

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: kristinelia@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2612 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM*
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:11:23 PM

SB2612

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Kristin Elia | 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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: lesliehawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2612 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 7:10:33 AM

SB2612

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Leslie J. | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: On behalf of all licensed mental health counselors in Hawaii, please amend SB2612 Section 7, paragraph b to include mental health counselors. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: sgega717@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2612 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM*
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:08:54 PM

SB2612

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Shauna Gega | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Support for HB1937 & SB2612

I am a new Hawaii resident and a newly hired school psychologist in Hawaii; however, I am not new to the field of school psychology. I am a Past President of the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP; an organization of 650+ members), I hold a doctoral degree in school psychology, and I have maintained a current Professional Certification as a School Psychologist with the Florida DOE.

I submitted my application for a school psychologist position in the Honolulu District in August 2015. When I applied, I was aware that approximately 1/3 of the school psychology positions in the state were vacant, so I was anticipating being able to move to Hawaii and begin working relatively quickly. While I thought it might take a couple months before I could get hired, in actuality it took two months just to be offered an interview. I am confident that having a state licensure system in place would have reduced the burden of the DOE HR department from having to screen transcripts, internship, and experience components of my application, and the process could have been expedited much more quickly.

Prospective school psychology applicants who are new to the field or considering a geographic move to Hawaii have many options for employment. In comparison to Hawaii, many other states have a competitive edge with recruitment due to the fact that they can process applicants more efficiently thanks to already established licensing/credentialing procedures. In fact, the number of states with this competitive edge is 49, since Hawaii is the only state without such a licensing/credentialing practice in place.

For school psychology professionals considering relocation to Hawaii, learning that they would be practicing without a license or certification comes not only as a surprise, but as a deterrent. Professional licensure or certification protects the public by enforcing standards that restrict practice to only the qualified individuals who have met specific qualifications in education, field experience, and exams. I have already learned from my conversations with folks in Hawaii schools that doing right by our keiki is truly valued. If this sentiment is truly a part of the value system in Hawaii, then it only makes sense that we would uphold the integrity of the school psychology profession with this licensure bill to ensure children receive the same quality of school psychological services as any other state in the country.

There certainly are other factors that contribute to significant vacancies in Hawaii that need to be addressed as well. Fortunately, the accredited University of Northern Colorado school psychology graduate program that is being launched in Hawaii this Summer should begin to ameliorate the issue of not having a local training program. The introductions of such a program, along with the proposed licensing bill, are both vital steps to not only growing the number of filled school psychology positions in the state but also to maintaining the integrity of the profession in Hawaii. Ultimately, efforts like these will in turn benefit the children and community of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Troy Loker, Ph.D.