

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2024

RE: S.B. No. 3094  
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred S.B. No. 3094 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a working group to create a statewide framework for peer support specialists; and
- (2) Appropriate funds for the establishment of the peer support specialist working group, including for the Office of Wellness and Resilience to contract with an administrative facilitator to provide the working group with necessary support.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Health, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, The Judiciary, Office of Wellness and Resilience, Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, Commit to Keiki, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawaii, and Early Childhood Action Strategy.

Your Committee finds that peer support specialists assist patients with rebuilding a sense of control and empowerment by



utilizing strengths-based approaches that emphasize physical, psychological, and emotional safety. Your Committee further finds that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recognize that the experiences of peer support specialists, can be an important component in the delivery of effective mental and behavioral health treatment. Additionally, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration identifies peer support as one of the six guiding principles of trauma-informed care. Your Committee also finds that peer support specialists provide benefits to a variety of individuals, including those who are experiencing homelessness, involved in the child welfare system, and survivors of disasters. The recommendations from the working group established pursuant to this measure will allow the State to make an informed decision on establishing a framework for peer support specialists in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the chairperson may invite as members of the working group, two caregivers with lived experience as the caregiver of a child or youth in behavioral health, child welfare, or the juvenile justice systems;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2112, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee notes that this measure, as amended, does not include in the working group, a member from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Your Committee finds that the inclusion of the Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation in the working group merits further consideration and respectfully requests further examination by subsequent committees to which this measure is referred.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3094, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3094, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Government  
Operations,



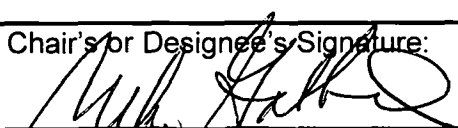
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ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes  
 Committee on Government Operations  
 GVO

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 3094</b>	Committee Referral: <b>GVO, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2/13/24</b>		
<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
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn				✓
AWA, Brenton				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>
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