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 320
phone: 808-586-6160
fax: 808-586-6161
repmckelvey@Capitol.hawaii.gov

24 March, 2016

Dear Representative McKelvey:

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state. For example, we have 60 "travelers" in Hawaii right now and they have to get a license and clear the database hurdle before they can work. Prior to licensure, they simply came and worked and we could not properly assess them to ensure safe practice.

In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice.

Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours

Stephen F. Wehrman RRT, RPFT
Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii
President, Hawaii Society for Respiratory Care

March 24, 2016

Aloha Chair McKelvey and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection.

I am a member of the Health Sciences faculty at Kapi'olani Community College and teach in the Respiratory Therapy Program, the only health care training program in this field in Hawai'i and the UH System.

I respectfully request your support of legislation SB 2341 which makes permanent the regulation of Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii. The measure will be heard in your Committee on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 2:20 PM. I ask for your support of this measure for the following key reasons that have been detailed in the State of Hawaii Auditor's Report dated June 2015:

- Regulation of Respiratory Therapists complies with statutory criteria and continues to benefit consumers.
- Regulation is warranted because respiratory therapists perform physically invasive and potentially hazardous procedures on patients.
- The benefits to consumers' health and safety warrant the regulation of respiratory therapists.
- Regulation has not artificially increased the cost of respiratory therapy services.
- Regulation has not unreasonably restricted entry into the field for qualified practitioners,
- Fees appear to cover the full cost of administering the regulatory program

Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals, but in numerous traditional and nontraditional areas of care like telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities, and rehabilitation. Continuation of the license to regulate Respiratory Therapists addresses the greater need to assure safety and quality of care and will increase the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential health care professionals.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Aaron K. Koseki, PhD, RRT
Professor, Health Sciences
Respiratory Care Program
Kapi'olani Community College

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 8:19 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: balacy@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/24/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Balacy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Senate Bill 2341.

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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 8:23 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: edalinoc@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/24/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Editha Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative Angus McKelvey, My name is Editha Domingo and I am a second year respiratory therapy student at Kapi'olani Community College. I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration. Thanks, Editha

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Dear Representative

I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapists helps to accomplish this goal. As healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Kalena Frank

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 12:42 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: hololio@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/25/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Wheatley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 9:52 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: krissy88mama@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/25/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kristine	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti Aloha, I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii continue to be licensed. Licensure provides many benefits including protection from individuals who have committed crimes or lost their license to practice in another state. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapists. Thank you for all of your consideration. Mahalo, Kristine Agonoy (Respiratory Care Student, Kapiolani Community College)

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Aloha,

I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 to relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Lansberry (Respiratory Student, KCC)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2016 3:02 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: kahaluubraddah@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerard Taira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2016 7:02 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: miguelmi@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Carl Miguel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2016 7:43 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: rarancheta@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/26/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rae Ann Ancheta	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 9:03 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: rowan.gragas7@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rowan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 11:50 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: ryman@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ransom Ryman II	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Dear Representative Au Belatti, I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii. State licensure of respiratory therapists ensures that therapists maintain a high level of skill and proficiency in order to work in the occupation. Licensed professionals provide a higher standard of care than non-licensed professionals. Supporting this bill will result in overall better health care for all medical facilities in state Hawaii. There was a recent sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and provided an added protection for the people that receive health care in the state of Hawaii. The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state. In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, licensure allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice. Finally, as healthcare moves more into non-traditional areas of care such as: telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers. Thank you for your support of this important legislation. Respectfully, Ransom E. Ryman II Respiratory Student of Kapiolani Community College

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LATE

The Honorable Angus McKelvey
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection
House District 10
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 320
phone: 808-586-6160
fax: 808-586-6161
repmckelvey@Capitol.hawaii.gov

27 March, 2016

Dear Representative McKelvey:

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state. For example, we have 60 "travelers" in Hawaii right now and they have to get a license and clear the database hurdle before they can work. Prior to licensure, they simply came and worked and we could not properly assess them to ensure safe practice.

In addition, licensure protects the people of Hawaii by allowing the state board to take action against therapists here who commit a crime. A licensed therapist must report to the board if they are convicted or wrongdoing outside of the hospital. Also, the license allows Hawaii to sanction individuals who are unsafe and remove them from practice.

Finally, as healthcare moves more into nontraditional areas of care such as telemedicine, home care, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation there will be greater need to assure safety and quality. Respiratory therapists in Hawaii no longer work just for hospitals and the license increases the ability of the state and the profession to maintain and monitor the actions of these essential workers.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours

Carol Agard RRT, FAARC
Manager Respiratory Care Svs./Neurodiagnostics
Queen's Medical Center
1301 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 8:48 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: tcoffin@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tofi Coffin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 9:06 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: ljpascua@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

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SB2341

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lovely Pascua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 9:09 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: joann.ikehara@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo Ann Ikehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee Chair and Members: I am a respiratory therapist at Pali Momi Medical Center, support this measure and request your favorable action in passing this legislation. Mahalo nui loa! Jo Ann Ikehara, BS, RRT

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From: Agard, Carol <cagard@queens.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 9:51 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: wherman@hawaii.edu; Agard, Carol
Subject: Queen's Medical Center - Respiratory Care Svs Testimony for SB2341 on March 28, 2016

The Honorable Angus McKelvey
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection
House District 10
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 320
phone: 808-586-6160
fax: 808-586-6161
repmckelvey@Capitol.hawaii.gov

27 March, 2016

Dear Representative McKelvey:

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent the licensure of respiratory therapists in the state of Hawaii.

The State Auditor conducted Sunset analysis of the current licensure bill and concluded that licensure for respiratory therapists did not raise the cost of healthcare and did provide needed protection for the people of Hawaii.

The National Board for Respiratory Care maintains a free disciplinary database that all state Respiratory Therapy boards can use to evaluate individuals who apply for jobs. Licensure allows Hawaii to safeguard our patients by giving us access to this information. We are able to identify therapists who have been disciplined or lost their license in another state. For example, we have 60 "travelers" in Hawaii right now and they have to get a license and clear the database hurdle before they can work. Prior to licensure, they simply came and worked and we could not properly assess them to ensure safe practice.

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Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours

Carol Agard RRT, FAARC
Manager Respiratory Care Svs./Neurodiagnostics
Queen's Medical Center
1301 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 11:10 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: tokuhisa@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

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Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Grace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 7:36 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: briannoka@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM*

SB2341

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Oka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 7:58 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: kekoashouse@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM

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SB2341

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 28, 2016 14:20PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer K. Medina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Representative McKelvey, I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha, Jennifer K. Medina, BSRT, RRT-NPS

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.

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LATE



Steven Camara

1301 Punchbowl Street
808-691-4241
scamara@queens.org

3/28/2016

Honorable Chairman McKelvey,

Thank you for your time in addressing the concerns of the local respiratory professional community. Several years ago, I remember showing my neighbor Representative Marumoto evidence of the need for Hawaii to have licensure for Respiratory Care Practitioners. Times were tight, and so was then Governor Lingle's budget. When the Honorable Former Chair "Bob" Herkes saw that Hawaii had become a sanctuary for convicted criminal vermin to run life support under the shadow of truth, law, and order, he pushed to put it on the legislative agenda to protect We the People of Hawaii. Chair Herkes championed our bill and had the Honorable Finance Chair Marcus Oshiro, Health Chair Yamane, then Speaker Say, as well as Senate Ways and Means Chair David Ige take a serious look as to if they wanted to assist our cause and let Hawaii take a step to say no to criminals hiding in paradise. Please honor Chair Herkes memory and mission and do not make a mockery of his intention to drive criminal offenders of all types (including those engaging in white collar crimes) out of the Respiratory profession in the Aloha state.

Warm regards,
Steven Camara

RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS, CPFT

Solutions OperAtive



LATE TESTIMONY

March 26, 2016

LATE

Dear Representative Kelvey and the members of the Committee,

I am writing you in strong support for the Senate and House Bill 2341. This will make respiratory therapists licensure bill permanent.

This licensure bill will be budget neutral. It would protect the citizen of Hawaii without increasing the cost of healthcare.

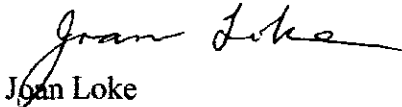
The bill will prevent therapists from other states from working here in Hawaii if they are convicted of wrongdoing in their home state.

Healthcare is moving away from the hospital. Better monitoring of workers are essentials. Respiratory therapists will be working in areas such as homecare, telemedicine, skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation.

Uncle Joe and I need your support for licensure for respiratory therapists.
(Uncle Joe is unable to testify because he is recovering from his fall. He is at Kaiser Permanent MOA.)

Mahalo for helping us achieve our goal!

Sincerely yours,



Joan Loke
(Joan of Arc)