

HAWAII BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Professional & Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

- Date: Monday, November 25, 2019
- Time: 9:00 a.m.
- Place: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
- Present: Peter J. Shoji, O.D., Chair (“CH”)
Robb Shibayama, O.D., Vice Chair (“VC”)
Seulyn L. Au, O.D.
K. Paul Chin, O.D.
Wallace Kojima, O.D.
Scott Kubota, Public Member
Darek Sato, Public Member
Daniel Jacob, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Christopher Fernandez, Executive Officer (“EO”)
LaJoy Lindsey, Secretary
- Excused: None.
- Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, as required by section 92-7(b), of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”).
1. Call to Order: There being a quorum present, Chair Shoji called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
 2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2019: Chair Shoji asked if there were any comments or concerns regarding the Board minutes of the September 30, 2019 meeting. There being none, upon a motion by Dr. Au, seconded by Dr. Kojima, it was unanimously carried approve the minutes of the meeting as circulated.
 3. Executive Officer’s Report
 - a. Disciplinary Actions

EO Fernandez reported that there were no disciplinary actions through

November 2019.

b. Report on American Academy of Optometry study “An Analysis of the Optometric Applicant Pool Relative to Matriculants”

EO Fernandez reported that he had included the article in the meeting packet for the Board’s information and turned explanation of the findings to Chair Shoji due to its technical nature.

Chair Shoji stated that the information was interesting in that in the past 8 years the average applicant pool did not increase for optometry nationally. But, there was an increase in matriculating students by 10% which showed that there was an increase of students repeating courses, failing, or just not finishing their education. Chair Shoji reported that the conclusion was that optometry schools may be accepting some students unprepared for the coursework, in other words subpar, but that they are also accepting students who are prepared.

4. Operational Manual Policies Review

EO Fernandez instructed the Board to add the Policies and Procedures regarding Discrimination/Harassment-Free Workplace Policy (Policy No. 601.001) to their operational manual binder. The Board members signed the Attachment B Acknowledgement form to confirm that they have received, reviewed and understood Policy No. 601.001.

5. Applications:

a. Ratifications

Upon a motion by Dr. Chin, seconded by Dr. Kojima, it was unanimously carried to ratify the following:

1) Approved for TPA Certification

- OD-922 Walter Au

6. Request for CE Program Approval:

Upon a motion by Dr. Chin, seconded by Dr. Au it was unanimously carried to approve CE programs as indicated beginning on the following page.

Index #	Course Title	Sponsor or Requestor	TPA Hours Requested	TPA Hours Approved
19-053	Ocular Trauma and Emergencies	Hawaiian Eye Center	2	2
19-054	Ocular Manifestations of Systemic Diseases	Hawaiian Eye Center	2	2
19-055	Glaucoma Updated	Hawaiian Eye Center	2	2

7. New Business:

a. Informal Opinion

Dr. Sophia Leung asks, "...is Salzmann Nodule removal within your scope of practice".

After the Board weighed the question the Board informally opined, that any procedure within the scope of optometric practice in Hawaii would have to adhere with Hawaii Revised Statutes §459-1.

Upon a motion by Dr. Au, seconded by Dr. Chin, it was unanimously carried to authorize EO Fernandez to send a letter referring the requester to the practice of optometry as defined in HRS 459-1.

Please be advised that in accordance with Hawaii Administrative Rules §16-201-90, the above interpretation is for informational and explanatory purposes only. It is not an official opinion or decision, and therefore is not to be viewed as binding on the Board or the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

b. Continuing Education Approvals

Board to discuss review requests being submitted by licensees and how to respond. The requests concern whether the Board will accept continuing education courses meant to meet the biennial renewal requirement.

EO Fernandez stated that he has received requests for CE course reviews prior to renewal submissions from optometrists and wished to get a suggestion from the Board of how to handle these inquiries.

Chair Shoji stated that he felt that the current process is fine where the EO

can request from a member a preliminary review of the courses of an individual OD.

DAG Jacob reminded the Board that it had the sole power to approve courses.

8. Old Business:

a. Rule change discussion and Revision

EO Fernandez summarized what the Board had thus far not completed discussion on a couple things including a 25 percent cap on online/correspondence courses. He reminded the Board that they wished to make sure that the new rule made clear that the 25 percent cap was for total online/webinar and correspondence courses. He offered draft language as follows:

The following are approved provided that the total number of hours for each category constitutes no more than 25 percent of the total hours of continuing education required per biennium for license renewal:

- 1) Interactive webinars
- 2) Online or correspondence courses sponsored by optometric journals recognized by the Board.

He stated that if the Board wishes he can add the language in to the draft rules and provide the new draft at the January meeting.

Chair Shoji asked if the rules could be passed next year.

DAG Jacob asked if the Board was satisfied with the rule draft.

Chair Shoji confirmed that the Board preferred version 2 of the draft rules in the minutes from the previous meeting.

EO Fernandez also added that there is another section that needed to be addressed which was an amendment to HAR §16-92-42 Exceptions. This change to the section would allow licensees to get an extension for renewal to avoid a license lapse or forfeit, since the language now requires a restoration.

The Board will continue discussion at its next publicly noticed meeting.

9. Public Forum: There were no public comments, however Chair Shoji wished to have added to the

