

ACT 14

S.B. NO. 2341

A Bill for an Act Relating to Respiratory Therapists.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that chapter 466D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establishes the regulation of respiratory therapists, which is set to repeal on June 30, 2016. Furthermore, pursuant to chapter 26H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the auditor is required to evaluate newly enacted occupational regulatory programs prior to each board's, commission's, or regulatory program's repeal date.

The legislature further finds that an auditor's report from June 2015 finds that the regulation of respiratory therapists is reasonably necessary to protect the health and safety of consumers. The findings also note that licensure of respiratory therapists is consistent with other health-related occupations, such as doctors and nurses, and is warranted because consumers' health and safety may be jeopardized by the nature of services offered by respiratory therapists. Furthermore, every state except Alaska regulates respiratory therapists.

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The purpose of this Act is to make permanent the regulation of respiratory therapists under chapter 466D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which will ensure the health and safety of Hawaii residents and visitors.

SECTION 2. Section 26H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§26H-4 Repeal dates for newly enacted professional and vocational regulatory programs. (a) Any professional or vocational regulatory program enacted after January 1, 1994, and listed in this section shall be repealed as specified in this section. The auditor shall perform an evaluation of the program, pursuant to section 26H-5, prior to its repeal date.

~~[(b) Chapter 466D (respiratory therapists) shall be repealed on June 30, 2016.~~

~~(e)]~~ (b) Chapter 436H (athletic trainers) shall be repealed on June 30, 2018.

~~[(d)]~~ (c) Chapter 465D (behavior analysts) shall be repealed on June 30, 2021.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2016.

(Approved April 25, 2016.)