STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2537

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 0 1 2018

RE: S.B. No. 2647

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Twenty-Ninth State Legislature Regular Session of 2018 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2647 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS," begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the practicum experience requirements for qualification for licensure as a mental health counselor.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Hawaii Counselors Association, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the existing educational requirements for application for licensure as a mental health counselor are overly specific, which has prevented some otherwise qualified individuals from gaining licensure. This measure generalizes the practicum intern experience to at least six semester hours or ten quarter hours within at least two academic terms, rather than requiring at least three semester hours or five quarter hours per academic term. Your Committee notes that this measure does not change the total practicum intern experience hours for licensure as a mental health counselor; rather, this measure provides greater flexibility for mental health counselor applicants to schedule and complete their practicum experience.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2647 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

ROSALYN H. BAKER. Chair

The Senate Twenty-Ninth Legislature State of Hawaiʻi

Record of Votes Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health CPH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:	
SB 2647	CPH		í	2/14/1	8
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)					
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)		_			
CHANG, Stanley		. —			
ESPERO, Will					
IHARA, Jr., Les					
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	*				
RUDERMAN, Russell E.					
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TOTAL		5			Z
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy					

*Only one measure per Record of Votes