

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1889
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. 1889, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish the School Psychologists Working Group within the Department of Education to recommend actionable steps or propose legislation to the Legislature on an immediate pathway to licensure for school psychologists in 2027.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists; and seven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Board of Psychology and Hawai'i Psychological Association.

Your Committee finds that school psychologists are uniquely qualified professionals who provide a comprehensive range of learning, mental, and behavioral health services in schools. Importantly, school psychologists are not interchangeable with other psychologists, as they possess a specific set of knowledge and skills that are tailored to educational settings. It is for this reason that school psychology is a recognized specialty of psychology by the American Psychological Association (APA); the



APA's Model Licensure Act maintains the importance of a distinct license/certification for school psychologists separate and apart from other psychology professionals.

Your Committee further finds that Hawaii is the only state in the United States that has not established credentialing requirements for the practice of school psychology and use of the title "School Psychologist". This measure will allow the Legislature to gather further information to determine the most appropriate form of regulation for persons who practice school psychology.

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. 1889, H.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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



SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, Chair



