

Measure Title:	RELATING TO RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS.
Report Title:	Respiratory Therapists
Description:	Makes permanent the regulation of respiratory therapists under chapter 466D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
Companion:	<u>HB1857</u>
Package:	None
Current Referral:	СРН
Introducer(s):	BAKER, ENGLISH, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, Espero, Gabbard, Ihara, Nishihara, Ruderman



STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI LT. GOVERNOR OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

> TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2016

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2341, RELATING TO RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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, Relating to Respiratory Therapists.

The purpose of Senate Bill No. 2341 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.



(808) 587-0800 auditors2@auditor.state.hi.us

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

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

February 17, 2016

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

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



Dear Senator Baker

February 12, 2016

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.

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

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	CPH Testimony
Cc:	rarancheta@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM
Date:	Sunday, February 14, 2016 6:59:01 PM

Submitted on: 2/14/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rae Ann Ancheta	Kapiolani Community College Respiratory Therapy Program Students	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Baker, 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. 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. Mahalo nui, Rae Ann Ancheta Kapi'olani Community College Respiratory Care Practitioner Program Vice President, KCC Respiratory Care Club University of Hawaii

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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	CPH Testimony
Cc:	mike.minami@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM
Date:	Tuesday, February 16, 2016 7:47:51 AM

Submitted on: 2/16/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Minami	Kaiser Family Hospital	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Baker I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, Relating to Respiratory Therapists. The bill makes permanent 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. 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 of 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 Mike Minami RRT

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Aloha Senator Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health.

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, relating to the regulation of Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii, 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

Submitted on: 2/15/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Pau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	CPH Testimony
Cc:	briannoka@aol.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM
Date:	Monday, February 15, 2016 9:13:48 PM

Submitted on: 2/15/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Senate Chair, I have practiced respiratory care in Hawaii since 1978. I currently hold license RT35 I feel it essential that licensure be made a standard in any patient care discipline, particularly one that deals with critical care. I am in favor of passage of SB2341 and would hope that anyone with some cognitive intellect can realize the need for this regulation. Much Mahalo, Brian Oka, BA, RRT-NPS, FAARC Director of Critical Care Sales Holden Hospital Supply, Inc

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	<u>CPH Testimony</u>
Cc:	christina.lewis@kapiolani.org
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM
Date:	Sunday, February 14, 2016 1:20:45 AM

Submitted on: 2/14/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Lewis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Baker 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 helps to accomplish this goal. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha Christina Lewis, RRT

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Dear Senator Baker

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.

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

Diane Brenessel, BS, RRT-ACCS, Ed.D, AE-C

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	CPH Testimony
Cc:	divagarcia@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM
Date:	Tuesday, February 16, 2016 10:49:47 AM

Submitted on: 2/16/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Support

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	CPH Testimony
Cc:	mahaloshimizu@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM*
Date:	Monday, February 15, 2016 1:43:42 PM

Submitted on: 2/15/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hajime Shimizu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	<u>CPH Testimony</u>
Cc:	joann.ikehara@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM
Date:	Monday, February 15, 2016 1:22:39 PM

Submitted on: 2/15/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the CPH Committee, I am writing in strong support of SB2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii continue to be licensed thereby providing a mechanism to monitor practitioners and protect the people of Hawaii. As a respiratory therapist now in my 42nd year of practice, I have seen the field and the profession grow. From being exclusively hospital based when I began my career, respiratory therapists (RTs) can be found in home care, skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities, physician offices and moving into the frontier of telemedicine. RTs going wherever the patients are who need their expertise. The State Auditor conducted its Sunset Analysis last year and concluded that the regulation of RTs is reasonably necessary to protect the health and safety of consumers and is consistent with the licensure of other health-related occupations. Please vote favorably to support this important legislation. Mahalo nui loa! Jo Ann Ikehara, BS, RRT

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	CPH Testimony
Cc:	jungeun@hawaii.edu
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM*
Date:	Monday, February 15, 2016 9:08:17 PM

Submitted on: 2/15/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jung Eun Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	CPH Testimony
Cc:	laura.balatbat@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM*
Date:	Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:29:28 AM

Submitted on: 2/16/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Balatbat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/15/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Dear Senator Baker 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. Aloha, Lovely Pascua RT student

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Dear Senator Baker,

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 helps to accomplish this goal. For people who forget we provide breathe of life and Respiratory Therapists plays a vital role in the medical health field.

Thank you for your consideration.

Much Aloha,

Michael Carl Miguel (Respiratory Student)

Dear Senator Baker

I am writing you to support Senate Bill 2341 relating to the licensure of Respiratory Therapists. I strongly support this bill. It is important that health care workers to be properly licensed. This bill will prevent ones finding a job without licenses that were lost when relocating from another state. This bill protects the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration,

Aloha,

Pamela Lansberry

Submitted on: 2/15/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: Aloha Senator Baker, I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, relating to Respiratory therapists licensure. I strongly believe that it is essential for all health care professionals to be properly licensed and monitored to ensure patient safety. Mahalo, Rochelle Rodrigues AARC member (RT student)

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	CPH Testimony
Cc:	tacianas@hotmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM*
Date:	Monday, February 15, 2016 10:54:38 PM

Submitted on: 2/15/2016 Testimony for CPH on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taciana Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.