



February 16, 2026

The Honorable Brandon Elefante  
Chair, Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee  
Hawai'i State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF SB 3192**

Dear Chair Elefante and members of the Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 3192, relating to emergency healthcare licensure waivers.

ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association's affiliated trade association focused on advocacy, advances policy to ensure all individuals have permanent access to telehealth services across the care continuum. ATA Action supports the enactment of state and federal telehealth policies to secure telehealth access for all Americans, including those in rural and underserved communities. ATA Action recognizes that telehealth and virtual care have the potential to truly transform the health care delivery system – by improving patient outcomes, enhancing safety and effectiveness of care, addressing health disparities, and reducing costs – if only allowed to flourish.

Hawai'i faces unique and escalating threats from wildfires, hurricanes, flooding and public health emergencies. As an island state with geographic isolation and limited healthcare workforce capacity in certain regions, Hawai'i must be able to rapidly mobilize qualified professionals when disaster strikes. SB 3192 appropriately codifies streamlined licensure flexibilities that allow eligible out-of-state healthcare practitioners in good standing to provide services during a declared emergency.

Importantly, SB 3192 strikes the right balance between flexibility and oversight. The bill requires that practitioners hold a current, active license in good standing; have no disqualifying disciplinary history; and be affiliated with a government agency, licensed healthcare facility, federally qualified health center, or nationally recognized emergency response organization. It also establishes a self-registration and verification process and authorizes immediate revocation for violations. These safeguards ensure accountability while enabling swift deployment of care.

ATA Action particularly supports subsection (c), which allows telehealth services to be provided by eligible out-of-state practitioners without requiring an in-person consultation or an existing provider-patient relationship during an emergency. In crisis conditions, requiring an initial in-person encounter or a pre-existing relationship can delay urgently needed care. Telehealth is frequently the fastest and safest way to deliver triage, behavioral health support, medication management and follow-up services when infrastructure is disrupted or travel is unsafe. Removing unnecessary procedural barriers ensures that patients can receive timely evaluation and treatment when they need it most.

ATA Action believes SB 3192 will significantly strengthen Hawai'i's disaster preparedness and response capacity while maintaining high standards of care and patient protection. Codifying these flexibilities in

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statute will prevent delays associated with ad hoc executive waivers and improve coordination with partners such as military medical units and national emergency response organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We respectfully urge the Committee to support SB 3192 in the interest of protecting public health and ensuring that Hawai'i residents have timely access to care during emergencies. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can be helpful to your efforts to advance common-sense telehealth policy in Hawai'i. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the telehealth industry's perspective further, please contact me at [hyoung@ataaction.org](mailto:hyoung@ataaction.org).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hunter Young" in a cursive script.

Hunter Young  
Head of State Government Relations  
ATA Action