

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2612

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 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 Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
Affordable Housing, 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 that licensed mental health counselors continue to provide mental health services by repealing section 26H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which repeals the mental health counselor regulatory program as of December 31, 2008.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Office of the Auditor, Kaiser Permanente, the Hawaii Rehabilitation Counseling Association, the Alliance for Professional Counselor Licensure, and twenty-eight private individuals. The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs submitted comments.

Your Committee finds that state licensure for mental health counselors assures professionalism and protection of consumer health. Mental health clinicians holding advanced degrees in their field bring valuable skills to the community. Your Committee recognizes the large number of testimony submitted in support of this measure and believes that the title and practice of these clinicians should be protected and made permanent.

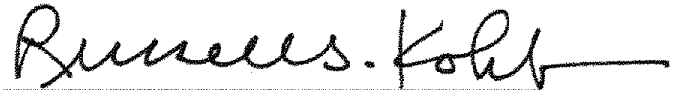
As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with

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the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2159 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Affordable
Housing,



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing
CPH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2159	HTH, CPH	2/22/08

The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (C)	/			
IGE, David Y. (VC)				/
ESPERO, Will	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les	/			
SAKAMOTO, Norman	/			
TANIGUCHI, BRIAN T.				/
TRIMBLE, Gordon		/		
TOTAL	4	1		2

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: *Will Espero*

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes