
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under existing law,
2 audiologists must be licensed as an audiologist under chapter
3 468E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and as a hearing aid dealer and
4 fitter, pursuant to chapter 451A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 However, the legislature notes that an applicant for an
6 audiologist license must meet education, examination, and
7 training requirements that far surpass the licensing
8 requirements for a hearing aid dealer and fitter. The
9 legislature further finds that requiring audiologists to hold
10 dual licensure as an audiologist and a hearing aid dealer and
11 fitter is redundant and burdensome, as audiologist licensing
12 requirements are more stringent than hearing aid dealer and
13 fitter licensing requirements.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to clarify that the
15 licensing requirements for hearing aid dealers and fitters shall
16 not apply to audiologists licensed pursuant to chapter 468E,
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes.



SECTION 2. Section 451A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§451A-2 License required. ~~[It]~~ (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person not licensed under this chapter to engage in the sale or practice of dealing and fitting of hearing aids or to use any sign, card, or device to indicate that the person is licensed.

(b) Any person wishing to obtain a license or a license by endorsement shall apply on a form prescribed by the director and shall furnish to the director:

(1) Satisfactory proof that the person is a high school graduate; and

(2) Satisfactory proof that the person has fulfilled all of the requirements for a license.

(c) An applicant shall be required to pass a licensing examination."

SECTION 3. Section 451A-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§451A-18 Persons and practices not affected. This chapter is not intended to:



H.B. NO. 1948

(1) Prohibit any person from engaging in the practice of measuring human hearing for the purpose of selection of hearing aids; provided the person or the organization employing the person does not sell hearing aids or accessories;

(2) Prohibit a person in maintaining an established business address from engaging in the business of selling or offering for sale hearing aids at retail without a license; provided that it employs persons licensed under this chapter responsible for the fitting and direct sale of such products; ~~[and]~~

(3) Apply to a person who is a physician licensed to practice in Hawaii~~[-]~~; or

(4) Apply to a person who is licensed as an audiologist pursuant to chapter 468E."

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY: _____



JAN 19 2018

By Request



H.B. NO. 1948

Report Title:

Licensing; Audiologists; Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters

Description:

Clarifies that the licensing requirements for hearing aid dealers and fitters shall not apply to audiologists licensed pursuant to chapter 468E, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

