

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3076

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 2006

RE: H.B. No. 2589  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

Honorable Robert Bunda  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2006  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B.  
No. 2589, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize psychologists who have obtained the appropriate education, training, and experience, to prescribe a limited formulary of psychotropic medications for the treatment of mental illness while practicing in federally qualified health centers or licensed health clinics located in federally designated medically underserved areas or in mental health professional shortage areas.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the American Psychological Association, the Hawaii Psychological Association, Hawaii Primary Care, the Hawaii Medical Service Association, the Molokai Community Health Center, the Waimanalo Health Center, the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, the Waikiki Health Center, Na Pu'uwai, Ohana Clinical Care Inc., the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, the Health Psychology Associates, and twenty seven individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to the measure from the Department of Health, the Department of Public Safety, the Board of Psychology, the Board of Medical Examiners, Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association, the Hawaii Medical Association, the American Association of Applied and Preventive

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Psychology, the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Psychology, NAMI Oahu, Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii, the Hawaii County Council, the Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the Hawaii Physicians and Surgeons Association, Inc., and ninety-seven individuals.

Your Committee finds that a significant gap in mental health care services needs to be filled, particularly on the neighbor islands and rural areas of Hawaii.

Your Committee further finds that despite the overwhelming need for behavioral health services, the number of psychiatrists serving Hawaii community health centers has not increased for decades. Conversely, in just four years, the number of licensed psychologists serving the community health centers has doubled. Enabling licensed psychologists who serve in federally qualified health centers, licensed health clinics located in federally designated medically underserved areas, or in mental health professional shortage areas to have limited prescriptive authority will appropriately address the mental health care needs of patients on the neighbor islands and in rural areas of the State. The community health centers are at a distinct disadvantage in recruiting mental health professionals due to limited financial resources. Therefore, these community health centers need clinicians who can perform a broad range of services.

Additionally, the individuals residing in the underserved areas are often poor and have a co-morbidity with a behavioral health component. To address this growing problem, the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center began integrating behavioral health into its primary care clinics. Through the utilization of medical psychologists, the number of mental health and substance abuse encounters increased from 2,133 in 2002 to 15,108 in 2005, with no quality of care issues or provider care incident reports.

Your Committee further finds that testimony in opposition to this measure expressed concerns relating to the lack of adequate didactic and clinical training of psychologists if they were to have prescriptive authority.

Accordingly, your Committee amended this measure to address those concerns by requiring the applicant to:

- (1) Hold a doctoral degree in Psychology;



- (2) Have provided health services for five consecutive years as a licensed psychologist;
- (3) Have successfully graduated with a post-doctoral master's degree in clinical psychopharmacology from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent approved by the board in which training includes a minimum of five hundred hours of didactic classroom instruction; and
- (4) Have completed a supervised practicum of at least two years involving five hundred hours treating a diverse population of no fewer than one hundred fifty patients with mental disorders.

Your Committee further amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring that a psychologist who has been granted prescriptive authority shall prescribe only in consultation and collaboration with the patient's primary or attending physician, and with the concurrence of that physician, and requiring the psychologist to re-consult with the patient's physician prior to making any changes in the patient's medication regimen, including dosage adjustments, adding, or discontinuing medication;
- (2) Defining "medical psychologist";
- (3) Increasing the continuing education requirements;
- (4) Establishing a formulary advisory committee within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for administrative purposes; and
- (5) Extending the sunset date to 2015.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2589, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2589, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Housing.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,

*Rosalyn H Baker*

ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes of the  
Committee on Health  
(Bills and Resolutions)

Measure:* <i>HB 2589 HD2</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HTH, CPH</i>	Date: <i>3/20/06</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (2312) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (2311) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold (2310) <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit (2313)				
Members	Ayes	Ayes(WR)	Nays	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (VC)			✓	
HANABUSA, Colleen				
TSUTSUI, Shan S.		✓		
WHALEN, Paul				
TOTAL	1	1	1	
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Suzanne Chun Oakland</i>				
Distribution:             Original             Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Do not list more than one measure per Record of Votes.