

BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
Professional & Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: May 6, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

In-Person Meeting Location: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Virtual: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Meeting
<https://dcca-hawaii-gov.zoom.us/j/89365752199?pwd=faxuUKpO77plce7bzO7giZOTVVq8z7.1>

Recording Link: <https://youtu.be/fK1quVSSXRs>

Members Present: Olivia Nagashima, Massage Therapist, Chair
Jayce Arakaki, Public Member, Vice Chair
Darci Frankel, Massage Therapist
Shanon Skoog, Public Member
Sean St. Louis, Massage Therapist

Members Excused: None

Staff Present: Sheena Choy, Executive Officer (“EO Choy”)
Jordan A.K. Ching, Esq., Deputy Attorney General (“DAG Ching”)
Young-Im K. Wilson, Supervising Executive Officer
Justin Jo, Executive Officer
Marc Yoshimura, Secretary

In-Person Guests: Liqin Yuan

Virtual Guest(s): Daniel Kaneshiro
Mara McGhee
Gwen DeLuze-Coria

Virtual Meeting Instructions: A short video regarding virtual meetings was played to explain procedures for the virtual meeting and how members of the public can participate and interact with the Board during the meeting.

Chair Nagashima provided information on internet and phone access for today’s virtual meeting and announced that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording will be posted on the Board’s web page.

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was posted on the State electronic calendar and filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor as required by §92-7(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS").

Call to Order: Chair Nagashima took roll call of the Board members. Those members attending virtually confirmed that they were present and alone.

There being a quorum, Chair Nagashima called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Chair's
Announcements:

Appreciation for Outgoing Board Member, Jayce Arakaki

Chair Nagashima stated that this is the last meeting for Board member Jayce Arakaki. Mr. Arakaki has been serving as a public member since 2021 and is terming out.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Nagashima thanked Mr. Arakaki for his service to the Board and to the public.

Approval of
Minutes:

Approval of the Minutes of the March 4, 2025 Board Meeting

Chair Nagashima asked if there was any public testimony or Board discussion.

EO Choy noted that there were additional virtual guests for March 4, 2025 meeting that were missing on the Open Session minutes. EO Choy stated that she has made a correction for the Open Session minutes that will be recorded as "approved with corrections" by the Board:

- Thomas Smith
- Paul
- Daniel Martin
- Perrell
- Nathaniel B.
- John Thomas

Chair Nagashima requested amendments to the Open Session minutes, page 8, second paragraph, last statement, corrected statement should read, "Chair Nagashima share her suggested amendments for Subchapter 6: Apprentices. She stated that most of her amendments propose an increase to the required apprenticeship training from 570 hours to 625 hours."

Also on page 8, paragraph 4, addition of 260 hours of hands-on supervised clinical hours – in total, this adds up with the other hours mentioned to 625 hours.

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Mr. St. Louis, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve the Open Session and Executive Session minutes of the March 4, 2025 Board meeting as amended.

Applications:

Ratifications

Chair Nagashima asked if there was any public testimony. There was none.

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Mr. St. Louis, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve the attached ratifications list.

Massage Therapist Applications

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Mr. St. Louis, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to enter Executive Session at 9:16 a.m., in accordance with HRS §92-5(a)(1), "To consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for professional licenses cited in section 26-9 or both" and, pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(4), "To consult with the board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities." Board will vote in Open Session.

At 10:41 a.m., upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Mr. St. Louis, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to move out of Executive Session.

In Executive Session, the Board consulted with its attorney and discussed confidential information regarding the applications for Nestor Ruiz and Liqin Yuan and the applications for massage school curriculum letter for Hawaii State Department of Education.

Nestor Ruiz

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Mr. St. Louis, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to defer Nestor Ruiz's application to sit for the exam.

Liqin Yuan

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded Mr. St. Louis it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve Liqin Yuan's application to sit for the exam with the following conditions: 1) applicant shall complete one (1) continuing education course on ethics, and 2) applicant shall translate the PSI Services Security Procedures Agreement into her native language and submit a signed, translated copy to the Board.

**Application for Massage School Curriculum Letter for Hawaii
Department of Education**

Central Oahu Massage Institute

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Mr. St. Louis, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to defer the application for more information.

Hawaii Healing Arts College

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Mr. St. Louis, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve the application for massage school curriculum letter to HDOE.

Maluhia School of Massage Therapy

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Mr. St. Louis, it was voted upon and unanimously carried to approve the application for massage school curriculum letter to HDOE.

Executive Officer's
Report:

Hawaii Massage Therapy – State Examination Statistics

Chair Nagashima asked if there was any public testimony. There was none.

Executive Officer Choy shared the massage therapy examination statistics for February, March, and April 2025.

Massage Exam (administered February 2025)

Exams Administered: 66
Successful: 27
Unsuccessful: 39

Massage Exam (administered March 2025)

Exams Administered: 22
Successful: 7
Unsuccessful: 15

Massage Exam (administered April 2025)

Exams Administered: 44
Successful: 21
Unsuccessful: 23

2025 Legislative Session – Bill Discussion & Updates

Seeing no public testimony, EO Choy stated the 2025 Legislative Session ended on May 2, 2025.

S.B. 1373, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1, Relating to Administrative Licensure Actions Against Sex Offenders.

Purpose: Authorizes the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and certain licensing boards to automatically revoke and refuse to renew, restore, or reinstate the professional licenses or certification of registered sex offenders. (CD1)

EO Choy stated that since the Board's last meeting on March 3, 2025, only one bill that the Board provided a position on, S.B. 1373, advanced through the process. S.B. 1373 successfully passed through both chambers of the Legislature and now will be presented to the Governor.

Unless the Governor vetoes the bill by July 9, 2025, it will become law effective July 1, 2025. The current draft to be enrolled to the Governor, as well as additional information about the bill can be found on the measure's bill page:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=1373&year=2025.

Board of Massage Therapy: Frequently Asked Questions – Updated

EO Choy stated that she recently updated the FAQs available on the Board's website: <https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/massage/>. The updated FAQs are included in the Board's packet, and she welcomes any feedback or requests for amendments.

New Business:

Discussion of acceptance of online coursework for the academic course of study requirement for Massage Therapist licensure

Chair Nagashima asked if there was any public testimony. There was none.

EO Choy stated that pursuant to HRS §452-13(a)(3), HAR §16-84-23, and HAR §16-84-48, all applicants for Massage Therapist ("MAT") licensure must verify completion of a minimum of 50 hours of anatomy, physiology, and structural kinesiology ("APK"), 100 hours of Theory and Demonstration of Massage, and 420 hours of Supervised Practical Massage Training to qualify for the State Exam and MAT licensure. Completion of 50 APK and 100 Theory hours are a pre-requisite to Massage Apprenticeship ("MAP") permitting.

The requirements for completion of 50 hours APK and 100 hours Theory are also referred as the “academic course of study” requirement.

EO Choy stated that Ms. Skoog requested the Board consider accepting online coursework for the academic course of study requirements. EO Choy clarified that nothing in the Board’s current laws or rules currently prohibits acceptance of online coursework for the academic course of study, so long as the coursework complies with the existing laws/rules.

EO Choy stated that HAR §16-84-23(i) requires that the academic course of study for apprenticeships, “shall be taught by a school which is licensed by the state department of education, the University of Hawaii or other institutions approved by the board” or “may be obtained through workshops given by a massage therapist who...has received approval from the board.” All such courses for the academic courses of study, “shall be properly certified.”

§16-84-23 Requirements for apprentices. (a) The apprenticeship program shall consist of not less than five hundred seventy hours and the applicant shall successfully complete a cardiopulmonary resuscitation training program. The first one hundred fifty hours shall be academic and shall not have a time period and shall be completed before the practical training. The course of study shall be as listed in subsection (i)(1) and (2).

(i) The academic course of study shall be as follows:

(1) Not less than fifty hours of anatomy, physiology, and structural kinesiology;

(2) Not less than one hundred hours of theory and demonstration of massage which shall include:

(A) The proper procedure in massaging (concerning the protection of both client and massage therapist);

(B) Record keeping;

(C) Hygiene;

(D) Theory;

(E) Technique for specific conditions;

(F) Contraindications of massage for specific techniques according to conditions;

(G) Draping; and

(H) Assessment of the client’s condition and the general technique to be applied.

The requirements of subsection (i)(1) and (2) shall be taught by a school which is licensed by the state department of education, the University of Hawaii or other institutions approved by the board. The courses outlined in subsection (i)(1) and (2) may be obtained through workshops given by a massage therapist who has been licensed for at least three years and who has received approval from the board. The request for such an approval shall include: subject to be taught; when; where; by whom; and the duration of

the workshop. The request for a workshop shall be submitted to the board for approval not less than sixty days before the commencement of each workshop. All courses that are completed as outlined in subsection (i)(1) and (2) shall be properly certified and a certificate of successful completion shall be issued by the school or an approved massage workshop.

EO Choy stated that for applicants for approval for the MAT exam and licensure, HAR §16-84-48(e) requires that the academic course of study be completed in, "a massage school approved by the department of education, American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), or the Rolf Institute."

§16-84-48 Requirements for massage students. (e) An applicant shall provide the board with written proof that the applicant has successfully completed the required course of study in a massage school approved by the department of education, American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA), or the Rolf Institute.

To summarize, EO Choy stated that online options for MAP applicants include:

1. Online massage school licensed by state dept. of education
2. Online massage school licensed by the University of Hawaii
3. Other online institutions, approved by the Board

The online options for MAT applicants include:

1. Online massage school approved by the department of education
2. Online massage school approved by AMTA
3. Online massage school approved by the Rolf Institute

If the Board would like to consider acceptance of online continuing education as qualifying education and training, this needs to be addressed through administrative rules change.

Chair Nagashima clarified that in the next round of rules revisions, the Board should include the revision that AMTA and the Rolf Institute no longer approve massage curriculum.

Ms. Skoog stated that she would like to propose that the Board consider rules revision language to allow for the acceptance of online coursework for the APK and Theory requirements for education and training. She stated that states like Florida, Texas, and Georgia already allow for the acceptance of hybrid coursework for licensure.

Ms. Skoog stated that acceptance of hybrid coursework would modernize Hawaii practices, elevate the standard of education and training, mitigate

financial barriers to training and licensure, and increase. Ultimately, she believes that hybrid coursework would be beneficial to students, massage schools, and ultimately the public, without jeopardizing current standards.

Chair Nagashima stated that she can address consideration of hybrid APK coursework in her assigned HAR Subchapter sections. She would like to continue requiring a live, in-person class for Theory.

Ms. Frankel stated that she supports hybrid coursework, both asynchronous and synchronous.

Chair Nagashima asked who is responsible for verifying the integrity of the online coursework.

Ms. Skoog stated that in her research, for states that accept hybrid coursework, the schools and online coursework providers present their curriculum to the Board for approval. She recommends referencing the laws and rules for Florida, Texas, and New York.

It was agreed that Ms. Skoog's recommendations will be used to continue examining rules revisions related to acceptance of hybrid coursework.

Board consideration of joining the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards ("FSMTB")

EO Choy stated that for the past year, the Board was granted a free membership trial year from FSMTB. The trial year is now finished, and the Board must decide whether to become a paying member of the organization.

FSMTB is an autonomous, non-profit organization comprised of state boards and agencies that regulate the massage therapy profession. The organization supports approved massage therapy schools and programs, offers continuing education courses, provides resources to state boards and regulators, and governs and administers the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) utilized by 46 of 49 regulated jurisdictions. The MBLEx is not accepted by the Hawaii Board.

EO Choy stated that although the Board can vote to join FSMTB, fiscal approval is still needed from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA"). If the Board votes to join FSMTB, she will update the Board at a future meeting if membership dues are approved by DCCA.

Ms. Skoog stated that she believes FSMTB's resources are a necessity to support the Board's efforts in massage therapy licensure and regulation.

Chair Nagashima stated that should the Board move to accept the MBLEx exam in the future, there appears to be a jurisprudence exam that the Board can add to the MBLEx exam requirement to make it more state specific. She stated that in conversations with regulators from other states, they have found the partnership with FSMTB to be very helpful in their duty to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Ms. Frankel asked if the Board has made use of any of the FSMTB resources during the one-year free trial.

EO Choy stated that FSMTB provides a lot of resources for staff support, so they have shared resources that have been helpful from an EO perspective. Many of those resources are highly confidential and reserved for EO and supporting regulatory staff use as they involve sensitive issues such as human trafficking. FSMTB also provides information about national legislative and policy matters that the Board should be aware of.

Upon a motion by Chair Nagashima, seconded by Ms. Skoog, it was voted upon and carried to join FSMTB as fiscally allowed by DCCA, with Ms. Frankel abstaining.

Clarification of requirements for principal massage therapist (“PMT”) to be on premise at the associate Massage Therapy Establishments (“MAE”)

There was no public testimony. This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Ongoing Business:

Discussion of proposals for future new administrative rules revisions – Title 16, Chapter 84, Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”)

Chair Nagashima reminded the Board that they are continuing to research and discuss future rules revisions, with the HAR divided into assignments as follows:

- Subchapter 1 – Chair Nagashima
- Subchapter 2 – Vice Chair Arakaki
- Subchapter 3 – Ms. Frankel
- Subchapter 4 – Ms. Frankel
- Subchapter 5 – Not assigned
- Subchapter 6 – Chair Nagashima
- Subchapter 7 – Ms. Skoog
- Subchapter 8 – None
- Subchapter 9 – None
- Subchapter 10 – None
- Subchapter 11 – Mr. St. Louis
- Subchapter 12 – Chair Nagashima

- Subchapter 13 – Ms. Skoog

Ms. Skoog reported her suggested changes for Subchapter 7: Examination. The suggested changes were included in the Board and public meeting packets.

Ms. Skoog's suggested revisions included inclusion of an Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") policy on exam accommodations; expectations for exam candidate behavior for onsite and remote testing; consequences for exam misconduct; and exam retake policies. Ms. Skoog provided example language from other states, and suggested referencing MBLEx testing policies as the Board develops language around examination misconduct, reexamination, etc.

Mr. Arakaki stated that responsibilities should be made clear between the exam administrator and the Board to avoid redundancies. For example, the current exam proctor PSI likely has existing testing policies.

There was no further discussion.

<u>Next Meeting:</u>	Date:	July 1, 2025
	Time:	9:00 a.m.
	Location:	Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Meeting & In-Person – Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room HRH King Kalakaua Building 335 Merchant Street, First Floor Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

<u>Adjournment:</u>	There being no further business, Chair Nagashima adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.
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Taken & reviewed by:

/s/ Sheena Choy

Sheena Choy
Executive Officer

6/20/25

[X] Minutes approved as is.

[] Minutes approved with changes; see minutes