

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 14, 2008

RE: S.B. No. 1805  
S.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 1805, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GENETIC COUNSELORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a professional licensure program for genetic counselors under the Department of Health.

More specifically, this measure would help protect public safety and welfare by prohibiting a provider that does not hold a license in Hawaii from using the letters "L.G.C." in connection with that person's name, and by preventing an unlicensed provider from acting as a "genetic counselor" without appropriate training and accurate information.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter, a number of health care professionals including certified genetic counselors, physicians, a registered nurse, and two private individuals. The Hawaii Medical Association submitted testimony supporting the intent of the measure.

Your Committee finds that genetic counselors are health professionals with specialized graduate degrees, who often have more knowledge of genetic risks for disease and genetic testing techniques than primary care physicians. They often provide



information and support to families who have members with birth defects or genetic disorders and to families who may be at risk for a variety of inherited conditions. Your Committee further finds that while the American Board of Genetic Counselors offers certification for genetic counselors who choose to take the national board examination, this is not a legally enforceable standard. Your Committee believes that genetic counselors play a central role in assisting patients and their physicians with genetic counseling services and that the licensure of genetic counselors will ensure that patients to receive adequate care and genetic services statewide.

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 S.B. No. 1805, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

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

*Josh Green M.D.*

JOSHUA B. GREEN, M.D., Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

**HSCR 1096-08**

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Health**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> SB 1805, SD 1	<b>Committee Referral:</b> HLT, CPC, FIN	<b>Date:</b> <b>3-12-08</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GREEN, Josh, M.D. (C)	✓			
2. MIZUNO, John (VC)	✓			
3. AWANA, Karen Leinani	✓			
4. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
5. BERTRAM, Joe, III	✓			
6. CABANILLA, Rida T.R.		✓		
7. RHOADS, Karl	✓			
8. SHIMABUKURO, Maile S. L.	✓			
9. TOKIOKA, James Kunane	✓			
10. WARD, Gene, Ph.D.	✓			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; margin-left: 100px;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) - Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) - Chief Clerk's Office				