

MAR 04 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
GRANTING PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY TO QUALIFIED PSYCHOLOGISTS
IN THE COUNTIES OF KAUA'I, MAUI, AND HAWAI'I.

1 WHEREAS, there is a significant shortage of prescribing
2 mental health care providers available to serve the needs of the
3 State's residents in rural or medically underserved communities,
4 especially in Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i counties; and
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6 WHEREAS, the lack of access to appropriate mental health
7 treatment has serious and irrevocable consequences; and
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9 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health, of the ten-
10 leading injury-related causes of death, death by suicide is the
11 number one cause among Hawai'i residents; and
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13 WHEREAS, studies have shown that people who attempt or
14 commit suicide often received inadequate or no mental health
15 treatment due to a shortage of community mental health
16 providers; and
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18 WHEREAS, while causes for suicide are complex, the most
19 commonly reported contributing factors are mental health
20 conditions that, when identified and treated, respond favorably
21 to therapy and psychotropic medication; and
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23 WHEREAS, clinical psychologists are licensed health
24 professionals with an average of seven years of post-
25 baccalaureate study and three thousand hours of post-graduate
26 supervised practice in diagnosis and treatment of mental
27 illness; and
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29 WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association has
30 developed a model curriculum for a Master's Degree in
31 psychopharmacology for the education and training of prescribing
32 psychologists, however, the existing scope of clinical



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1 psychologists' practice in Hawai'i does not include prescribing
2 medications; and

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4 WHEREAS, Hawai'i has previously authorized prescription
5 privileges for a number of other health care professionals, and
6 federal facilities have long allowed licensed clinical
7 psychologists with specialized education and training to
8 prescribe psychotropic medications in certain circumstances; and

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10 WHEREAS, authorizing qualified clinical psychologists with
11 appropriate advanced training to prescribe from a limited
12 formulary of psychotropic medication will benefit Hawai'i
13 residents, especially those who live in rural or medically
14 underserved communities; now, therefore,

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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
18 that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is
19 requested to convene a task force to provide recommendations for
20 granting prescriptive authority to qualified psychologist
21 applicants in the counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
24 assistance of the Board of Psychology, is requested to submit a
25 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
26 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
27 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved on
30 June 30, 2022; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of
34 Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Executive Officer of the
35 Board of Psychology.

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38 OFFERED BY: 

