

HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: April 10, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

Virtual Participation: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar
<https://dcca-hawaii.gov.zoom.us/j/88572246405?pwd=xvaHICTnYxgBNQjRN1f7qOtV0lpxsN.1>

Zoom Recording Link: <https://youtu.be/WGJX8QsXNQA>

Present: Danny M. Takanishi, M.D., Chairperson, Honolulu Member
Gary Belcher, Vice Chairperson, Public Member
Andrew “Rick” Fong, M.D., Hawaii Member
William Brian Hatten, D.O., Osteopathic Member
Elizabeth “Lisa Ann” Ignacio, M.D., Maui Member
Michael Jaffe, D.O., Honolulu, Osteopathic Member
Wesley Mun, Public Member
Angela Pratt, M.D., Honolulu Member
Rebecca Sawai, M.D., Honolulu Member
Geri Young, M.D., Kauai Member
Shari J. Wong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Chelsea Fukunaga, Executive Officer
Dawn Lee, Administrative Assistant
Johnny Li (Technical Support)

Excused: None

Zoom Guests: Servet Tatli
Manas Jain

In-Person Guest(s): No in-person guests.

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was posted to the State electronic calendar as required by Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) section 92-7(b).

A short video was played to explain the meeting procedures and how members of the public could participate in the virtual meeting.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m., at which time quorum was established.

Chair Takanishi welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded with a roll call of the Board members. All Board members confirmed that they were present and alone.

Chair Takanishi asked if anyone from the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There was none.

Approval of the February 13, 2025, Open Session Minutes: Chair Takanishi stated that the minutes from the open session held on February 13, 2025, will be deferred to the next Board meeting.

Chair Takanishi asked if anyone from the public would like to provide oral testimony on the Applications for License agenda item. There was none.

Applications for License/
Certification:

A. Applications:

It was moved by Dr. Ignacio, seconded by Mr. Belcher, and unanimously carried to enter into executive session at 1:33 p.m., pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(1), to consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for professional licenses cited in HRS §26-9 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. (Note: Board members and staff entered the Zoom Breakout Room).

Chair Takanishi proceeded with a roll call of the Board members in the Zoom Breakout Room. All members confirmed that they were present and alone.

(i) Physician (Permanent/Endorsement):

a. Brian Joseph Allen, M.D.

b. Servet Tatli, M.D

Servet Tatli, M.D. entered the Zoom Breakout Room at 1:50 p.m.

Servet Tatli, M.D. exited the Zoom Breakout Room at 1:57 p.m.

(ii) Physician (Permanent/Non-Endorsement):

a. Manas Jain, M.D.

Manas Jain, M.D. entered the Zoom Breakout Room at 2:05 p.m.

Manas Jain, M.D. exited the Zoom Breakout Room at 2:15 p.m.

It was moved by Dr. Pratt, seconded by Dr. Sawai, and unanimously carried to return to the open session meeting at 2:32 p.m. Board members and staff returned to the main Zoom meeting. All Board members confirmed that they were present and alone.

(i) Physician (Permanent/Endorsement):

a. Brian Joseph Allen, M.D.

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Dr. Sawai, seconded by Dr. Hatten, and unanimously carried to defer Dr. Allen's application to grant the applicant the opportunity to be present before the Board upon his request.

b. Servet Tatli, M.D.

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Chair Takanishi, seconded by Dr. Jaffe, and unanimously carried to defer Dr. Tatli's application.

(ii) Physician (Permanent/Non-Endorsement):

a. Manas Jain, M.D.

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Dr. Pratt, seconded by Dr. Young, and unanimously carried to approve Dr. Jain's application for licensure.

B. Ratification List (See attached list)

(i) April 10, 2025, Ratification List

It was moved Dr. Ignacio, seconded by Mr. Dr. Hatten, and unanimously carried to ratify the attached lists of individuals for licensure or certification from April 10, 2025.

Request for
Amendment of
Conditions Imposed
on Conditional License:

A. Conditional License

(i) Tonguc Pinar, M.D.

Chair Takanishi stated that the board has received a letter requesting clarification on whether the physician health program in Hawaii needs to continue monitoring, or if this should be handled by another state. Allegedly, the licensee has made this request through the entity.

It was so moved by Takanishi seconded by Dr. Ignacio, and unanimously carried to correspond directly with the licensee to clarify their intent regarding practicing in either Massachusetts, Hawaii, or both states. If the individual indicates that they have no intention of practicing in Hawaii, they must attest to that. Additionally, based on the email we received, Dr. Pinar should be asked to provide an update on their progress since entering the monitoring program.

2025 Legislative
Session:

A. Legislation

Chair Takanishi announced that he would hand the discussion over to Ms. Fukunaga, noting that she had provided valuable testimony on several items. He indicated that he would then open the floor to other Board members. Chair Takanishi asked Ms. Fukunaga if she would like to comment on any of the testimony she had previously provided regarding the bills currently under consideration.

Ms. Fukunaga stated that she has no comments for the Board members. The testimony has largely remained the same, focusing on the current status of the bills. All the bills have been referred to their respective committees, and she believes they are all going to a conference. This belief is based on the information from the legislative website regarding the various versions of the bills.

Chair Takanishi expressed gratitude to Ms. Fukunaga. He mentioned that the Board members would be reviewing the tracking sheet. He clarified that the bills Ms. Fukunaga provided were those for which the Board had deemed testimony appropriate. He then asked if any Board members had comments on the additional bills that are currently being tracked on the legislative tracking sheet.

Dr. Jaffe has concerns about House Bill 951. Although the bill is quite short, its implications are significant. It stipulates that physicians within the same practice can only write an opioid prescription for the doctor they are covering after having a telemedicine visit. Furthermore, it limits prescriptions to just three days. As a pain management physician who prescribes long-term chronic opioid therapy, he finds it unreasonable to restrict covering doctors to a three-day prescription. Dr. Jaffe points out that many physicians take vacations longer than three days. He also highlights that a number of electronic medical records systems are inaccessible when you are outside the country. In Hawaii, a law enacted in 2018 allows for a 30-day prescription for chronic opioid therapy. Therefore, limiting prescriptions to just three days would create significant challenges for individuals who require chronic pain management. While Dr. Jaffe agrees that a three-day prescription might make sense for a tissue injury or a postoperative refill, he believes that applying this restriction to covering colleagues is nonsensical. He is wondering if the Board can formally reject this bill or if he, along with others who share his views, should testify against it, as he has serious issues with the proposed legislation.

Chair Takanishi mentioned that upon reviewing the bill, he does not see how the Board can connect it to any of their statutes. He explained that, in terms of medical regulation, the bill pertains more to prescriptive authority and the limitations surrounding it. Therefore, he believes it is reasonable to say that Dr. Jaffe could testify as a private individual and citizen, but he would not be able to reference the Medical Board, as this matter does not technically relate to any of their statutes. Chair Takanishi requested input from our DAG Wong, on this issue.

DAG Wong agreed that if a Board member wishes to speak on this bill, they are certainly able to do so without representing the Medical Board.

Chair Takanishi acknowledged that, as medical providers, we sometimes encounter situations that may not be in a patient's best interest. However, he emphasized the importance of continuing to operate within our legal framework. He expressed gratitude for Dr. Jaffe's insights and agreed that they are valid. Ultimately, Chair Takanishi believes the appropriate course of action would be to testify as a public citizen.

Dr. Ignacio expressed that, if given the opportunity, she would like to share her perspective on the regulatory challenges that providers face, particularly in relation to their role on the Board. She recognizes these challenges and believes they should be acknowledged. However, Dr. Ignacio notes that she did not perceive this issue in her capacity as a public policy

representative for The Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) and that it went unnoticed. She emphasized the importance of board members, including Dr. Jaffe, sharing their insights, whether through private discussions or other means. Dr. Ignacio is supportive of their viewpoints and wants to extend that support to other pain specialists in the state. She encouraged board members to inform HMA about any issues they recognize that cannot be addressed through the Board's voice, as HMA has a unique perspective on healthcare-related bills. Dr. Ignacio mentioned that they began tracking around 300 healthcare-related bills, and without prompts, it can be easy to overlook some of them. She apologized for not noticing this particular issue and expressed her willingness to connect with Dr. Jaffe to continue the conversation on this topic.

Dr. Jaffe expressed his gratitude to Dr. Ignacio, acknowledging his offer. He believes that having a group of physicians can bring more influence than working as an individual. However, he received the message loud and clear and will surely set aside his role on the Hawaii Medical Board for this matter.

Chair Takanishi stated that although this is a Hawaii Medical Board meeting, transparency is fundamental. We are currently in an open session, and there are more appropriate channels for addressing certain issues since the Board must operate within its statutory limits and authority. Chair Takanishi expressed that the Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) has been a strong advocate for patient safety and care, regardless of the bills presented. From his personal perspective, not as a Board member, he believes the HMA is highly respected by our state legislators. He thanked Dr. Ignacio for the helpful suggestion and affirmed his agreement. The Hawaii Medical Association is indeed a commendable organization that has earned significant respect from lawmakers and others, making it a valuable resource to consult. He then asked if there were any other comments regarding bills on which the Board has not yet taken a position, aside from those for which Ms. Fukunaga provided testimony. He invited any other Board members to share their thoughts or comments. There was none.

Federation of State
Medical Boards
(FSMB):

A. Retatrutide Letter from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
(FDA) to FSMB

The Board will consider a letter sent from the FDA to the FSMB regarding compounded drug products containing retatrutide.

Chair Takanishi stated that the FDA has some concerns that they addressed to Dr. Humayun "Hank" Chaudhry, the president and CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards. These concerns relate to compounding drugs that contain a specific entity for the

conditions listed. Chair Takanishi believes this is primarily an informational piece; however, he opens the floor for discussion on whether the Board should wait to see what the Federation of State Medical Boards determines and use their guidance in this matter.

Mr. Belcher stated that Chair Takanishi's idea is reasonable.

Chair Takanishi mentioned that he believes a vote is unnecessary on this matter, as it is primarily informational. However, he suggest that the minutes reflect the Board's consideration of the topic and indicate that they will await a formal response from the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Executive Officer
Report:

A. DCCA Press Release

Ms. Fukunaga indicated that this is an immediate release from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) regarding scam phone calls targeting the licenses of dentists and other medical professionals. Although the issue began with dentists, she wants the board to be aware that this is happening to other professions as well. If someone receives a call from the department or another government agency, they should take the information with caution and remain vigilant.

B. Hawaii State Ethics Commission – Financial Disclosure Statement

C. Ethics Training

Ms. Fukunaga stated that the second and third items pertain to the Holy State Ethics. She emphasized that these are just friendly reminders. Financial disclosures are due on May 31st, and there is an ethics training requirement for all board members, which must be completed every four years. If any board member is unsure whether they need to complete the training, they should let her know, and she will contact the Ethics Commission.

Chair Takanishi mentioned that everyone should be aware that if we do not file on time with the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, there will be a fine.

Dr. Ignacio mentioned that she should have asked this earlier, based on Dr. Jaffe's comments as well as another point regarding

compounding. She is curious about where to direct her question regarding opioids and prescriptive authority, specifically which agency would be responsible for addressing that issue.

Chair Takanishi mentioned that if the issue at hand is prescriptive authority itself, rather than the limits on prescriptions such as a three-day limit he believes that authority should primarily involve medical associations. He noted that the federation tends to remain neutral on such matters. When they consider prescriptive authority, they tend to take it under advisement, allowing various boards to handle it. In particular, the authority granted to physicians differs from that of physician assistants, as the latter group falls under the federation. Chair Takanishi stated that while the federation gets more involved in practical issues, such as those outlined in a white paper on the opioid crisis, they maintain a neutral position regarding limitations on prescription duration. This is because these limitations are not regulatory in nature, especially in terms of licensure and disciplinary actions, but instead fall within the jurisdiction of individual states.

Dr. Ignacio thanked Chair Takanishi.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2025

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

Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Webinar

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Reviewed and Approved by:

Taken and Recorded by:

/s/ Chelsea Fukunaga

/s/ Dawn Lee

Ms. Chelsea Fukunaga
Executive Officer

Ms. Dawn Lee
Administrative Assistant

(x)

Minutes approved as is.

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Minutes approved with changes: