

Testimony of the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2109, RELATING TO THE BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY LICENSING
ACT**

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jenny Yam, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board). The Board supports this administration bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) add and update definitions to satisfy current industry needs; (2) align and remedy inconsistencies between Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 438 and 439; (3) remove the five-year license requirement for barber and beauty operator Board member seats currently required by HRS section 438-3; (4) raise fees for penalties and disciplinary actions; and (5) remove the medical clearance requirements currently required by HRS sections 439-12.5 and 438-8.5.

The Board finds inconsistent provisions in HRS chapters 438 and 439, which add undue complexity to the regulation of barbering and cosmetology. This bill will repeal HRS chapters 438 and 439 and create a new chapter to align the regulatory structure, correct inconsistencies between HRS chapters 438 and 439, and address evolving industry concerns and needs.

In addition, this bill increases the barber apprenticeship training hours from 1,500 to 3,000 hours, which will align the apprenticeship training structure for barbers and beauty operators, and protect consumers by allowing barber apprentices an extended period in which they may gain experience and learn the practice of barbering. The Board noted that barber schools and beauty schools offer their students a structured training curriculum while under the supervision of instructors. Whereas, apprenticeships provide a varied learning experience that is dependent on the training given by each individual licensed barber or beauty operator. Although this bill will take effect on July 1, 2022, the increase of barber apprenticeship training hours is delayed until July 1, 2023,

so the Board has adequate time to amend its rules, give notice to its applicants, and facilitate the transition of licensure requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this administration bill.