



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

February 8, 2023

Senator Joy San Buenaventura
Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 317

Dear Senator San Buenaventura:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support SB 317, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 600 ASHA members reside in Hawai'i.¹

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses to practice due to administrative burdens. These burdens hinder their ability to provide quality services and restrict consumer access in underserved and rural communities. I am pleased to support SB 317, which will address these issues by:

- increasing access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- facilitating continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another state, specifically with members of the military and their spouses.

Passage of this bill would allow Hawai'i to enjoy the same benefits of the 23 other ASLP-IC member states. The United States Department of Defense State Liaison Office and the Hawai'i Speech-Language-Hearing Associations joins ASHA in supporting SB 317. We appreciate your sponsorship and hope that the Committee will pass this important legislation.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Augustine, PhD, CCC-SLP
2023 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2021). *Hawaii* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/hawaii-state-flyer.pdf>.