

Testimony of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Thursday, March 28, 2019
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 777, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the list of acceptable institutions or organizations that can meet the continuing education (CE) requirements needed by naturopathic physicians for license renewal.

Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014 authorized the Board to require CE for renewal of naturopathic licenses. Since the implementation of that law, the Board has found it extremely challenging to evaluate and approve CE courses. For the Committee's information, Hawaii Revised Statutes section 455-1 defines a CE course as: "Courses approved by a professional association or organization representing a licensed profession whose program objectives are related to naturopathic medicine; provided that the professional association or organization is approved by the board." This definition of a CE course effectively excludes the Board from accepting CE courses approved by: other jurisdictions' naturopathic regulatory boards; colleges; or institutions of naturopathic medicine accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), including those located in Canadian provinces. These sources represent a significant catalogue of viable CE courses that Hawaii naturopathic physicians could use to meet the Board's CE requirements. The resultant inability of naturopathic physicians to meet the required hours of CE to renew their licenses timely may lead to disruptions in patient care.

Including licensing boards, universities, colleges, and institution of naturopathic medicine programs accredited by the CNME as acceptable approvers of CE courses would provide more possibilities for naturopathic physicians to advance their

professional training; this, in turn, will improve the quality of care for naturopathic patients and the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-777-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 8:41:27 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angelea Hollander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I ask your support for SB 777. As a voter and licensed naturopathic physician for the past 21 years, I appreciate the opportunity for ongoing clinical education to be as comprehensive as possible. This makes me a safer, more responsible physician. Thank you for your support!

With respect,

Michelle Suber, ND

To: Chair Roy Takumi
Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

From: Alysa Nguyen, ND
3615 Harding Ave, Suite 305b
Honolulu, HI 96816

Re: SB777 Relating to Health Care Professionals
March 28, 2019 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

- I am a naturopathic physician practicing currently practicing in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- I am in strong support of amending the existing law for continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians. This current law is burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. By expanding the definition of what is acceptable for continuing education, this will allow me to take courses that are of interest that are administered by medical institutions approved by naturopathic regulatory boards. As a naturopathic physician, I am constantly learning to keep abreast with the new research. The new law will help clarify as well as expand the courses that I can take that would meet my continuing education requirements.
- This is an important and straightforward bill that I urge you to support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alysa Nguyen, ND

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Alysa Nguyen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

SB-777-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 11:05:13 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori kimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Representatives,

I have been practicing Naturopathic Medicine since 1989. I concur with the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians in support of SB777. Thank you for supporting us in clarifying how we can fulfill our continuing educational requirements.

Aloha,

Dr. Lori Kimata, naturopathic physician

LATE

SB-777-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 4:37:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Rachel Klein	Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians	Support	Yes

Comments:

â€‹To: Chair Roy Takumi

â€‹Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama

â€‹Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

From:â€‹ Rachel M. Klein, ND, DC, DACNB, FIBFN-CNDH

Re:â€‹SB777 Relating to Health Care Professionals

â€‹March 28, 2019 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 329

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

- I am a naturopathic physician practicing in Hilo, Hawai'i for the past 5 years and am currently the President of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians (HSNP.) The HSNP currently assists the State Board of Naturopathic Medicine with processing continuing education requests from licensees.
- Under existing law, continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians have been confusing and needlessly burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable, and is sorely needed, by adding courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory board.
- This is an important and straightforward bill that we urge you to support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rachel Klein