

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

I am writing in very strong support of Senate Bill 2341. This Bill is to ensure Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii continue to be licensed. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapists helps to accomplish this goal. It is very important that these essential health care workers are properly licensed. In the past three decades, activity on the Big Island has caused problems affecting numbers of people needing a Respiratory Therapists care. I am a living example of that needed care. Today I thank Joan for being there when I was in trouble.

For these reasons I stand in very strong support and ask you for your continued support with the passage of Senate Bill 2341.

Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill

(aka Uncle Joe Tassill)

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Testimony to: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORTING SB 2341 RELATING TO RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS
Wednesday, February 17, 9am, Conference Room 229

Chairs and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 2341 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

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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 and companion bill HB1857. 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

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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.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Johnson

baker2 - Lia/Eve

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 5:53 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: melizad@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

SB2341

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
Meliza Cendana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Baker I am writing to support Senate Bill 2341. This legislation will ensure that Respiratory Therapists in Hawaii will continue to be licensed. The requirement of licensure in Respiratory Therapist protects the people of Hawaii especially those that are constantly being treated with illness. Earning a licensure can assure that the individual working as a Respiratory Therapist is credible and can be trusted in taking care of our sick loved ones. 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 especially our loved ones who are suffering illnesses related in the care of Respiratory Therapist. Thank you for your consideration. Aloha Meliza Cendana Respiratory Therapist Student Kapiolani Community College

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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. 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 consideration.

Aloha

Kalena Frank

baker2 - Lia/Eve

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 4:31 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: ryman@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

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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
Ransom Ryman II	Individual	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. 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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baker3 - James

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:53 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: dgr8jojo@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM*

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Categories: Late

SB2341

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
Romeo Rosel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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baker3 - James

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 2:51 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: kekoashouse@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

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Categories: Late

SB2341

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
Jennifer K. Medina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Bakeer, I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 2341, relating to Respiratory Therapists. I have been a Registered Respiratory Therapist for twenty-six years. I hold a Bachelors of Science degree in Respiratory Therapy. I worked hard and was awarded my degree in 1990 at the age of twenty-four. I strongly support this bill. I feel it is paramount for the safety of the people of Hawaii. Healthcare workers are in a very trusted position. I walk into a complete stranger's room, and they have trust in me. I invade their personal space and they let me because I am seen as a trusted healthcare professional. It is essential health care workers are properly licensed and monitored. A patient in the hospital is in a very vulnerable position. I am a patient advocate. We need to protect the people of Hawaii and licensure for Respiratory Therapists helps us accomplish this goal. Thank you for your consideration. Much Aloha, Jennifer K. Medina, BSRT, RRT-NPS

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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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha

Ulysses Trono

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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



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.

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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 Kaya RRT

baker3 - James

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 3:20 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: ryan.bellomy@kapiolani.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM

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SB2341

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
Ryan Bellomy	Individual	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.

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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. Especially as a respiratory therapy student, it is important that going into this field that us new RT's have our license. Thank you for your consideration.

aloha

Sonja Sourivong
Respiratory Care student at Kapiolani Community College

baker3 - James

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 1:16 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: dawger23@iwon.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2341 on Feb 17, 2016 09:00AM*

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SB2341

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
Matthew Fuller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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