

SB 2645



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**PRESENTATION OF THE
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

AND

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Tuesday, February 9, 2010
2:30 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2645, RELATING TO HEALTHCARE.

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is Celia Suzuki, Acting Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division ("PVLD") of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. PVLD appreciates the opportunity to testify on S.B. No. 2645, Relating to Healthcare. PVLD opposes this bill.

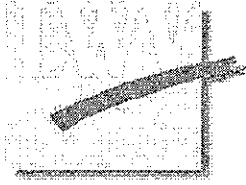
PVLD acknowledges that the purpose and provisions of the bill are laudable and appreciates any initiative that will assist with the shortage of physicians that accept Medicaid or Medicaid-like patients. PVLD notes, however, that targeting DCCA

application and renewal fees as a means to this end is contrary to the statutory responsibility we have to collect fees to support our licensing program and services. It also appears contrary to the support we have received that costs for regulation and licensing are to be borne by the applicant and licensee. Further, it sets bad precedence.

Moreover, this bill does not define the proof necessary to meet the waiver criteria. Is it a certification statement from the applicant and renewing licensee or will it be a verification document from a facility, institution, or agency? If a certification from the applicant or renewing licensee, this could be prone to abuse. If a verification document, this would impose another layer of review and services provided by PVLD, yet no fee for services (and the additional service) will be paid.

PVLD has demonstrated its sensitivity to economic conditions and its impact on licensees and reduced online renewal fees for the last three biennial renewal cycles for physicians (a span of six years). This has benefited all physicians, as well as the entire constituency of PVLD that similarly received the online renewal reduction. As a regulator, PVLD must ensure its processing and treatment of its client base is equitable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2645.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY OF SB2645 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE: WAVING THE
MEDICAL LICENSING FEES FOR PHYSICIANS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

Committee on Human Services
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
2:30 pm.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

Testifier: Joy A Marshall, RN, Health Care Reform Chair, League of Women Voters of
Hawaii

Chairs Oakland and Baker, Vice Chairs, Ihara, Jr., and Ige

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 2645. We are aware this amount
could prove to be much less than the cost of administrating and billing for these patients.

We also wish to encourage the committees to seek additional ways to encourage the
delivery of health care services to the undeserved and those on Medicaid and Medicaid-
like patients

This could include but not be limited to tort/malpractice reform legislation that would
encourage reductions in cost, establishing maximum and timely levels of public
reimbursement to providers, mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive
treatment and additional forgiveness of loans incurred here in the state as physicians
complete their education/training and stay to practice in Hawaii



February 9, 2010
Tuesday
2:30 PM
Conference Room 016

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator David Y Ige, Vice-Chair

From: Raydeen M Busse, MD, Chair
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section

Re: **SB 2645 RELATING TO HEALTHCARE**

Dear Chairs Chun Oakland and Baker, and Vice Chairs Ihara and Ige, and Committee Members:

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Hawaii Section, supports SB2645. We strongly support any incentives that addresses the needs of the medically underserved in Hawaii by waiving the Hawaii medical licensing and renewal fee to physicians who have a high percentage of Medicaid/Quest patients for whom they provide care.

As obstetrician/gynecologists, we have first-hand knowledge regarding the outcomes of our current physician shortage here on Oahu as well as on the neighbor islands. We are called upon to care for complications that arise in pregnant women who have not received timely prenatal care or any prenatal care due to not being able to find a physician in their area of residence. We have physicians who have left their practices in Hawaii due to the high cost of running a medical practice here leaving large areas of our state uncovered or under-covered for our specialty. All of this adds to ultimately more costly care for a complication rather than for "routine" preventative care.

Hawaii ACOG has always supported issues of importance to women and their families, especially to those who are underserved; and we strongly support SB 2645. During these trying and economically stressful times, the waiving of our medical licensing fees would be a small but important step towards improving medical care for the people of Hawaii. The community and physicians who serve them needs this assistance to assure the well-being of our new mothers and babies.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this testimony.