

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1435

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 2025

RE: S.R. No. 51
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor and Technology, to which was referred
S.R. No. 51 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO MORE CLOSELY COOPERATE WITH THE
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT UNITS ASSIGNED TO STATE AGENCIES
COMPRISING THE STATE'S PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO
DETERMINE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO EXPEDITE HIRING AND
FILLING CRITICAL VACANCIES, INCLUDING SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS
THE OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES UNIQUE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH CARE
WORKFORCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Department of Human Resources Development to more closely
cooperate with the human resources development units assigned to
state agencies comprising the State's public mental health care
system to determine the necessary actions to expedite hiring and
filling critical vacancies, including solutions to address the
obstacles and challenges unique to the mental health care
workforce.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Human Resources Development, State Council
on Mental Health, and one individual.



Your Committee finds that mental health professionals in the State's public mental health system are experiencing high levels of burnout due to excessive caseloads, administrative burdens, and exposure to trauma, resulting in high turnover rates. Your Committee further finds that difficulty in maintaining a stable workforce threatens the quality, sustainability, and stability of the State's provision of mental health care to people in need. Negative impacts on the availability and quality of care are most harmful to the State's vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly. This measure urges closer cooperation between the Department of Human Resources Development and human resources units assigned to state agencies within the public mental health care system to expedite and modernize recruitment and retention practices to improve access to mental health services in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Department of Human Resources Development is requested to cooperate with the state agencies comprising the State's public mental health care system, rather than the Department's human resources development units assigned to those agencies;
- (2) Adding the Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Superintendent of Education, Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Chief Justice of the Judiciary as recipients of certified copies of this measure;
- (3) Amending its title accordingly; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor and Technology that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 51, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 51, S.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor and
Technology,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. J. C. Aquino', is written over a horizontal line.

HENRY J. C. AQUINO, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Labor and Technology
LBT

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>HR 51</i>	Committee Referral: <i>LBT</i>	Date: <i>3/24/25</i>		
<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
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (C)	✓			
LEE, Chris (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les				✗
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	✗			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✗
TOTAL	<i>3</i>			<i>2</i>
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