

**Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board**

**Before the  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 666, RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT**

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical (Board). The Board supports and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact) to create a comprehensive process that complements the existing licensing and regulatory authority of state medical boards and provides a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license and ensuring the safety of patients.

The Board supports the Compact as it will increase access to health care – particularly for patients in underserved or rural areas. The Compact will increase the ability for physicians to practice across participating jurisdictions, but also ensure that the Board is still able to meet its legal responsibility to issue licenses to qualified, safe, and competent physicians only.

It is important to note that this Compact will also allow the Board to continue to impose fees, thereby allowing it and the Regulated Industries Complaints Office to maintain its current operations and additional requirements of this measure. Further, the Compact allows the Board to maintain its current renewal requirements as outlined in section 7 of this bill.

The Board does recognize the huge undertaking of this measure and, thus, in consultation with the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (Division), respectfully requests the following to ensure proper implementation:

1. General fund appropriation to allow the Division:

- (a) To establish, recruit, and hire an office assistant V (OA-V) to process Compact-related license applications expeditiously. The sum of \$67,876 or so much thereof may be necessary to fund this position.
  - (b) To establish, recruit, and hire a regulatory boards and commissions administrative assistant I (RBCAA I) position. The sum of \$99,896 or so much thereof may be necessary to fund this position.
  - (c) To establish, recruit, and hire a secretary II position. The sum of \$73,406 or so much thereof may be necessary to fund this position.
  - (d) To make the appropriate updates to its internal database. In consultation with the Division and its vendor, the required updates may take upwards of 500 support hours. The updates would require the creation of an API to allow the Board to share information with the IMLC Commission; create new license types specific to Compact licensure; and the development of the appropriate requirements if the Board is designated as the State of Principal License, and not just the issuing state of licensure. These hours would be added onto the already extensive daily work of the Division's developer, program analyst, and others outside of the division. Note that these updates would require additional support and maintenance outside of the budget request being made through Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' request. The sum of \$75,000 or so much thereof may be necessary to fund this request.
2. Minimally, a delayed implementation date of at least two (2) years to ensure that:
- (a) In line with the request above, the Division would need the appropriate time to establish, recruit, and hire an OA-V, RBCAA-I, and secretary II.
  - (b) The appropriate updates are made to the Division's database.
  - (c) The Board receives the proper authorization from the FBI to obtain fingerprint based criminal history record information. This will also

Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board

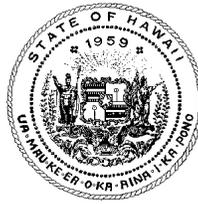
H.B. 666

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ensure that its current staff receive the proper training, certifications,  
and approval to pull this information.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**KA 'OIHANA HO'OPALEKANA LEHULEHU**  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
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**Melanie Martin**  
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Administration

**Michael J. Hoffman**  
Acting Deputy Director  
Corrections

**William Oku**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 666  
RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT

By  
Tommy Johnson, Director

House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 01, 2023; 8:30 a.m.  
CR 329 and Via Videoconference

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of House Bill (HB) 666, which seeks to adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and create a comprehensive process that complements the existing licensing and regulatory authority of state medical boards and provides a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license and ensuring the safety of patients. PSD defers to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) for their expertise on regulatory requirements.

A significant challenge for PSD has been the recruitment and retention of experienced and qualified licensed health care professionals. The national shortage of physicians and psychiatrists has been well documented. The American Medical Association (AMA), the Health Resources and Services

Testimony on HB 666  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
February 01, 2023  
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Administration (HRSA), and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) have projected an ongoing deficit in physicians and psychiatrists.

While many causes have been identified as contributors to the problem, the baby-boomer generation has reached retirement age, and the large size of this group has had unavoidable impact. The projection on the Hawaii healthcare workforce shortage presented at the 2022 Hawaii Health Workforce Summit was dismal. HB 666 would provide the State of Hawaii with a recruitment tool and a means for addressing the issue of qualified Provider shortages.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 666.

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
8:30 a.m.**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 666 RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT**

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Esther Brown, and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer of the Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO), which is an agency within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. RICO is charged with enforcing the licensing laws of various professional and trade industries in the State through the receipt, investigation and prosecution of, in this case, licensees who fall within the purview of the Hawaii Medical Board. RICO defers to and supports the Hawaii Medical Board's position on the measure's policy, administration and implementation matters. RICO offers comments on provisions that could directly impact RICO's enforcement authority, practices and/or daily operations.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Governor to enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact) on behalf of the State of Hawaii. Under the Compact, appropriately licensed and qualified physicians may apply for an "expedited license" through that physician's "state of principal license" and register for a license in a member state through a registration process established by the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (Commission). Page 9, lines 8-11, page 10, line 20 to page 11, line 4.

1. Notification of practice to the Hawaii Medical Board. A key to prompt and effective enforcement is the ability to find, locate and correctly identify licensees who may have committed acts of professional misconduct; notification is even more critical when licensees may not be domiciled in the state and may regularly travel between different jurisdictions on a multi-state privilege to practice. The measure's requirement that interested candidates make application to the Hawaii Medical Board for an

expedited license, at page 9, lines 8-11, will definitely assist rather than delay or hinder enforcement efforts.

2. Fees. The important work of the Hawaii Medical Board and its dedicated staff, and RICO staff and operations as well, are supported primarily by licensing application and renewal fees. The measure authorizes the imposition of fees per section 6(a), lines 8-11, and is therefore supportive and assistive of continuing good enforcement in this jurisdiction.

3. Licensure renewal & renewal Fees. Limiting the duration of a license through renewal cycles that require updating information and paying a renewal fee for the privilege to practice, is common and necessary for consumer safety. The renewal process helps to assure that practitioners are providing the regulatory authority with updated identification and contact information. It requires licensees to make assurances of continued good behavior while self-reporting misdeeds. It assures that practitioners are competent and current through completion of certain continuing education courses. The fees that are collected at renewal also assures a continuous revenue source for the state's regulatory program. Importantly, information learned through the renewal process that could implicate a licensing law violation including professional misconduct, are promptly referred by the Hawaii Medical Board to the RICO for investigation too. Paragraph (e) on page 11, lines 13 – 17, and section 7 of the measure which begins on page 12, line 14, addresses renewals and in doing so is supportive and assistive of continuing good enforcement in this jurisdiction.

4. Respecting the privacy rights of practitioners under investigation. Key to good enforcement is the ability to accord licensees dignity and respect when they are accused of unprofessional conduct because they are presumed innocent until proven otherwise by evidence that meets the appropriate legal standard. This measure supports and assists in this endeavor by requiring the Hawaii Medical Board to disclose only public actions or complaints to the governing body per page 14, section (b), lines 14 – 18, by making discretionary the reporting of non-public matters per page 15, section (d), lines 1-4 of the measure, and by giving the Hawaii Medical Board the option to choose to enter into joint investigations with other states and whether to share

investigative information with them as well, per section 9 of the measure on page 15 at line 20 (. . . a member board “may” participate . . . ), and on page 16, line 5 (. . . boards “may” share . . . ). These provisions in the measure also seem consistent with upholding, rather than infringing upon, the significant privacy interest that practitioners in Hawaii have when they are under investigation for fitness to have or maintain a license.

5. Miscellaneous Issue - financing. Effective enforcement is reliant on a regulatory body that is solvent. In this regard, we note for the Committee that:

a.) The governing body under the Compact has the ability to “levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state” to cover operations and activities, see page 26, section (a), lines 12 – 15; and

b.) With a State’s permission, the governing body can also pledge the credit of any member state, see page 27, section (c), lines 6-8.

6. Miscellaneous Issue – ambiguity re indemnification of Hawaii Medical Board and RICO employees. The measure protects the governing body and its hired or retained agents and employees through immunity, limitation of liability, defend/indemnify and “held harmless” provisions that run from page 28, line 10, to page 31, line 5, but on its face does not seem to go far enough to cover the regulatory entities in Hawaii should a Hawaii employee attempt to comply with mandatory provisions or rules or bylaws of the Compact that may be in conflict with provisions of existing state law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
Mayor



**Lee E. Lord**  
Managing Director

**Robert H. Command**  
Deputy Managing Director

**County of Hawai'i**  
**Office of the Mayor**

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 666**  
**A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS**

Chair, Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Vice-Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.  
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference / Conference Room 329

Aloha Honorable Chair Belatti, Honorable Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness:

The County of Hawai'i is grateful for the opportunity to express our support for HB 666, a proposal authorizing the Governor to enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to create a comprehensive process to complement the existing licensing and regulatory authority of state medical boards and provide a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license and ensuring the safety of patients.

Hawai'i Island's dire health care needs must be addressed. The 2020 state-wide Community Needs Assessment by Community First Hawai'i, Inc. illustrates that healthcare workforce shortage is very real for Hawai'i. While as many as 58% of respondents experienced health care delays in the past year due to various reasons such as the significant wait time (21%), the survey also confirms that the islands risk losing existing healthcare workforce and healthcare service capacity. The survey result also shows that 44% of health care provider respondents are thinking about moving to the mainland, 47% are leaving medicine altogether and 49% are thinking about reducing their hours.

Hawai'i County is home to many rural communities with limited health care resources. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), rural residents in the United States are more likely than urban residents to die prematurely due to five of the leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury, chronic lower respiratory disease, and stroke. As the CDC promotes the use of telehealth as a strategy to reduce chronic diseases in rural areas, the COVID-19 pandemic also triggered the wider use of telehealth for communicating and counseling.

HB 666 will increase access to health care particularly for individuals living in underserved or rural areas which our County often serves. The Compact will make easier for relocating primary care physicians and specialists to obtain license to practice within the Compact states. The Compact will also enable more physicians to delivery health care to rural residents via increased use of telehealth.

We must collectively address a spectrum of health care issues that affect the health and future of Hawaii's residents and find innovative and creative solutions. We believe that HB 666 will support the State's efforts to diversify and increase physicians while promoting the use of telehealth in rural areas.

The County of Hawai'i supports the passage of HB 666. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell D. Roth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor  
County of Hawai'i



February 1, 2023

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Health and Homelessness Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Hawaii House Bill 666

Dear Chairwoman Belatti,

On behalf of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), I would like to urge our strong support for House Bill 666, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is a pathway for expedited medical licensure that will expand access to care, streamline the licensing process for physicians, and facilitate multi-state practice and telemedicine, benefiting Hawaii patients and physicians. As we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, license portability for health professionals is critical in responding to a stressed health care system and providing patients with needed access to physicians. The FSMB supports licensure compacts for health professionals as the best mechanism to achieve license portability and, at the same time, protect patients and retain state authority over health professionals practicing in the state.

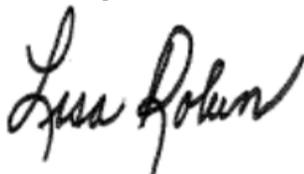
Since the IMLC legislation was released in September 2014, 37 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam have formally enacted the Compact. The Compact is supported nationally by the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association. It also has broad and consistent support from physicians, patients, and health and hospital systems across the country.

The Compact is administered by the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (IMLCC) which is comprised of two representatives appointed by each member state or territory. This Commission serves as an administrative clearinghouse among participating member states and territories. The Commission does not have regulatory control over physicians or the practice of medicine. It neither issues nor revokes licenses. It facilitates interstate cooperation and the transfer of information between member states and territories while regulatory control remains exclusively with the respective state medical boards. Since beginning the processing of expedited licensure applications in 2017, more than 52,000 medical licenses have been issued to interested physicians by compact member states. The Commission has implemented a sustainable business model based solely on user fees without the need for additional member state support or membership fees.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is a testament to the work of medical regulatory boards, physicians, and other key stakeholders to reach consensus in support of a state-based solution that simultaneously expedites state medical license portability while ensuring public protection.

Again, the FSMB strongly supports House Bill 666 and urges the Committee to recognize the benefits that this legislation will have on expanding access to care and streamlining the licensing process not only for physicians providing care in Hawaii, but also for Hawaii physicians wishing to care for patients in other states.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Robin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being more prominent than the last name "Robin".

Lisa A. Robin  
Chief Advocacy Officer

#### *About the FSMB*

*The FSMB is a national non-profit organization representing the medical boards within the United States and its territories that license and discipline allopathic and osteopathic physicians and, in some jurisdictions, other health care professionals. The FSMB serves as the voice for state medical boards, supporting them through education, assessment, research and advocacy while providing services and initiatives that promote patient safety, quality health care and regulatory best practices. The FSMB serves the public through [Docinfo.org](http://Docinfo.org), a free physician search tool that provides background information on the more than 1 million doctors in the United States.*



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023; 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol; Conference Room [329  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0666, RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0666, RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to establish a comprehensive process that complements the existing licensing and regulator authority of state medical boards and provides a streamlined process to allow physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license while ensuring patient safety.

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 0666**  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2023; 8:30 a.m.**  
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This shortage became even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic as health care facilities required staff to work consecutive double- and triple-shifts to meet the ever present demand. The situation became so pronounced that health care workers from other states had to be brought in to keep our health care facilities open.

To facilitate this influx of health workers, DCCA scrambled to permit these workers under Hawaii's professional licensure laws. In particular, the huge number of nurses brought in to Hawaii forced DCCA to shift employees from other Boards to assist the Board of Nursing to permit these nurses to work here. Yet despite these heroic efforts, it took much time and resources for these nurses to have their professional licenses verified through endorsement. So instead of treating patients, these nurses had to wait.

This bill seeks to streamline the process for physicians by adopting a standard that is utilized by multiple states in the United States. Once these qualifications are met in one state, that physician could immediately get to work in another state that adopts that standard should that physician relocate to the participating state. This will further allow our nation's limited physician stock to mobilize where there is the greatest need.

**Accordingly, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this important measure.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376  
www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS**

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Date: February 1, 2023

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Beth England MD, Co-Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

**Re: HB 666 Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

**Position: Support**

This measure adopts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) and creates an expedited pathway for currently licensed physicians to become licensed in multiple states.

This compact will promote uniformity in state licensure requirements and strengthen public protection by facilitating sharing of investigative and disciplinary information between state medical boards.

HMA supports this measure as it will improve access to care by encouraging physicians to practice in Hawaii both in person and through telehealth services.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

References and Quick Links:

Marschall S. Smith; The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission: Growth, Success, and the Future. *Journal of Medical Regulation* 1 October 2020; 106 (3): 22–26. doi: <https://doi.org/10.30770/2572-1852-106.3.22>

MOC Provisions of Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. American Medical Association. [D-275.955](#). 2015.

[FSMB Annual Report](#). Federation of State Medical Boards. Apr 2022.

**HMA OFFICERS**

President – Angela Pratt, MD President-Elect – Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD  
Immediate Past President – Michael Champion, MD Treasurer – Nadine Tenn Salle, MD  
Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD Executive Director – Marc Alexander



**February 1, 2023 at 8:30 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**

To: Chair Della Au Belatti  
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 666, Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing more than 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support** on this measure, which would authorize the state to enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Entering the compact will allow physicians to more easily practice in Hawaii, or treat patients in Hawaii through telehealth, while still meeting nationally-set standards for education and training. The compact, which is in effect in 37 states, the District of Columbia, and the Territory of Guam, allows states to continue to license physicians who meet eligibility criteria in a more streamlined fashion. This is especially important as we continue to see a shortage in physicians across the state, especially in rural areas.

The pandemic stressed an already fragile healthcare workforce shortage in the state—but it also provided opportunities for expanded telehealth and the recruitment of physicians and other clinical professionals to come in at a time of great need. Allowing the state to enter into the compact can help us to address some, if not all, of the physician recruitment and access issues Hawaii patients face, especially in rural and underserved areas. Further, entering into the compact will enable a more efficient, streamlined approach to licensing physicians in the state to begin critical work right away.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for this measure.



February 1, 2023

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

**House Bill 666 – Relating to Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 666. HAHP is a statewide partnership of Hawaii’s health plans and affiliated organizations to improve the health of Hawaii’s communities together. The vast majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a health plan associated with one of our organizations.

We appreciate the compact’s ability to relieve some of the burden on our existing health care workforce and to increase resources and access for rural communities. HAHP also recognizes that the pandemic highlighted gaps in our health care system. Workforce expansion is important to strengthening Hawaii’s health care network. We support the inclusion of the interstate physician compact to expand Hawaii’s “toolkit” for providing necessary care for our members and our community.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB 666.

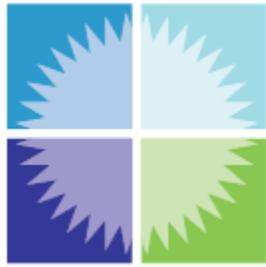
Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

[hahp.org](http://hahp.org) | 818 Keeaumoku St., Honolulu, HI 96814 | [info@hahp.org](mailto:info@hahp.org)

AlohaCare | HMAA | HMSA | Humana | HWMG | Kaiser Permanente | MDX Hawaii | Ohana Health Plan |  
UHA Health Insurance | UnitedHealthcare



# Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB666.

My name is Marschall Smith, I am the executive director of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (IMLCC).

This bill will allow Hawaii to join the IMLCC. Hawaii is a member of 22 different types of compacts; however, this would be the first healthcare related compact. Compacts are similar in organization and obligations, with the intention of creating a nationwide solution while retaining state control.

I would like to highlight some key factors about the IMLCC and the benefits for Hawaii.

There are currently 39 member jurisdictions which comprise the IMLCC - 37 member states, the Territory of Guam and the District of Columbia. Many states have used the IMLCC as an important part of the COVID pandemic emergency provisions replacement strategy. Ensuring physicians can continue treatment with established patients after the emergency provisions which initially allowed the establishment of these relationships.

The IMLCC has had 2 significant impacts on every member state that has joined:

1. An increase in licensed physician population treating patients in their state. The reported increase averages between 10 and 15% with 2 states reporting over a 30% increase year over year.

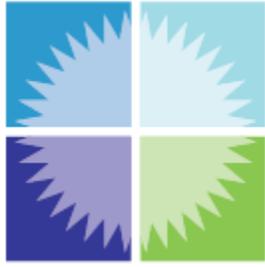
This benefits patients, hospitals and your state's economy.

More physicians also means more Physician Assistants and more Nurse Practitioners.

2. Increased efficiencies and revenues for the Hawaii Medical Board. Most states process an average of 30 transactions per week – this is the number of license requests from physicians asking for a Hawaii medical license and physicians also licensed by Hawaii asking to use the IMLCC process. At \$408.00 for a physician (MD) license, this can mean an average of \$8,000 to \$10,000 of increased license fees per week.

Member boards have reported increased staff efficiency in processing applications and the issuance of licenses. On average, all member boards issue IMLCC process requested licenses in 7 to 10 days from receipt of the application.

Five member states have passed these efficiencies to all physicians by reducing the licensing fees for all physicians – these states are Colorado, Illinois, Montana, Nevada DO Board, and Wisconsin.



# Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

The Compact is a financially stable organization. Our funds have been wisely invested so that our reserves can pay for operational expenses for 2.5 to 3 years, should the need ever arise when revenues do not cover operational expenses. However, the IMLCC is very diligent in ensuring that operational expenses are minimal and justified.

## Usage:

- Over 15,000 physicians have used the IMLCC process since 2017.
- Over 33,000 applications have been processed.
- Over 52,000 licenses have been issued by our 39 member jurisdictions.

Importantly the IMLCC uses the federalist principals to create a single application process while preserving each state's authority and right to govern the practice of medicine for its citizens receiving care in their state. Section 1 of the HB666 on line 8 affirms this principal.

## In conclusion:

- Joining the IMLCC will benefit your citizens:
  - Improved access to care.
  - Expanded opportunities for telemedicine treatment modalities.
  - Ease the treatment burden for people living in multiple states, students attending out of state institutions, and people living in rural/underserved areas. (Over 3% of licenses obtained through the IMLCC process are for the purpose of providing services in rural/unserved areas – based on a survey of 5,685 physicians.)
- Joining the IMLCC will benefit your hospitals:
  - Reducing clinician gaps.
  - Increasing the physician workforce.
  - Assisting in recruitment and credentialing
  - Expanding other providers such as Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners.
  - Increased staff retention.
- Joining the IMLCC will benefit physicians:
  - An easy to use online application – 65% of physician applicants strongly agree that the IMLCC process is beneficial. (Based on a survey of 5,685 physicians.)
  - A less expensing application process if applying to more than 2 states for licenses
  - Faster entry to practice with all requested licenses received in 7 to 10 days.
- Joining the IMLCC will benefit the Hawaii Medical Board:
  - Creating processing efficiencies
  - Increasing the number of applications
  - Increased fee revenue



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Hawaii State House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 8:30 am  
Conference Room 329  
Hawaii State Capitol

**HB666 Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact - Support**

Good morning, Chair Della Au Bellati, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness.

My name is Jocelyn Saccamago and I serve as the Regional Vice President for Hawaii and Guam of Liberty Dialysis. We are an affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care.

First, thank you Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Representatives for introducing this bill! Liberty Dialysis stands in **SUPPORT** of HB666 Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact already includes over half of the states in our Nation plus the District of Columbia and Guam. The Compact recognizes that physicians will increasingly practice in multiple states as a result of telemedicine. In 2013, the U.S. state medical boards began actively discussing the idea of creating the Compact to help streamline traditional medical-license application processes. The idea was embraced by a diverse range of state boards, and over the next several years the groundwork was laid for the creation of the Compact. With assistance from the Federation of State Medical Boards, a group of state medical board executives, administrators and attorneys drafted a model compact – which was introduced publicly in the fall of 2014. State legislatures soon began adopting it, and in April 2017, the Compact became operational (source: Interstate Medical Compact, [imlcc.org](http://imlcc.org)).

The COVID 19 pandemic has demonstrated how crucial it is for Hawaii to join in Compacts like this one which will help us to ensure access to physician care in a timely manner while also putting in place requirements that maintain quality and safety standards.

It is time for Hawaii to join our 37 sister states plus Guam and the District of Columbia in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our testimony.



February 1, 2023

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**To: House Committee on Health & Homelessness**

**Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair**

**Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**

**Jonathan Helton, Policy Researcher**

RE: HB 666 — RELATING TO THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT

***Comments Only***

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [HB666](#), which would enter Hawaii into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

If this bill is enacted, the Legislature will take an important step toward addressing Hawaii's doctor shortage, a problem that has existed for years and has become a serious obstacle to healthcare access in our state.

It is well established that Hawaii is suffering from a physician shortage. According to the most recent report from the Hawaii Physician Workforce Assessment Project, the state is currently short by approximately 776 full-time equivalent physicians.<sup>1</sup> While the greatest area of need is primary care physicians, the lack of specialists — especially in rural areas — is also severe. Moreover, that shortage does not apply to only doctors. Across the state, and especially in rural areas, Hawaii is facing shortages of experienced health professionals, from primary care providers to nurses, specialists and staff.

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<sup>1</sup> ["Annual Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project: Report to the 2023 Legislature,"](#) University of Hawaii, December 2022, p. 1

Fixing the problem requires a multipronged strategy that will address everything from Hawaii's high cost of living to the state's regulatory scheme for healthcare facilities. Perhaps most important, however, is the need to reform licensing regulations for healthcare professionals. One-fourth of all licensed workers in the U.S. work in healthcare.<sup>2</sup> Those licenses can be difficult to obtain, are expensive and carry geographic or "scope of practice" limitations.

In light of Hawaii's shortages of healthcare professionals, restrictions on healthcare workers who already hold licenses in other U.S. states seem redundant and self-defeating. As the Federal Trade Commission noted in a report on occupational licensing portability:

There is little justification for the burdensome, costly, and redundant licensing processes that many states impose on qualified, licensed, out-of-state applicants. Such requirements likely inhibit multistate practice and delay or even prevent licensees from working in their occupations upon relocation to a new state. Indeed, for occupations that have not implemented any form of license portability, the harm to competition from suppressed mobility may far outweigh any plausible consumer protection benefit from the failure to provide for license portability.<sup>3</sup>

In other words, though medical licensing is intended to protect the public, there is a point at which the level of regulation reduces the number of people in practice without an appreciable public benefit.

One study of licensing among medical professionals found that, "licensing is associated with restricted labor supply, an increased wage of the licensed occupation, rents, increased output prices, and no measurable effect on output quality."<sup>4</sup>

This is where we can benefit from the lessons of the coronavirus situation. The governor's emergency modification to state licensing laws demonstrated a need to embrace license portability, making it a simple matter for a doctor licensed in another state to practice in Hawaii.

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<sup>2</sup> Ryann Nunn, ["Improving Health Care Through Occupational Licensing Reform."](#) RealClear Markets, Aug. 28, 2018

<sup>3</sup> Karen Goldman, ["Options to Enhance Occupational License Portability."](#) Federal Trade Commission, September 2018, p. 25.

<sup>4</sup> Sean Nicholson and Carol Propper, ["Chapter Fourteen — Medical Workforce."](#) "Handbook of Health Economics," Vol. 2, Elsevier, B.V., 2012, p. 885, cited also in the previously mentioned [FTC study](#), footnote #9, p3.

The interstate compact approach outlined in this bill would streamline licensing for physicians, making it easier for doctors from participating states to practice in Hawaii without facing time-consuming, costly and redundant regulatory hurdles.

The state would retain its control over Hawaii licensure requirements, but would simultaneously increase the pool of doctors able to practice in Hawaii and shorten the time it would take for them to begin working here.

At present, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact [includes](#) 37 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. Five additional states have introduced legislation to join as well. Years of successful implementation testify to the safety and effectiveness of this approach to license reciprocity.

According to the [IMLC](#), its purpose is to serve as “an administrative clearinghouse of licensing and disciplinary information among participating member states and territories. The Commission does not have regulatory control over physicians or the practice of medicine. It neither issues nor revokes licenses. Its only purpose is to facilitate interstate cooperation and the transfer of information between member states and territories.”

Joining the IMLC would be an important step toward attracting more doctors to our state, thereby addressing our physician shortage and improving healthcare access for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Helton  
Policy Researcher,  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: February 1, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of HB 666: Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

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The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in **support** of HB 666, relating to the interstate medical licensure compact. This measure would adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) to create a process that complements the existing licensing and regulatory authority of state medical boards and provides a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license while ensuring the safety of Hawai'i patients.

The intent of the IMLC is one shared by Queen's—increased access to quality health care. The Compact makes it possible to extend the reach of physicians, improve access to medical specialists and leverage the use of medical technologies, such as telemedicine. While making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states, the Compact also has the added benefit of potentially enhancing the ability of partner states to share investigative and disciplinary information.

Recognizing that physicians will increasingly practice in multiple states as a result of increased use of telemedicine, medical boards in 2013 began actively discussing the idea of creating the IMLC in order to streamline traditional medical-license application processes. Introduced in 2014 with assistance from the Federation of State Medical Boards, the IMLC is a legal agreement between participating states to streamline the licensing process for providers that wish to practice across state lines. Currently more than half of the United States, the District of Columbia, and Guam belong to the IMLC.

The COVID-19 pandemic in particular has demonstrated the importance of flexibility, preparedness, and the supply of medical professionals during a health crisis. Staffing shortages have become one of the major issues for healthcare systems globally and locally as the COVID-19

*The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*

pandemic continues to evolve. Having the ability to more easily and safely work across state lines to employ necessary and lifesaving help during times of a pandemic is an important safeguard for Hawai'i to have in place - this is even more imperative for our neighbor island communities where existing medical personnel shortages pose greater challenges.

Looking beyond the public health emergency, one important way lawmakers and health care regulators can permanently facilitate access to care is by allowing providers and patients to connect with each other regardless of their physical location. States are moving quickly to give healthcare providers the freedom to practice across state lines, opening the door to broader and more flexible telehealth networks and improved access to care.

Upon licensure via the IMLC, a physician will be under the jurisdiction of the medical board in the state where the patient is located. Thus, the Hawai'i Medical Board preserves its authority since physicians will still have to be vetted and licensed to practice in Hawai'i in accordance with Hawai'i's standards. The IMLC also strengthens public protection by enhancing the ability of states to share investigative and disciplinary information. The IMLC provides that any disciplinary action that is taken by a member state's medical licensing board against a physician licensed through the compact is deemed unprofessional conduct that may be subject to discipline by other member boards, in addition to any violation of the medical practice act or laws in that state.

Queen's respectfully requests your support of HB 666.



February 1, 2023

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness

**Re: HB 666 – Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of on HB 666, which will adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to provide a streamlined process that will allow physicians to become licensed in multiple states.

HMSA strongly believes in strengthening access to quality health care services in the state of Hawaii. Participation in the physician compact can help, particularly in rural and underserved communities where the need is greatest. The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact currently includes 37 states, the District of Columbia, and the Territory of Guam. In these jurisdictions, physicians are licensed in 50 different medical and osteopathic boards.

While we recognize that becoming part of an interstate compact is not a silver bullet, it can be one tool in our tool belt to address the needs of our community. Physician licensure by endorsement in Hawaii can typically takes anywhere from 45 to 120 days once an application is filed with the Hawaii Medical Board. By contrast, the IMLC says the process of issuing licenses in its member states usually takes only a few days. By providing an opportunity for providers who are already licensed in other states to practice in Hawaii, we can expand and support our current health care workforce while making it easier for Hawaii residents to access health care in the place they're located at the time when they need it.

For Hawaii to join the IMLC, legislation must be introduced to enact a bill authorizing the state to join. NOTE: The language of this bill<sup>1</sup> cannot be altered in any way and must be consistent between each participating state. We support the legislature's intent to address the shortage of physicians in the state while ensuring the safety of our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 666.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Diesman  
Senior Vice President, Government Policy and Advocacy

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<sup>1</sup> Interstate Medical Licensure Compact bill language. <https://www.imlcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/IMLC-Compact-Law.pdf>

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 8:30AM  
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 329

**House Committee on Health & Homelessness**

To: Representative Della Belatti, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

From: Leslie Chun, MD  
CEO, Hawai'i Pacific Health Medical Group

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 666  
Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**

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My name is Leslie Chun, MD and I am the CEO of the Hawai'i Pacific Health Medical Group (HPHMG) The HPHMG is a non-profit subsidiary of Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH) and was formed to further our vision and mission: *To be the leader in health care transformation and to create a healthier Hawaii.* HPH is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of HB 666 which creates a comprehensive process that complements the existing licensing and regulatory authority of state boards. The bill also establishes a streamlined process allowing physicians to become licensed in multiple states and enhances the portability of a medical license.

Participating in the compact will allow physicians to more easily practice in Hawai'i, or treat patients in Hawai'i through telehealth, while still meeting nationally-established standards for education and training. The compact, which is in effect in 37 states, the District of Columbia, and the Territory of Guam, allows states to license physicians who meet eligibility criteria in a more streamlined fashion. This is especially important as we continue to see a shortage in physicians across the state, especially in rural areas and on the Neighbor Islands.

The compact alone will not solve the issues we have with our healthcare workforce. Affordability, below-cost reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid, and the realities of retaining physicians in rural communities are still issues that must be addressed in partnership with many other stakeholders and policy-makers. However, entering the compact can help to ease recruitment of physicians, especially for specialty care that may be hard to access otherwise.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-666**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 11:20:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/1/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alec Marentic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the intent of this bill to streamline the licensing process.

**HB-666**

Submitted on: 1/27/2023 9:13:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/1/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support