

# SB777

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.
Report Title:	Naturopathic Medicine; Continuing Education; Licensure Requirements
Description:	Clarifies the list of acceptable institutions or organizations that can meet the continuing education requirements needed by naturopathic physicians for license renewal.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	BAKER

## **Testimony of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Thursday, February 21, 2019  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

### **On the following measure: S.B. 777, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the list of acceptable institutions or organizations that can meet the continuing education (CE) requirements needed by naturopathic physicians for license renewal.

Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014 authorized the Board to require CE for renewal of naturopathic licenses. Since the implementation of that law, the Board has found it extremely challenging to evaluate and approve CE courses. For the Committee's information, Hawaii Revised Statutes section 455-1 defines a CE course as: "Courses approved by a professional association or organization representing a licensed profession whose program objectives are related to naturopathic medicine; provided that the professional association or organization is approved by the board." This definition of a CE course effectively excludes the Board from accepting CE courses approved by: other jurisdictions' naturopathic regulatory boards; colleges; or institution of naturopathic medicine programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education. The current law has led to a significant decrease in acceptable CE courses that Hawaii-licensed naturopathic physicians may use to meet the Board's CE requirements. The resultant inability of naturopathic physicians to renew their licenses timely may lead to a disruption of patient care.

Including universities, colleges, and institution of naturopathic medicine programs accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education as acceptable CE courses would provide more possibilities for naturopathic physicians to advance their

Testimony of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine

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professional training; this, in turn, will improve the quality of care for naturopathic patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

To: Chair Rosalyn Baker  
Vice Chair Stanley Chang  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Michael Traub, ND  
Legislative Committee Chair  
Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians

Re: SB777 Relating to Health Care Professionals  
February 21, 2019 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 229

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

- I am a naturopathic physician practicing in Hawaii for the past 34 years in Kailua Kona, and currently serve as Legislative Committee Chair for the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians (HSNP).
- Under existing law, continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians have been confusing and needlessly burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable, and is sorely needed, by adding courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory board.
- This is an important and straightforward bill that we urge you to support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Michael Traub, ND  
Chair, HSNP Legislative Committee

**SB-777**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 8:46:22 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Ye Nguyen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-777**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 8:16:29 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marsha Lowery ND	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Under existing law, continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians have been confusing and needlessly burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable, and is sorely needed, by adding courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory board.

This is an important and straightforward bill that we urge you to support.

**SB-777**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 1:09:17 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lori kimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-777**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 5:40:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bonnie Marsh	Testifying for UpCountry Doctor	Support	No

Comments:

Please expand our options as Naturopathic Physicians to obtain continuing education hours for our licensing requirements.

mahalo,

Dr. Bonnie Marsh

Haiku Town, Maui



To: Chair Rosalyn Baker  
Vice Chair Stanley Chang  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

From Karen Tan, ND, MAcOM, LAc  
Center for Innovative Medicine, LLC

Re: SB777 Relating to Health Care Professionals  
February 21, 2019 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 229

Dear Senator Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

I am a Naturopathic Physician and Licensed Acupuncturist in private practice in Honolulu since 1995.

Under existing law, continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians have been confusing and needlessly burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable, and is sorely needed, by adding courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory board.

This is an important and straightforward bill that I urge you to support SB777.

Mahalo

Aloha

Karen Tan, ND, MAcOM, LAc

**SB-777**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:42:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristen Coles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-777**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 7:55:20 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katherine Pomeroy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an ND on Hawaii Island, I'm in support of SB777. Under existing law, continuing education requirements for naturopathic physicians have been confusing and needlessly burdensome on licensees as well as those responsible for administering the requirement. This bill would help to clarify what courses are acceptable by adding courses that are approved by accredited naturopathic medical schools or another naturopathic regulatory board. It would also expand the scope of education choices we need for naturopathic practice.

Thanks,

Katherine Pomeroy, ND

**SB-777**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:16:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
steven Dubey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Dr STEve Dubey , ND Lac, practicing Naturopathic Physician for the last 37 years in LIhue, Kauai.

I support SB 777 that expands acceptable organizations approving naturopathic medicine continuing education courses.

Naturopathic medical colleges and naturopathic boards provide a credible and discerning source of professional oversight for naturopathic continuing education courses. Adding these institutions and boards provides relevant and expanded options for the naturopathic doctor to assist in providing course material in naturopathic medical practice and pharmacology with the highest professional standard.

Please pass SB 777.

Thank you !

Steven Dubey ND LAc

Natural Health Clinic

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Lihue , HI 96766

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