

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1876
H.D. 1

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 H.B. No. 1876 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to amend the existing
prohibition on conversion therapy by:

- (1) Extending the prohibition on the practice of conversion
therapy to patients of all ages, rather than just
patients under eighteen years of age; and
- (2) Exempting talk therapy in the form of pure speech.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health; Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission; HOKU PAC; Pride at
Work - Hawai'i; Imua Alliance; Hawai'i State Democratic Women's
Caucus; Lambda Law Hawai'i; and numerous individuals. Your
Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from
Hawaii Family Forum.

Your Committee finds that conversion therapy refers to any
practice, treatment, or sustained effort that seeks to change,
suppress, or eliminate a person's sexual orientation, gender



identity, or gender expression, or to enforce rigid gender norms. These practices may be framed as counseling, spiritual guidance, behavioral modification, or "reparative" treatment, but they share a common goal: to deny the legitimacy of LGBTQIA+ identities and coerce individuals into conformity.

Your Committee further finds that there is no credible scientific or medical evidence that conversion therapy works to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The consensus of every major medical, psychiatric, and psychological association rejects conversion therapy and finds it ineffective and potentially harmful, including the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychiatric Association. The use of conversion therapy has been shown in research to be consistently linked with negative physical and mental health outcomes, including depression, anxiety, substance use, self-harm, and suicidality. For these reasons, the practice of conversion therapy on minors was prohibited in the State through Act 13, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, and Act 157, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019.

However, your Committee notes that a case, Chiles v. Salazar, No. 24-539 (U.S.), is before the Supreme Court of the United States in which a counselor is challenging the legality of a substantially similar law enacted in Colorado based on protected free speech. This measure provides a conditional amendment on the existing prohibition on conversion therapy that will be effective only upon a final decision in Chiles v. Salazar that carves out an exemption for talk therapy.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Limiting the prohibition on the practice of conversion therapy to patients under the age of twenty-five years, rather than prohibiting the practice regardless of the age of the patient; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

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. 1876, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1876, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

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



SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, Chair



