

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 31, 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2159
H.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 Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 2159, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROFESSIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to improve the availability of qualified mental health services by:

- (1) Repealing the sunset provision for the mental health counselor licensing program under Chapter 453D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS); and
- (2) Adding licensed mental health counselors to the list of practitioners who may provide the mental health services required to be included in health insurance policies under Chapter 431M, HRS.

The Office of the Auditor, Hawaii Rehabilitation Counseling Association, Alliance for Professional Counselor Licensure, Kaiser Permanente, and numerous concerned individuals testified in support of this bill.

This bill continues the mental health counselor licensing program established under Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004. Your Committee finds that the continued licensure of mental health counselors, along with insurance coverage for their services, will increase access to qualified mental health services.

SB2159 HD1 HSCR CPC HMS 2008-3334



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. 2159, H.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



Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2159, HDI	Committee Referral: HLT, CPC	Date: 03-24-08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <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)				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HERKES, Robert N. (C)	x			
2. McKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	x			
3. EVANS, Cindy				x
4. GREEN, Josh, M.D.	x			
5. ITO, Ken				x
6. LUKE, Sylvia	x			
7. MORITA, Hermina M.				x
8. SONSON, Alex M.				x
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.				x
10. TSUJI, Clift	x			
11. YAMANE, Ryan I.	x			
12. YAMASHITA, Kyle T.	x			
13. MARUMOTO, Barbara C.	x			
14. THIELEN, Cynthia	x			
TOTAL (14)	9	0	0	5
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____			_____ did not support recommendation.	
			committee acronym(s)	
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				