



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB580
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
Hearing Date: January 29, 2019 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this bill because it can increase the
3 capacity to provide mental health services for adolescents who may want to receive counseling
4 without having to have permission from a parent or without disclosing their reason for seeking
5 help to a parent. When the original bill changing the age of consent for mental health services to
6 14 was passed by the legislature in the 2016 session, it was a helpful step forward in ensuring
7 that youth who are suffering emotionally can get help. However, it applied only to services
8 provided by licensed mental health professionals. As you may be aware, most of the readily
9 available and low- or no-cost services in Hawaii are provided – not by licensed professionals –
10 but by unlicensed professionals who are in the process of meeting all the requirements for full
11 licensure under the supervision of a licensed professional. This includes interns, practicum
12 students and newer graduates who have not completed all the requisite hours of experience or
13 passed the examination necessary for licensure. In general licensure as a mental health
14 professional of any kind in Hawaii requires at least a year of full-time supervised practice after
15 graduating with the relevant degree. The purpose of this bill is to authorize these mental health
16 professionals working under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional to provide
17 mental health treatment or counseling services to minors without parental consent when this is
18 clinically indicated.

1 This bill is a product of a task force led by the Department of Health (DOH), Child and
2 Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) as mandated by Act 13, SLH 2018. The task
3 force was comprised of legislators, representatives of health insurers, state agencies, advocates,
4 and community members. A list of task force attendees and a summary of task force findings
5 may be found in the task force's legislative report:

6 https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/DC240_.pdf.

7 The task force focused primarily on questions regarding counseling practices with lesbian, gay,
8 bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) youth. As detailed in the report, local Hawaii data
9 reveal that homosexual and transgender youth are at significantly heightened risk of substance
10 abuse, mental health difficulties and suicide. These youth often feel alienated from their parents
11 and other family members or fear revealing their struggles around their sexual orientation and/or
12 gender identity to their parents. The ability to find a counselor without having to involve a parent
13 can be especially crucial for these youth.

14 **Offered Amendment:** We would like to offer a friendly amendment to the wording of the bill
15 where it defines “mental health professional,” to clarify and ensure all relevant professions are
16 included. An edited version of that definition is offered below.

17 "Mental health professional" means a person who is working under the supervision of a
18 licensed mental health professional and either: 1) is enrolled in an accredited training
19 program or 2) has completed all licensing requirements except the hours of supervised
20 post-degree experience and/or the examination required for state licensure, for licensed
21 mental health counselors pursuant to chapter 453D, for licensed marriage and family
22 therapists pursuant to chapter 451J, for clinical social workers pursuant to chapter 467E,
23 for psychologists pursuant to chapter 465 or for advanced practice registered nurses
24 pursuant to chapter 457.”

25 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



January 26, 2019

House's Committees on Health and Human Services & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 – 9:15 a.m.

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 580 – RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Nakamura and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 580 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. HB 580 authorizes mental health professionals under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional to provide mental health treatment or counseling services to minors.

HB 580 stems out of the taskforce that was formed as requirement of Act 13, 2018 which ban conversion therapy for minors. One of the concerns that was raised during the hearings was that by banning conversion therapy LGBTQIA youth would not seek therapy. I am happy to respond, [as shown in the report](#), banning conversion therapy will not stop LGBTQIA youth from seeking therapy.

What the taskforce did find is that we do not have enough licensed mental health professionals for minors in the state of Hawai'i. HB 580 will help fix this shortage of mental health professionals.

The LGBT Caucus of the DPH asks that you support this very important bill as it will help ensure that ALL youth will have access to mental health professionals.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:03:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box
833
Honolulu,
HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Email:
hpaexec@gmail.com
Phone: (808)
521-8995

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB580
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH
WITH A REQUESTED AMENDMENT

LATE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2019
TIME: 9:15 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports HB580 with an important recommended amendment. HPA supports this bill because it is consistent with our interest in ensuring access to quality mental health services to the diverse people of Hawai'i. If passed this bill would help increase the capacity of our public and private mental health systems to provide mental health services for adolescents who are seeking counseling, but who do not want to obtain permission from a parent or do not want to disclose their reasons for seeking help to a parent.

When the original bill changing the age of consent for mental health services to 14 was passed by the legislature in the 2016 session, it was a helpful step forward in ensuring that youth who are suffering emotionally can get help. However, the current statute applies only to services provided by licensed mental health professionals. As you may be aware, most of the readily available and low- or no-cost services in Hawai'i are provided – not by licensed professionals – but by unlicensed professionals who are in the process of meeting all the requirements for full licensure under the supervision of a licensed professional. This includes interns, practicum students, and newer graduates who have not completed all the requisite hours of experience or passed the examination necessary for licensure. In general, licensure as a mental health professional of any kind in Hawai'i requires at least a year of full-time supervised practice after graduating with the relevant degree. The purpose of this bill is to authorize these mental health professionals working under the supervision of a fully licensed mental health professional to provide mental health treatment or counseling services to minors without parental consent when this is clinically indicated.

This bill is a product of a task force led by the Department of Health (DOH), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) as mandated by Act 13, SLH 2018. The task force focused primarily on questions regarding counseling practices with LGBTQ youth. These youth often feel alienated from their parents and other family members or fear revealing their struggles around their sexual orientation and/or gender identity to their parents. The ability to find a counselor without having to involve a parent can be especially crucial for these youth. In addition, some youth are reluctant to disclose their concerns to their parents for a wide variety of other reasons, such as undisclosed sexual abuse, substance abuse problems, and situations of high family conflict.

HPA would like to support the amendment to the wording of the bill being recommended by the Department of Health to clarify the definition of a “Mental Health Professional” and ensure all relevant professions are included. We are particularly dismayed that Psychologists as a group were omitted from the text of the bill, apparently by an oversight. We request the following amendment to Section 1 on page 4, lines 1 through 9:

"Mental health professional" means a person who is working under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional and either: 1) is enrolled in an accredited training program or 2) has completed all licensing requirements except the hours of supervised post-degree experience and/or the examination required for state licensure, for licensed mental health counselors pursuant to chapter 453D, for licensed marriage and family therapists pursuant to chapter 451J, for clinical social workers pursuant to chapter 467E, for psychologists pursuant to chapter 465, or for advanced practice registered nurses pursuant to chapter 457."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important bill.

Sincerely,

Julie Takishima-Lacasa, PhD

Chair, Legislative Action Committee

Hawai'i Psychological Association

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 5:10:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 8:00:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Canales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/26/2019 8:10:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a parent on the island of Kaua'i, and my family strongly supports HB 580 and urges you to pass this bill. I know firsthand how important it is for young people to have access to mental health support; my daughter experienced depression and anxiety as she entered adolescence, and there was no support available at her school. We were most fortunate to have health insurance that helped us to cover it, but I know so many families do not have this benefit and still need it. Many teenagers would not feel comfortable approaching their parents about seeing a counselor, and some would actually be in danger if they did if they are suffering from abuse. It's critical that students have access to mental health professionals who can help them with whatever their issues might be.

My daughter is now a happy and healthy 18 year old attending college on the mainland, and she credits the work she did with her therapist for helping her to end her suicidal thoughts, learn to manage her anxieties and depression in healthy ways without using prescriptions, and to cope with the many difficulties of growing up in this modern world. It's critical to have that opportunity extended to all young people in Hawai'i, especially given our high rate of teen suicide. Please support this bill and help it to become law, and part of our education budget.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Maria Walker

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/26/2019 1:59:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The state has absolutely no right to make incursion into the family relational fabric. This bill is an audacious attempt to turn a family upside down as it struggles to find solutions to what can only be distressful situations. To prey on the tender emotions of a 14 year old to act in secret against his/her parents smacks of fascism and, when the parents find out, they have no recourse to convince their child to consider a different course. This bill is a blatant attack on the family and should be shredded as dangerous and abusive.

From: David Smoot, House District 26

HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
&
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Testimony supporting House Bill 580

Tuesday, January 29, 2019
9:15am
Room 329

Aloha Committee Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Committee members.

I'm David Smoot of District 26, and I'm testifying in strong support of HB580 "Mental Health Services; Minors; Interns".

First, I think the public supports our children's mental health services. This bill improves access to services and the professionalism of services delivered.

If the primary opposition to this bill is religious, please note that under this bill, no parent, doctor or mental health professionals are forced to participate if they are opposed.

Other concerns might be related to parental involvement, but I think this bill provides for parental involvement when appropriate.

When I was young, I was troubled by the conflict between my sexual orientation and societal values. I sought mental health counselling from a county mental health clinic and it proved to be very beneficial. I did not require my parent's permission, nor did I want to inform them at the time. I would like this valuable professional counseling to be available to our children without the need to notify parents who may not understand what it's like to be different, facing discrimination and bullying.

I urge you to vote to advance HB580 to the floor.

Thank you for the opportunity to show my support for HB580.

Sincerely,
David Smoot

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 11:38:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in Strong Support for House Bill 580. Please support this important legislation for the minors in our community.

Mahalo,

Eileen McKee

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 11:58:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Kay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support.

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 10:45:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie DeMello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stephanie DeMello

531 Kaimake Loop

Kailua, HI, 96734

Committee on Health

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

Rep. Joy A San Buenaventura Rep. Gene Ward

Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Calvin K.Y Say

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

Rep. John M. Mizuno Rep. Gene Ward

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Support for H.B. No. 580, Relating to mental health

Hello, good afternoon committee members. My name is Stephanie DeMello and I am a masters student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I am also a longtime childcare worker on the Marine Corps Base of Hawaii and am currently doing my practicum with Hina Mauka at the Women's Community Correctional Center. I strongly support H.B No. 580, Relating to mental health, which would authorize mental health professionals, under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional, to provide mental health treatment or counseling services to minors.

The earlier mental health is addressed in a person's life the better chance they have at developing positive coping skills to deal with their mental illness. Adolescents and youth are often left to deal with their mental illnesses on their own or within their family units. I believe, working with adolescents as long as I have, that we need to destigmatize mental health services so adolescents can talk out their problems in such a big time in their lives with licensed professionals who know what stages of life they are going through. This population of youth are often pushed aside and left to deal with heavy emotions, changing hormones and bodies as well as told their feelings are invalid due to hormones. This is a good preventative measure to take to help prevent emotions from bottling up as well as a good screening measure for youth who may have mental health needs but it goes unnoticed or pushed aside.

I urge the committee to pass H.B. No. 580. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Stephanie DeMello

LATE

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 3:25:53 PM
Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-580

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 9:20:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/29/2019 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71, Kapolei, HI 96707 Email: RainbowFamily808@gmail.com Ph: (808) 779-9078 Fax: (808) 672-6347

January 27, 2019

The Honorable John Mizno, Chair with Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair
and Members on the House Health Committee

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair with Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Human Services & Homelessness

LATE

RE: HB580 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH OF MINORS

Aloha Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members,

Rainbow Family 808 is a non-profit serving the families of Hawaii with support and advocacy. As Founding President, I lend my Masters Level Social Work experience for the past 18 years to our dedicated volunteers for the benefit for families in need. HB580 is an important step forward to enable the youth of Hawai'i the Mental Health Services that they need to process situations in their lives that untreated will damage their lives in the years ahead.

In these 18 years, I have found that Homeless Youth under the age of 18 fall through the cracks of society due to serious neglect by their parents, families and our community. The Youth need more assistance than they are legally able to access. HB580 will be a very good start at assisting all youth under the age of 18 to receive Mental Health Services that they need at this crucial time in their lives.

Rainbow Family 808 humbly ask that you pass HB580 for the support our Hawai'i's Youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our support for our families.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch
President and Co-Founder
Rainbow Family 808