

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

555

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 624

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 Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which
was referred H.B. No. 624, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish the School
Psychologists Working Group within the Department of Education to
recommend actionable steps or propose legislation to the
Legislature on an immediate pathway to licensure for school
psychologists in 2026.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Education; Board of Psychology; Hawai'i
Primary Care Association; Hawai'i Association of School
Psychologists; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME
Local 152, AFL-CIO; and nine individuals. Your Committee received
comments on this measure from the Hawai'i Psychological
Association.

Your Committee finds that school psychologists are uniquely
qualified professionals who provide a comprehensive range of
learning, mental, and behavioral health services in schools.
Importantly, school psychologists are not interchangeable with
other psychologists, as they possess a specific set of knowledge
and skills that are tailored to educational settings. It is for

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this reason that school psychology is a recognized specialty of psychology by the American Psychological Association (APA); the APA's Model Licensure Act maintains the importance of a distinct license/certification for school psychologists separate and apart from other psychology professionals.

Your Committee further finds that Hawaii is the only state in the United States that has not established credentialing requirements for the practice of school psychology and use of the title "School Psychologist". This measure will allow the Legislature to gather further information to determine the most appropriate form of regulation for persons who practice school psychology.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 624, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



SCOT Z. MATSUMOTO, Chair



