STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1386 -06

Honolulu, Hawaii

Apr: 14, 2006

RE: S.B. No. 2297 S.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 Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 2297, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS," begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to improve regulation of mental health counselors by:

- (1) Clarifying that the practice of mental health counseling is the rendering of professional counseling services based on specialized education, training, and experience;
- (2) Codifying the regulatory practice of exempting the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' registered rehabilitation specialists from mental health counselor license requirements;
- (3) Clarifying that the required intern and post graduate experience is to be completed in the area of "mental health" counseling and specifying appropriate supervisors for that experience;

- (4) Aligning the time limit on completion of post-graduate experience with national licensing standards by changing the time limit for completion of post-graduate experience from two years to not less than two years; and
- (5) Limiting the time for completion of post-graduate experience to not more than four years, consistent with similar mental health professions.

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Alliance for Professional Counselor Licensure, Hawaii Rehabilitation Counseling Association, Kaiser Permanente, and several concerned individuals supported this bill.

Your Committee finds that this bill will benefit consumers of mental health services by ensuring that licensed mental health counselors have received appropriate training and experience for the services that they provide.

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 S.B. No. 2297, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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

ROBERT N. HERKES, Chair

HSCR 1386-06

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-third Legislature

## **Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

5B 2297 50 1	Date:	3. 29.	04		
Committee Referral: HLT, CPC		☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.			
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended	□ Pa	ss, with amendmen	ts		
☐ Hold	☐ Recommit				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused	
1. HERKES, Robert N. (C)					
2. SCHATZ, Brian (VC)					
3. CALDWELL, Kirk					
4. ITO, Ken	<b>✓</b>				
5. KANOHO, Ezra R.					
6. KARAMATSU, Jon Riki					
7. MORITA, Hermina M.					
8. SONSON, Alex M.	<b>~</b>				
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.					
10. MARUMOTO, Barbara C.  11. STONEBRAKER, Bud	<b>~</b>				
TOTAL	7			4	
The recommendation is:  Adopted  Not Adopted  If joint referral,	mmittee acronym(		ort recommendation	L.	
Vice Chair: or designee's signature:  Distribution: Original (White) – Committee		w) – Clerk's Office			