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# 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 purpose of this Act is to establish a  
3 three-year pilot program to allow qualified psychologists under  
4 the supervision of a supervising psychiatrist to prescribe  
5 certain psychotropic medications for the treatment of mental  
6 illness to patients between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five  
7 who are under the psychologist's care at a federally qualified  
8 health center located in the county of Kauai.

9 PART II

10 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning July 1, 2028, there is  
11 established a three-year pilot program to be administered by the  
12 state health planning and development agency, in partnership  
13 with the board of psychology, to allow clinical psychologists  
14 licensed pursuant to chapter 465, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to  
15 prescribe psychotropic medications under the supervision of a  
16 supervising psychiatrist only to patients between the ages of  
17 eighteen and sixty-five years who are being treated by the



1 psychologist at a federally qualified health center located in  
2 the county of Kauai.

3 (b) A licensed clinical psychologist may participate in  
4 the pilot program established pursuant to this Act if the  
5 psychologist:

6 (1) Is licensed pursuant to section 465-7, Hawaii Revised  
7 Statutes;

8 (2) Has, at a minimum, completed an education and training  
9 program in clinical psychopharmacology that is  
10 designated by the American Psychological Association  
11 to prepare licensed psychologists for prescriptive  
12 authority and approved by the board of psychology;

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

17 (4) Is employed, including as a contract provider, by a  
18 federally qualified health center located in the  
19 county of Kauai; and

20 (5) Meets any other requirements established by the board  
21 of psychology.



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

4 (d) The state health planning and development agency shall  
5 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
6 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than  
7 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
8 2030. The report shall include a recommendation on whether to:

9 (1) Expand the pilot program to other underserved areas in  
10 the State;

11 (2) Make prescriptive authority for qualified  
12 psychologists permanent statewide; or

13 (3) Permanently end the pilot program.

14 (e) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,  
15 2031.

16 (f) For the purposes of this Act:

17 "Federally qualified health center" has the same meaning as  
18 in title 42 United States Code section 1396d(1)(2).

19 "Prescriptive authority" means the authority to prescribe,  
20 administer, discontinue, or distribute without charge, drugs or  
21 controlled substances recognized in or customarily used in the



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

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

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

12 "Psychotropic medication" does not include any agent placed in  
13 schedules II through V of part II of chapter 329, Hawaii Revised  
14 Statutes, or the off-label use of any agent not formulated or  
15 primarily prescribed for the diagnosis and treatment of mental  
16 and emotional disorders.

17 "Supervising psychiatrist" means a psychiatrist licensed to  
18 practice medicine in the State who supervises a licensed  
19 clinical psychologist practicing at a federally qualified health  
20 center located in Kauai and accepts professional responsibility



1 for the provision of psychotropic medication by the licensed  
2 clinical psychologist.

3 PART III

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

6 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
7 and to read:

8 "Psychologist certified to prescribe" means a clinical  
9 psychologist licensed in the State who is participating in the  
10 pilot program established pursuant to Act , Regular Session  
11 of 2026, but who is not authorized to request, receive, or sign  
12 for professional controlled substance samples."

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

14 ""Practitioner" means:

- 15 (1) A physician, dentist, veterinarian, scientific  
16 investigator, or other person licensed and registered  
17 under section 329-32 to distribute, dispense, or  
18 conduct research with respect to a controlled  
19 substance in the course of professional practice or  
20 research in this State;



- 1           (2) An advanced practice registered nurse with
- 2           prescriptive authority licensed and registered under
- 3           section 329-32 to prescribe and administer controlled
- 4           substances in the course of professional practice in
- 5           this State;
- 6           (3) A licensed midwife practicing as a certified midwife
- 7           registered under section 329-32 to prescribe and
- 8           administer controlled substances in the course of
- 9           professional practice in this State; [and]
- 10          (4) A licensed psychologist certified to prescribe
- 11          registered under section 329-32 to prescribe and
- 12          dispense controlled substances in accordance with the
- 13          requirements and limitations of the pilot program
- 14          established pursuant to Act       , Regular Session of
- 15          2026; and
- 16          [~~(4)~~] (5) A pharmacy, hospital, or other institution
- 17          licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to
- 18          distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to
- 19          or to administer a controlled substance in the course
- 20          of professional practice or research in this State."

PART IV



1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
4 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2031.



**Report Title:**

SHPDA; Board of Psychology; Prescriptive Authority; Clinical Psychologists; Pilot Program; Supervising Psychiatrists; Federally Qualified Health Centers; Kauai; Rules; Report

**Description:**

Establishes a three-year pilot program in the County of Kauai to allow qualified psychologists under the supervision of a supervising psychiatrist limited authority to prescribe psychotropic medications to patients between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five years under the care of the psychologist. Requires the Board of Psychology to adopt rules. Requires the State Health Planning and Development Agency to report to the Legislature. Sunsets 6/30/2031. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

