

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2182

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2012

RE: S.B. No. 2105  
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2012  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2105  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the  
Department of Health to convene a mental health and substance  
abuse parity working group to determine how the State can come  
into compliance with federal mental health and substance abuse  
parity laws and regulations and enhance existing state parity  
laws.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from HMSA, the Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services, Hawaii  
Substance Abuse Coalition, and the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii.  
Your Committee received comments on this measure from the  
Department of Health, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,  
and the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Your Committee finds that treatment for behavioral health  
disorders continues to be costlier and more difficult to obtain  
than general medical care. Your Committee also finds that the  
United States Department of the Treasury's Interim Final Rules  
pertaining to the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health  
Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 require that group health  
plans have no more restrictions on mental health and substance  
abuse disorders than on medical or surgical benefits and require  
that the State take action to ensure compliance with federal




parity laws. The working group established by this measure is necessary in order to determine how to best implement and improve state parity laws.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding one licensed medical professional, psychologist, and clinical social worker, and one mental health consumer representative to the working group; and
- (2) Removing the requirement that the working group review provisions in national health care reform laws and regulations that:
  - (A) Address behavioral health provider shortage through grant programs to train and educate providers; and
  - (B) Address research needs in specialty areas of mental health care.

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. 2105, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2105, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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



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JOSH GREEN, M.D., Chair



