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STATE OF HAWAII PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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2007 OPTOMETRISTS RENEWAL INFORMATION

NEW OPTION! ONLINE RENEWAL!

Continuing Education Requirements for Optometrists:

Non-Therapeutic - 32 hours in approved programs (Hawaii Administrative Rules Section 16-92-39) or if initially licensed in the first year of the biennium (2006), submit certification of having earned sixteen (16) hours for the biennium. A person who obtains licensure in the second year of the biennium (2007) need not obtain any continuing education hours for the first renewal of their license. **TPA Certified** - 36 hours of Board approved courses in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular and systemic diseases regardless of initial date of licensure. The one hundred (100) hour course in the treatment and management of ocular disease shall satisfy the 36 hour requirement provided that the course was taken within the two years prior to the date the application for license renewal is received by the Board.

For both non-therapeutic and TPA certified optometrists, the number of online or correspondence continuing education hours may not constitute more than 25% of the total number of continuing education hours required per biennium for license renewal, e.g. 32 hours total required, not more than 8 hours of online or correspondence courses may be counted.

Renewal Applications:

Renewal applications will be mailed out to all currently licensed optometrists to their address of record (if you have moved and have not notified us of your new address, you may not receive the renewal application). It is the licensee's responsibility to notify the Board of their current address. Those who wish to renew by mailing back their completed renewal application may do so with the renewal fee and proof of completion of the continuing education requirement.

Online Renewal:

All currently licensed optometrists will receive information to renew online with their renewal application which will be mailed in mid-November. Optometrists who renew online will be asked to attest that they have completed the continuing education requirement and shall submit proof of their continuing education by mailing in their continuing education certificates upon submission of their online renewal.

For both mailed in and online renewals, the Board will conduct a review of all continuing education courses as they have done in previous years. Those renewals who fail to meet or provide proof of completion of the continuing education requirement by December 31, 2007 will be referred to the Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) for disciplinary action.

Pocket Cards:

The Board recommends that optometrists renew their license as soon as possible so that they may receive their new pocket card before January 1, 2008. Those optometrists who do not receive their new pocket card by January 1, 2008 do not have proof that they have successfully renewed their license and therefore are not able to practice.

The renewal application will not be available for mail out until mid-November. Online renewals will be available on or about the same time the renewal applications are mailed.

If you have any questions, please call Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer, Board of Examiners in Optometry at (808) 586-2694.