

July 2013

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT LICENSURE**

On June 27, 2013, Act 220(13) SB1074 SD2 HD1 CD1 pertaining to Physical Therapist Assistant ("PTA") licensure was signed by Governor Abercrombie.

The State of Hawaii will begin licensing Physical Therapist Assistants ("PTAs") in December 2014. The Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy ("Board") is currently working on the details for licensure. Once this has been completed, a Notice will be posted on the Board's website.

Currently, the State of Hawaii does not license, certify or register PTAs, however, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 110 does include a definition:

"Physical therapist assistant" or "PTA" means an individual who has graduated from an accredited physical therapist assistant program or an accredited physical therapy program."

"Accredited physical therapist assistant program" means a post-secondary physical therapist assistant program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, its predecessor organization, or its successor organization.

"Accredited physical therapy program" means a post-secondary physical therapy program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, its predecessor organization, or its successor organization.

A PTA may practice without a license pursuant to the Board's statutes and rules until November 30, 2014, or the effective date of rules implementing licensure requirements by the Board, whichever occurs first.

The Board's current statutes and rules may be viewed on their website in their entirety:

http://hawaii.gov/dcca/pvl/boards/physicaltherapy/statute_rules

Act 220 may be viewed on the Hawaii State Legislature's website:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2013/bills/GM1323_PDF

If you have any further questions regarding PTA licensure, please contact the Board at phys_therapy@dcca.hawaii.gov