

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 28, 2006

RE: S.B. No. 3273
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

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

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 3273, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to improve the process by which public school students are assessed and treated for substance abuse.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Makes the zero tolerance policy for public schools, as amended by Act 213, permanent;
- (2) Further amends the public school zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol as recommended by the student substance abuse assessment and treatment advisory task force; and



- (3) Allows certified substance abuse counselors to conduct assessments to qualify individuals for substance abuse-related insurance benefits.

Your Committee on Conference finds that although minimum insurance benefits for substance abuse treatment are statutorily required, insurers lack a sufficient number of providers to conduct the substance abuse assessments necessary to qualify individuals for covered services. Your Committee further finds that this is of particular concern in the case of children facing substance abuse-related school discipline under the zero tolerance policy.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making the effective date July 1, 2006, provided that section 4 of the measure, which amends Act 213, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, shall take effect on June 29, 2006.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3273, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3273, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1.

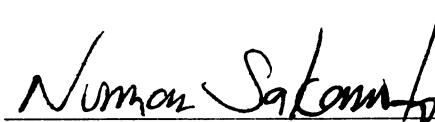
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE



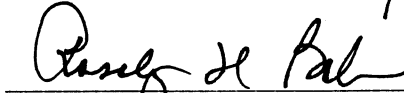
ROY TAKUMI, Co-Chair



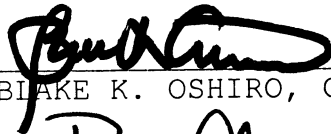
NORMAN SAKAMOTO, Chair



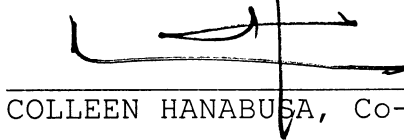
DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Co-Chair



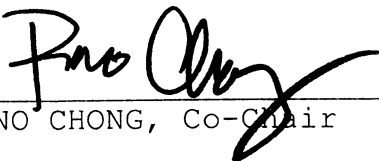
ROSALYN H. BAKER, Co-Chair



BLAKE K. OSHIRO, Co-Chair



COLLEEN HANABUSA, Co-Chair



PONO CHONG, Co-Chair



