

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1370

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 16, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President, and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,
Speaker, and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

RE: Senate Bill No. 847, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution, Senate Bill No. 847, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1, entitled "RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS," became law without my signature as ACT 266, Session Laws of Hawaii 2026, on July 16, 2026.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Permitted to become law without the

Governor's signature JUL 16 2026

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 266
S.B. NO. 847
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is limited
3 access to mental health care treatment services for residents
4 across the State. The delivery of comprehensive, accessible,
5 and affordable mental health care has been demonstrably enhanced
6 by collaborative practice among licensed clinical psychologists
7 with prescriptive authority and medical doctors in federal
8 facilities and programs and in states that have authorized
9 prescriptive authority for psychologists. The legislature finds
10 that providing limited prescriptive authority to qualified,
11 licensed clinical psychologists, subject to supervision by a
12 licensed medical doctor, could help make comprehensive mental
13 health care more accessible to medically underserved residents
14 of the State. The legislature acknowledges that the Health
15 Resources and Services Administration of the United States
16 Department of Health and Human Services has officially
17 designated much of the State, including isolated rural locations



1 and urban areas with high population densities, as a mental
2 health professional shortage area. This designation highlights
3 the critical need for expansion of available mental health
4 services and development of a corps of mental health
5 professionals to serve the currently unmet needs of Hawaii's
6 population.

7 The legislature has previously authorized prescription
8 privileges for advanced practice registered nurses,
9 optometrists, dentists, podiatrists, and physician assistants.
10 These practitioners have been granted prescriptive authority
11 based on demonstration of specific training, education, and
12 practical competency. Education and training criteria, such as
13 passage of national board examinations and degree and minimum
14 experience requirements, have worked well to assure quality of
15 services. Limitations on authority including the use of
16 approved formularies, limited practice areas, and prohibitions
17 on accepting or distributing drug samples have served to deter
18 abuses in the system and to prevent the inappropriate practice
19 of general medicine. Prescriptive authority for non-physician
20 practitioners with varying types of limitations and supervision



1 requirements has proven manageable and has expanded access to
2 important health care services for patients across the State.

3 Clinical psychologists with appropriate training have been
4 allowed to prescribe medications to active duty military
5 personnel and their families in federal facilities and the
6 federal Indian health service program for years. In recent
7 years, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, New Mexico,
8 and Utah have adopted legislation authorizing prescriptive
9 authority for appropriately trained psychologists without regard
10 to the service setting.

11 Since 2000, psychologists in Hawaii have received
12 psychopharmacological training through the Tripler Army Medical
13 Center psychology training program. These psychologists have
14 actively collaborated with primary care physicians to provide
15 combined therapy and psychopharmacological care to medically
16 underserved patient populations at eleven federally qualified
17 health centers: Bay Clinic, Hana, Molokai, Kauai, Waianae,
18 Kalihi-Palama, Waimanalo, Koolauloa, West Hawaii, Kokua Kalihi
19 Valley, and Waikiki, as well as a Native Hawaiian health care
20 system clinic located in a federally designated medically
21 underserved area on Molokai.



1 The American Psychological Association has developed a
2 model curriculum for a master's degree in psychopharmacology for
3 the education and training of prescribing psychologists.
4 Independent evaluations of the United States Department of
5 Defense psychopharmacological demonstration project by the
6 United States General Accounting Office, now known as the
7 Government Accountability Office, and the American College of
8 Neuropsychopharmacology, as well as the experiences of Idaho,
9 Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, and New Mexico, have demonstrated
10 that appropriately trained clinical psychologists can prescribe
11 psychotropic medications safely and effectively.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 13 (1) Establish a three-year pilot program to allow
14 qualified psychologists under the supervision of a
15 supervising physician or psychiatrist to prescribe
16 certain psychotropic medications for the treatment of
17 mental illness to patients between the ages of
18 eighteen and sixty-five who are under the
19 psychologist's care at a federally qualified health
20 center located in the county of Kauai or county of
21 Hawaii; and



1 (2) Require the state health planning and development
2 agency to submit a report to the legislature to
3 determine whether the pilot program should be
4 expanded, made permanent statewide, or terminated.

5 PART II

SECTION 2. (a) There is established a three-year pilot program to be administered by the state health planning and development agency, in partnership with the board of psychology, to allow clinical psychologists licensed pursuant to chapter 465, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prescribe psychotropic medications under the supervision of a supervising physician or psychiatrist only to patients between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five years who are being treated by the psychologist at a federally qualified health center located in the county of Kauai or the county of Hawaii; provided that psychotropic medications prescribed under this pilot program shall be eligible for medicaid reimbursement to the extent such prescriptions would otherwise be eligible if prescribed by a physician or psychiatrist.



1 (b) A licensed clinical psychologist shall be eligible to
2 apply to participate in the pilot program established pursuant
3 to this Act if the psychologist:

4 (1) Meets the requirements for licensure set forth in
5 section 465-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

6 (2) Completed specialized education and training in
7 preparation for prescriptive practice approved by the
8 American Psychological Association and the board of
9 psychology;

10 (3) Has passed the Psychopharmacology Examination for
11 Psychologists or an equivalent national examination
12 approved by the board of psychology that is relevant
13 to establishing competence for prescriptive practice;

14 (4) Is employed by, including as a contract provider, a
15 federally qualified health center as defined in title
16 42 United States Code section 1396d located in the
17 county of Kauai or county of Hawaii; and

18 (5) Meets any other requirements established by the board
19 of psychology.

20 (c) The pilot program established pursuant to this Act
21 shall be a three-year program that shall allow participating



1 psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medications under a
2 supervising physician or psychiatrist.

3 (d) The board of psychology shall adopt rules pursuant to
4 chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to implement the purpose of
5 this Act.

6 (e) The state health planning and development agency shall
7 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
8 any proposed legislation, on the pilot program to the
9 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
10 the regular session of 2029. The report shall include a
11 recommendation on whether to:

12 (1) Expand the pilot program to other underserved areas in
13 the State;

14 (2) Make prescriptive authority for qualified
15 psychologists permanent statewide; or

16 (3) Permanently end the pilot program.

17 (f) For the purposes of this Act:

18 "Prescriptive authority" means the authority to prescribe,
19 administer, discontinue, or distribute without charge, drugs or
20 controlled substances recognized in or customarily used in the
21 diagnosis, treatment, and management of individuals with



1 psychiatric, mental, cognitive, nervous, emotional, or
2 behavioral disorders, or other procedures directly related
3 thereto within the scope of practice of psychology in accordance
4 with rules adopted by the board of psychology.

5 "Psychopharmacology" means the use of psychoactive drugs in
6 the treatment and control of mental disorders or psychiatric
7 disease.

8 "Psychotropic medication" means only those agents related
9 to the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders
10 including controlled substances but not including narcotics.

11 "Supervising physician or psychiatrist" means a medically
12 trained and licensed physician or psychiatrist who accepts
13 professional responsibility for the provision of
14 psychopharmacology by a psychologist certified to prescribe.

15 PART III

16 SECTION 3. Section 329-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended as follows:

18 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
19 and to read:

20 "Psychologist certified to prescribe" means a person
21 approved by the board of psychology to participate in the pilot



1 program established pursuant to Act _____, Session Laws of Hawaii
2 2026, but who is not authorized to request, receive, or sign for
3 professional controlled substance samples."

4 2. By amending the definition of "practitioner" to read:

5 ""Practitioner" means:

6 (1) A physician, dentist, veterinarian, scientific
7 investigator, or other person licensed and registered
8 under section 329-32 to distribute, dispense, or
9 conduct research with respect to a controlled
10 substance in the course of professional practice or
11 research in this State;

12 (2) An advanced practice registered nurse with
13 prescriptive authority licensed and registered under
14 section 329-32 to prescribe and administer controlled
15 substances in the course of professional practice in
16 this State;

17 (3) A licensed midwife practicing as a certified midwife
18 registered under section 329-32 to prescribe and
19 administer controlled substances in the course of
20 professional practice in this State; ~~and~~



1 (4) A licensed psychologist certified to prescribe and
2 registered under section 329-32 to prescribe and
3 dispense controlled substances in accordance with the
4 requirements and limitations of the pilot program
5 established pursuant to Act , Session Laws of
6 Hawaii 2026; and
7 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) A pharmacy, hospital, or other institution
8 licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to
9 distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to
10 or to administer a controlled substance in the course
11 of professional practice or research in this State."

PART IV

13 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 847
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this day of , 2026

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 847, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nadine K. Nakamura".

Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian L. Takeshita".

Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives