

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 176

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 05 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1314
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 1314 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require all schools in the State to develop plans to execute mental health check-ins with their students in grades six through twelve.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Primary Care Association; Hawaii Association of School Psychologists; Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus; and three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General; Department of Education; and Hawai'i Youth Services Network.

Your Committee finds that, as children become teenagers, their attention shifts from the approval of their parents to that of their peers, causing youth to be more susceptible to peer-pressure, bullying, and increased deviant behaviors. In addition, with the increased access of social media, youth can be inundated with content that is difficult to process. Youth trying to negotiate their way through this turbulent time may find it



difficult to communicate their struggles to their parents. This can leave the youth feeling isolated and unable to cope with their psychosocial stressors.

Your Committee further finds that it may fall onto other positive adult figures to step up and check-in with youths. These adult figures are often teachers, counselors, or coaches at the school the youth attends. Your Committee believes that requiring all schools to develop mental health plans that include the implementation of mental health check-ins will offer support and mental health resources for students.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language providing immunity for Department of Education schools, charter schools, and private schools, including their personnel and any private contractors hired by the schools, from any civil or criminal liability arising from providing mental health check-ins with their students, except where the conduct would constitute gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, or intentional misconduct; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1314, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1314, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Health.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,



JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



