

JAN 28 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PHYSICIAN CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that proper nutrition has
2 been shown to reduce the frequency and severity of chronic
3 diseases in the United States.

4 The legislature also finds that nutrition and metabolic
5 health education provides essential knowledge that demonstrates
6 the connection between dietary habits and physical and mental
7 well-being.

8 The legislature further finds that the continuing medical
9 education curriculum for physicians should include training in
10 nutrition and metabolic health. Continuing medical education
11 serves to improve, develop, and expand physician knowledge,
12 skill, and performance to support high-quality medical care.
13 Requiring physicians to receive education in nutrition and
14 metabolic health will equip them with a stronger understanding
15 of dietary principles and metabolic function, enabling them to
16 offer informed recommendations that help prevent and manage
17 chronic diseases.

S.B. NO. 3124

SECTION 2. Section 453-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) A physician, osteopathic physician, or surgeon shall meet the category 1 or 1A continuing medical education requirements by obtaining credit hours in a category 1 or 1A continuing medical education program accredited by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association or in other approved category 1 or 1A continuing medical education as provided in the board's rules~~[-]~~; provided that one hour of continuing medical education shall be on nutrition and metabolic health. To determine compliance, the board may conduct a random audit. A physician, osteopathic physician, or surgeon selected for audit shall be notified by the board. Within sixty days of notification, the physician, osteopathic physician, or surgeon shall provide to the board documentation to verify compliance with the category 1 or 1A continuing medical education requirements."

SECTION 3. No later than December 31, 2026, the Hawaii medical board shall adopt rules to implement section 2 of this Act.


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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken.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

S.B. NO. 3124

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that section 2 of this Act shall take effect on January
3 1, 2027.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

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BY REQUEST

S.B. NO. 3124

Report Title:

Hawaii Medical Board; Physician; Nutrition; Continuing Medical Education Requirement

Description:

Requires nutrition and metabolic education as part of the physician continuing medical education requirements.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Governor

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICIAN
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION.

PURPOSE: To require nutrition and metabolic health
education as part of the physician
continuing medical education requirements.

MEANS: Amend section 453-6(c), Hawaii Revised
Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: Current physician continuing medical
education requirements lack sufficient
nutrition and metabolic health training. Nutrition education provides essential
knowledge about the relationship between
dietary habits and overall well-being. A
foundational understanding of proper
nutrition can serve as a preventive health
measure, reducing the incidence and severity
of chronic disease. Strengthening
preventative health care efforts will also
result in cost savings for patients and
health care systems, particularly in rural
communities where access to medical services
may be limited.

This bill is needed to require physicians to
complete one hour of nutrition and metabolic
health education as part of their continuing
medical education obligation.

Impact on the public: The bill serves the
public interest by enhancing physician
knowledge in nutrition and metabolic health,
enabling providers to offer higher quality
recommendations and counseling that support
the prevention, treatment, and management of
chronic diseases. Improved physician
competency in these areas will promote
better health outcomes and overall community
well-being.

Impact on the department and other agencies:

The bill will impact the Hawaii Medical Board and the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs by amending the continuing medical education associated with physician license renewal, including the adoption of rules.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION:

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
- Hawaii Medical Board, Department of
Health, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation,
and Department of the Attorney General.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval with a delayed effective date
of January 1, 2027, for section 2 of the
bill.