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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 144, S.D. 1, RELATING TO CHIROPRACTIC

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rochelle Araki, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Board of Chiropractic (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill are to (1) beginning 7/1/2027 allow chiropractic students enrolled in a qualified chiropractic college to engage in clinical practice as part of their college instruction if directly supervised by a qualified licensed chiropractor; and (2) require the Hawaii Board of Chiropractic to adopt rules.

The Board appreciates the amendments made to this bill, which allows the Board the time needed to adopt rules pertaining to the clinical practice of a student under direct supervision.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 7:50:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayelina Publico	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou. My name is Kayelina Publico and I am a University of Manoa's Social Sciences program student, graduating in May 2025. I am not for the SB144 SD1 bill that allows chiropractic students enrolled in a qualified chiropractic college to engage in clinical practice, though this requires direct supervision by a superior. I believe the bill needs amendment in that students who have completed at least 2 years of academic schooling with a minimum GPA of 3.5 may begin to earn institutional hours with supervision.

I have had back problems since I was 18 years old due to poor posture, macromastia which is the genetic condition of larger breasts, the breaking of my tailbone sometime in 2021, and extremely long hours performing physical labor for a full-time job. This pain persisted until I sought proper help in 2023 through my local chiropractor. While following his prescribed plan of 2 meetings for 8 weeks with a monthly check-in correction once a month did alleviate most of my pain, I received one incorrect neck adjustment that incited pain and tingles throughout my spine for the rest of the week. I did not return to the clinic after that, scared of worsening adjustments.

According to the American Chiropractic Association, I believe that this science is more than helpful with 3 out of 4 people who saw chiropractic in the last year describing the care as "very effective." 94% of manual-thrust manipulation (chiropractic) recipients experienced pain reduction by 30%.

I want to reiterate that though I sound in support of this bill. I want it to be as sound as possible so that students are deliberate and careful with the bodies they are amending. Some damage can be mended but I want to ensure that citizens of Hawai'i seeking medical help are given the most qualified and prepared care possible. Total Health Systems says that chiropractic research can aid fertility for women seeking to have children but Mornington Peninsula Chiropractic Centre reports that safety concerns are prevalent in this type of care when it comes to spinal manipulation injuries, similar to the sensations I felt with my incorrect adjustment.

I just want to make sure students have a secure and working knowledge of the human body and how to care for it before placing their hands on a body in pain.

Thank you for your time.

To the esteemed lawmakers of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

The strength of any profession lies not only in the expertise of its practitioners but in the pathways via which they are trained. Senate Bill 144 recognizes this reality, addressing a critical gap in Hawaii's chiropractic licensing laws by allowing students to gain supervised, hands-on experience in their field. This bill does not alter the standards required for attaining a license as a chiropractor —it simply acknowledges that the best education comes from praxis as opposed to mere theory.

The imperative need for this measure is clear. Hawaii faces a shortage of chiropractors, a reality that limits access to care for many communities. Senior citizens require body experts to heal tired limbs and renew healing systems after surgeries. The absence of such training opportunities in Hawaii for student chiropractors places the state among a small minority of jurisdictions that have yet to make this practical adjustment. This bill corrects that oversight, bringing Hawaii in line with best practices across the country.

Beyond the immediate need for more trained chiropractors, the bill also speaks to a larger principle: that education must be grounded in real-world experience. A profession that is centered on physical care cannot be fully learned in the mere confines of a classroom. Hands-on training allows students to develop the necessary practical skills, well-honed communication, and clinical judgment. Without structured, supervised opportunities to apply their knowledge, students are left at a disadvantage—one that ultimately affects the quality of care available to the public citizenry.

This is not a matter of lowering standards, indeed it is a matter of raising them. The bill ensures that aspiring chiropractors do not enter the field lacking critical experience, and it does so without compromising the integrity of the licensing process. It acknowledges that mentorship and guided practice are not just valuable but fundamental to professional excellence.

Years from now, those who examine Hawaii's approach to healthcare education will look to decisions like this. They will see either a system that adapted to the needs of its people or one that allowed unnecessary and therefor unethical barriers to remain. Senate Bill 144 is a step toward a more practical, forward-thinking approach to healthcare training—one that prioritizes both professional preparedness and patient well-being.

For these reasons, I urge the passage of this bill. The future of healthcare in Hawaii depends not only on those who currently practice but on those who are preparing to do so. Let us give them the tools to succeed.

Best,

Tlaloc Ollin

LATE**LATE****SB-144-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:38:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill creating a preceptor program for chiropractic students. However, please DO NOT delay its implementation. Instead if waiting 2 years for rules to be made, we strongly encourage that the key issues be addressed in the bill. The HSCA has spoken with the Board & we understand that key issues are:

-licensed chiropractor must have been practicing for at least 5 years

-licensed chiropractor must be physically within the building

-students must be enrolled in a CCE accredited school.

mahalo!

Ann

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:32:10 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean Shivvers	Testifying for Hawaii State Chiropractic Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii State Chiropractic Association supports this bill because it will encourage more Chiropractors professionals to come to Hawaii.

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:36:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raya Keliinui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:37:03 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Deane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to support this bill because of how it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii.

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:38:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rory King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:38:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jillian Nitschelm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:39:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill beacuse it will bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii.

LATE**LATE****SB-144-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:40:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennae Leleo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jennae Leleo and I am a chiropractic assistant in the state of Hawai'i. I am submitting testimony in support of SB144 and ask for the passing of this bill to allow chiropractic students the ability to train in existing offices in Hawai'i. I have experienced first-hand the great benefits of chiropractic care and I believe in giving students who are wishing to be in the chiropractic field, the opportunity to witness the same benefits. Thank you.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:43:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaichu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of hawaii.

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:43:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Koziol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii.

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:44:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mialoha Rhealyn Dinong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawai'i

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:44:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Radke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:53:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle A Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill as it will bring qualified Chiropractors to our state of Hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:09:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Blanchon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to support this bill because it help absolutely help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii!

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:11:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Leonardi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:20:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Haine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it will help bring more qualified Chiropractors to Hawaii!

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:30:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chyladiamone Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:39:00 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea Sosa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii.

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:41:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:12:52 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Gillum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:17:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea I	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:26:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonah Carignan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawaii.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:28:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige Leonard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring chiropractics to Hawai'i

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:31:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beannalyn Tedtaotao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill because it will help bring qualified chiropractors to the state of hawaii.

LATE **LATE**

SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 8:45:08 PM
Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nawai Emmsley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support to this bill because it will bring qualified chiropractors to the state of Hawai'i.

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SB-144-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:20:24 AM
Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support this bill