

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 17, 2006

RE: H.B. No. 1993
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
H.B. No. 1993, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TELEPSYCHIATRY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to improve the availability of
mental health care services for patients statewide by establishing
and appropriating funds for a one-year pilot telepsychiatry
project at the University of Hawaii to serve certain locations
around the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this bill
from the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association and a psychiatrist
in private practice.

Your Committee believes that this bill represents a step
forward in rectifying the lack of access to mental health services
in certain areas of the State by demonstrating the efficiency of
telepsychiatry as a means of providing those services.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your
Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report,
your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B.
No. 1993, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to the
Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,


TOMMY WATERS, Chair



