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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Intrastate Commerce
and
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
2:01 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 521, RELATING TO OCULARISTS**

Chair Ohno, Chair Takumi, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Dispensing Opticians Program. The Department supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to specify that a certified ocularist, certified by a nationally recognized ocularistry certifying board, may perform duties within the scope of that certification.

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 458-14, a certified ocularist recognized by the American Society of Ocularists may practice within the scope of that certification, provided that the ocularist: (1) performs only those functions dealing with the designing, fitting, and fabricating of artificial eyes, and not contact lenses of refractive value; and (2) is under the supervision of a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist. This bill clarifies that ocularists must be certified by the American Board of

Testimony of DCCA

H.B. 521

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Ocularistry, the National Examining Board of Ocularists, or any other nationally recognized ocularistry certifying board. This requirement will benefit Hawaii consumers by raising the credentialing standards of ocularists practicing in the State.

The Department further acknowledges that, although this bill amends HRS chapter 458, which governs dispensing opticians, this bill does not alter or impact their scope of practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-521

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 5:07:38 PM

Testimony for IAC on 2/13/2019 2:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doss tannehill	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB 521

Dear Committee Chairs Ohno and Takumi and Members of the Joint Committees on Interstate Commerce and Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I would like to testify in support of HB 521.

I am a second generation ocularist who has been practicing in Hawaii for over 46 years. During that time I have had the privilege of improving the lives of thousands of your constituents. I am a past president of the American Society of Ocularists and am currently the president of the International Academy of Ocularistry. I am board certified by the American Board of Ocularistry (ABO) and the National Examining Board of Ocularists (NEBO).

HB 521 would allow for the expansion of the number of certification boards that fulfill the requirements for licensure in the state of Hawaii.

The ABO was formed in response to NEBO's loss of accreditation due to a failure to comply with the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) standards. The ABO was structured to comply with the standards of the NCCA and is currently moving towards accreditation. The secondary impetus for the creation of the ABO was to form a certifying body that would evaluate candidates based on an elevated standard of ocularistry care. A key component of this change was to move from anecdotal to evidence based practice.

Nearly every day one of my patients will ask me "who will take care of me when you retire?" I am the only board certified ocularist in Hawaii and I will retire in the foreseeable future. Having another certifying board will ensure that there will be a certified ocularist in Hawaii to serve and care for our people who are in need of an ocular prosthesis. With the change in the statute an ocularist can be certified by the ABO, NEBO or any other nationally recognized certifying board.

This bill does nothing more than give certified ocularists the opportunity to practice in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doss K. Tannehill BS, BCO, FIAO

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Honolulu, HI 9681808

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HB-521

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:54:34 PM

Testimony for IAC on 2/13/2019 2:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy McDevitt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Timothy F. McDevitt, MD

1380 Lusitana Street, Suite 708

Honolulu, HI 96816

HB 521

Dear Chairs and Members of the Joint Committees:

I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 521.

I am an oculoplastic surgeon who has been practicing in Hawaii for over 20 years.

Many of my patients are those who have had their eye removed or who have a blind and disfigured eye for various reasons: cancer, trauma and disease.

It is necessary for our state to have the services of a board certified ophthalmologist. Doss Tannehill has been that ophthalmologist for over 47 years. When he retires there will be a void to be filled. By having another certifying board this will allow for more certified ophthalmologists to practice in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy F. McDevitt, MD

LATE

HB-521

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 1:40:12 PM

Testimony for IAC on 2/13/2019 2:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-521

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 5:28:06 PM

Testimony for IAC on 2/13/2019 2:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Young MD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

David Young, MD

1319 Punahou Street, Suite1030

Honolulu, HI 96826

HB 521

Dear Committee Chairs and Members of the Joint Committees:

I am in support of HB 521.

I am a pediatric ophthalmologist here in Hawaii.

I have patients who need to have the services of a certified ocularist in Hawaii. My patients need these services for a myriad of reasons: cancer, microphthalmos (born with a small eye, anophthalmos (born without an eye), trauma and diseases. An ocularist not only makes and fits an ocular prosthesis but also fits progressively larger conformers to increase the eye socket to obtain symmetry for those patients who have microphthalmos or anophthalmos before making a custom ocular prosthesis. These patients need a lifetime of care by an ocularist.

Doss Tannehill has provided these services, as did his father, for decades. He will retire one day and we will need someone to replace him. With another certifying board this will broaden the number of certified ocularists who may wish to practice in Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Young, MD