

# Dietitian Licensure: Advancing your profession

Patricia M. Bazin, MBA, MPH, RD



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# Agenda

- Overview of dietitian licensure
- How to become licensed in Hawaii
- Next steps for dietitian licensure



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# Why Should Licensure be a Priority?

## Because – Our Current Environment Demands It!

- Other health professionals are seeking advancement- this can lead to “scope creep”
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes provisions that healthcare services are provided by licensed health professionals
- A strong scope of practice is essential in current competitive environment



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# The Current National Licensure Debate

- ACA focuses a new emphasis on licensure
- Licensure protects the public
- No licensure statute is better than a bill that gives up everything to those who do not meet the standards of the licensure bill under consideration
- Currently, Federal laws and rules identify Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) with the Registered Dietitian (RD)



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# Dietitian Licensure in Hawaii

- Hawaii's licensure law (Section 448B, Hawaii Revised Statute) protects the title of Licensed Dietitian (L.D.)
- Licensure is through Department of Health, Office of Health Care Assurance (DOH, OHCA)
- Title 11, Chapter 79 of Hawaii Administrative Rules
- Chapter 79 restricts use of L.D. to those licensed by State of Hawaii
- No current scope of practice
- Licensure is voluntary



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# What's in it for me?

Licensure indicates that you meet requirements to practice dietetics

Allows RDs to emphasize their place in healthcare as the nutrition expert



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

**eat right.** an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# How does this impact the RD?

- Competition and scope creep can jeopardize jobs and professional influence
- ACA prioritizes the “licensed” professional
- The need for clarity in the public is great and impacts public perception of the RD
- Elected officials have been given the myths; licensure helps to define the bright line of the profession



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# How to obtain RD Licensure in Hawaii

- All registered dietitians are able to be licensed through State of Hawaii, DOH, OHCA
- For more information, contact Susan K. Nakamura at 808-692-7405
- Additional information found at <http://www.eatrighthawaii.org/licensure.html>



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



# Dietitian licensure: where do we go from here?

- Increase number of registered dietitians who are licensed
- Start collecting incidences of harm to protect dietitian licensure and the profession
- Expand current licensure law to include scope of practice



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# Why is it important to collect incidences of harm?

## Public Safety

- Reports of harm allow the public to understand misinformation provided in the community

## Dietitians report harm

- HDA has reasons to strengthen licensure law in Hawaii to include scope of practice



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

an affiliate of the  
**eat right.** Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# Then why should you collect incidents of harm?

## Without collecting incidents of harm ...

- Value of licensing gets questioned
- Public continues to be harmed
- An increasingly competitive environment leads to “scope creep”
- Some licensure critics are advocating for “health freedom” to enable practitioners with no minimum qualifications to practice in an unregulated environment



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# Incidences of Harm in Hawaii

- No direct way for us to collect data at this time
- Current licensure law protects the title L.D.
  - A L.D. that is not conducting themselves in an ethical manner
  - Not a L.D., but call themselves an L.D.
- Observe those who may be violating the current dietetics licensure statute



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# Incidences of Harm in Hawaii

- Observe for incidences where the public is being harmed by inaccurate nutrition information
- Make notes continually; collect the data you need
- Describe incident in your own words
- Use as much detail as possible
- Use copies of pertinent documents
- If using patient records - remove identifiers
- Dates, times, type of service should be included
- Sign and date (anonymous complaints are difficult to process)



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# Your Role:

- Support your profession: help HDA be able to enact a scope of practice in dietitian licensure law in the future
- All dietitians needs to take a step to support our current licensure statute



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

eat right. an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

# QUESTIONS?



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

**eat right.** an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics