

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 10 , 2026

RE: S.B. No. 847  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which  
was referred S.B. No. 847, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a three-year  
pilot program to allow qualified psychologists under the  
supervision of a supervising psychiatrist to prescribe  
psychotropic medications for the treatment of mental illness to  
certain patients under the psychologist's care at a federally  
qualified health center located in the County of Kauai.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the State Health Planning and Development Agency; Board of  
Psychology; Office of the Mayor of the County of Kaua'i; Office of  
the Mayor of the County of Hawai'i; Legislative and Social Action  
Committee of the American Psychological Association's Division 55,  
the Society for Prescribing Psychology; DepressionEducation.org;  
Resilience Therapy and Assessment Services, PLLC; Family Solutions  
Counseling Center; Hawai'i Mental Health Coalition; National  
Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter; Mental Health  
America of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Psychological Association; a petition  
with numerous individuals in support; and numerous individuals.



Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses; Hawaii Medical Association; Hawai'i Psychiatric Medical Association; Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; a petition with numerous individuals in opposition; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health and Hawai'i Primary Care Association.

Your Committee finds that expanding prescriptive authority to qualified and specially trained psychologists has been implemented safely in other jurisdictions and care settings. Your Committee further finds that evidence from those jurisdictions demonstrates improved access to mental health care and positive patient outcomes, particularly for rural, underserved, and high-need populations. Your Committee notes that prescribing psychologists are subject to rigorous education and training requirements and practice within established standards of care. By allowing appropriately trained psychologists to provide prescriptive services, this measure supports improved access to behavioral health care while maintaining appropriate safeguards and oversight.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that medications prescribed under the pilot program are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement to the extent such prescriptions would otherwise be eligible if prescribed by a psychiatrist;
- (2) Expanding the pilot program to Wilcox Medical Center and Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital;
- (3) Requiring employers to report adverse events, patient outcomes, and escalation protocols relating to services provided under the pilot program to the State Health Planning and Development Agency, which is required to annually report the results to the Board of Psychology;
- (4) Amending the definition of "prescriptive authority" to limit that authority to patients with major depressive or generalized anxiety disorder;



- (5) Limiting the psychotropic medications that may be prescribed under the pilot program to only selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) and serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI);
- (6) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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 S.B. No. 847, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 847, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

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



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SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, Chair



