

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 22 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1830
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 1830, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish provisional or associate level licensure requirements for marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, and psychologists;
- (2) Authorize insurance reimbursements for these individuals, and certain supervised social worker interns, in certain circumstances;
- (3) Require psychologist license applicants to possess a doctoral degree and complete certain supervised experience requirements before sitting for the licensing examination; and
- (4) Make an appropriation for an unspecified number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to process provisional license applications and for the Department of Commerce



and Consumer Affairs to update their internal database for the new license types and associated requirements.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Board of Psychology, State Council on Mental Health, Disability and Communication Access Board, Department of Health, Office of Wellness and Resilience, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Mental Health America of Hawai'i, Present Mind Institute of Hawaii, Parents and Children Together, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Hawai'i Counselors Association, Brighter Bound, Fujimoto Counseling Services LLC, Pukalani Family Practice and Urgent Care, Hawai'i Psychological Association, National Association of Social Workers - Hawai'i Chapter, Hawaiian Islands Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, AlohaCare, and forty-eight individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Hawaii Medical Service Association.

Your Committees find that there is a critical shortage of mental health professionals in Hawaii. To help alleviate the high demand for mental health services, and for clinical training purposes, associate-level practitioners that have completed rigorous educational and professional development requirements should be authorized to render certain professional mental health treatment services, so long as they are practicing under licensed clinical supervision. Your Committees find that while these important and necessary services provided by associate-level practitioners do in fact allow them to fulfill certain post-degree, pre-license clinical hours required for full licensure status, almost all of these mental health professionals otherwise go unpaid for the valuable services that they perform. This has caused many talented professionals who would have otherwise stayed in Hawaii to permanently move to one of the many other states where insurance reimbursements are allowed for associate level professionals. Therefore, this measure provides a framework to authorize insurance reimbursements for certain mental health practitioners in training to enable and encourage these future mental health professionals to remain in the State. Further, this measure clarifies certain licensing examination requirements for psychologist license applicants.



Your Committees have amended this measure by:

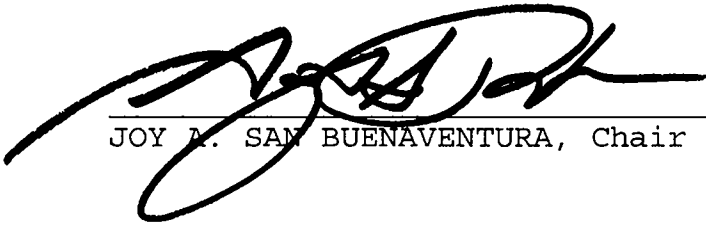
- (1) Clarifying the educational requirements necessary to obtain a provisional license as an associate marriage and family therapist;
- (2) Clarifying the educational requirements necessary to obtain a provisional license as an associate mental health counselor;
- (3) Clarifying that the exemption from the state psychologists licensing law shall apply to any person who is a student of psychology or enrolled in a professional psychology training program defined under chapter 465, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prevent students of other professions related to psychology from qualifying under the exemption;
- (4) Authorizing psychologist license applicants that possess an associate psychologist provisional license to sit for their licensing examination before, rather than after, completing certain post-doctoral license experience requirements;
- (5) Inserting language to limit the waiver period to a maximum of one year for any waiver granted by the Board of Psychology to a psychologist that is not able to obtain licensure within the statutory two-year period if the psychologist can demonstrate that the delay was caused by circumstances beyond the psychologist's control;
- (6) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1830, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second



Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1830, H.D. 2,
S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Commerce and
Consumer Protection and Health
and Human Services



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



JERRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Second Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB1830, HD2	CPN/HHS, WAM	3/20/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<i>Carol Fukunaga</i>				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
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*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 1830, HD2	Committee Referral: CPN/HHS, WAM	Date: 3/20/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.				✓
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> 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**