

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2159

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2159
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROFESSIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure the continued provision of mental health services by licensed mental health counselors by repealing section 26H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which repeals the mental health counselor regulatory program as of December 31, 2008.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Kaiser Permanente, the Alliance for Professional Counselor Licensure, Sestak Rehabilitation Services, Hawaii Rehabilitation Counseling Association, Ka Maui Ola, and eight individuals. The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs provided comments on this measure.

Your Committee finds that state licensure for mental health counselors assures professionalism and protection of consumer health. Masters level mental health clinicians bring valuable skills to the community. The title and practice of these clinicians should be protected and made permanent.

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. 2159 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be



referred to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing.

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




DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2159	Committee Referral: HTH, CPH	Date: 02-11-08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
MENOR, Ron				✓
WHALEN, Paul		✓		
TOTAL	3	1		1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes