

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 2 , 2012

RE: H.B. No. 1708  
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2012  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 1708  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to allow licensed physicians,  
psychiatrists, and psychologists to examine patients by  
telemedicine, subject to certain conditions.

The Department of Health; Hawaii Medical Association;  
Consumer, Family, & Youth Alliance; and an individual testified in  
support of this measure. Hawaii Medical Service Association,  
Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association, Hawaii Association of  
Professional Nurses, and two individuals submitted comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the personal examination required to  
extend or continue a period of emergency hospitalization  
shall be conducted by a licensed physician or  
psychiatrist, but not a licensed psychologist;
- (2) Clarifying that with respect to initiation of  
proceedings for involuntary hospitalization, a petition  
may be accompanied by a certificate of a licensed  
physician or psychologist who has personally examined

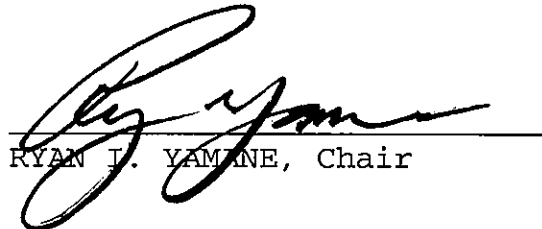


the person within 48 hours, rather than two days, before submission of the petition;

- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate continued discussion on the measure; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purpose of clarity.

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 H.B. No. 1708, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1708, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

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



RYAN J. YAMANE, Chair



