

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2616

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2008

RE: S.B. No. 3028

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
Affordable Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 3028 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GRADUATES OF FOREIGN
ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure that all applicants
granted an acupuncture license meet equivalent standards of
training and education.

Specifically, this measure requires foreign-educated
acupuncture applicants to have their educational information
evaluated by a board approved and designated professional
evaluator to determine curriculum equivalency.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the
Board of Acupuncture.

Section 436E-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires the Board
of Acupuncture to ensure that applicants for acupuncture
examination and licensure meet the same high standards for
acupuncture education, regardless of whether applicants attend a
program located in the United States or in a foreign country.
Unlike a national accrediting body that oversees U.S. acupuncture
programs, a similar accrediting body to oversee the foreign
acupuncture education programs does not exist, which forces the
Board of Acupuncture to undertake duties similar to that of an
accrediting body to meet its requirements under section 436E-5,
Hawaii Revised Statutes, with respect to foreign applicants.

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Your Committee finds that this measure will ensure educational equivalency requiring, at the applicant's expense, a professional credentialing evaluator with the expertise and resources to appropriately evaluate foreign curriculum and transcripts. This will assist the Board of Acupuncture in expediting the applications from graduates of foreign acupuncture programs, and ensure that all applicants for acupuncture, regardless of the country location of their education, meet the standards of acupuncture education.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3028 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Affordable
Housing,



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing
CPH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 3028	HTH, CPH	2/22/08

The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (C)	✓			
IGE, David Y. (VC)				✓
ESPERO, Will	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
TANIGUCHI, BRIAN T.	✓			
TRIMBLE, Gordon	✓			
TOTAL	5			2

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: *Will Espero*

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes