

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013

Monday, March 25, 2013  
3:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1075, RELATING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY.**

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Michael Turner, PT, Vice Chair for the Board of Physical Therapy (“Board”). The Board appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 1075, Relating to Physical Therapy, which is an Administration bill.

The purpose of this bill is require a total of thirty continuing competence units for physical therapists at every renewal period, beginning with the December 31, 2016, renewal period. This will be accomplished by adding new sections to chapter 461J, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), and amending sections 461J-1 and 461J-10, HRS. The nature of physical therapy practice is such that it requires clinical decision making in the choice of treatment with the intent of improving a person’s physical functioning and wellbeing. Inherent in this decision making process are treatment options which may be helpful, harmful, or neutral with regard to the impact on a person’s physical functioning and wellbeing. Minimizing the practice of ineffective or potentially harmful techniques requires an awareness of the current clinical research and methods.

The availability of direct access to physical therapy services without the requirement of physician referral was adopted in Hawaii in December of 2010. As a result, physical therapists may now function as a first point of contact with patients. This places greater responsibility on the physical therapy practitioner and increases the importance of the need for ensuring continuing competence in the practice of physical therapy.

Currently, there are only a few states that do not have either a continuing education ("CE") or a continuing competence ("CC") requirement. The only three states that do not have statutory language authorizing the state boards of physical therapy to require either CE or CC of its licensees are Hawaii, South Dakota, and Maine.

This bill requires that, beginning with the December 31, 2016 license renewal cycle, licensees must accumulate thirty units of approved continuing competence units in each two-year license cycle. This requirement will ensure that the physical therapy professional remains current and up-to-date in the practice. It will also ensure that the physical therapy professional will practice in a safe, ethical, and legal manner that minimizes risk to all patients, the public consumer, fellow clinicians, and the practitioner.

The Board is in full support of this bill and we respectfully request your support for this Administration bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.