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Honolulu, Hawaii  
February 15, 2013

RE: H.B. No. 649  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 649  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to improve access to mental  
health services by:

- (1) Expanding eligibility for mental health services by  
adding definitions for "qualifying diagnosis" and  
"severe and persistent mental illness" and requiring the  
provision of services to individuals with a qualifying  
diagnosis;
- (2) Appropriating funds for mental health services  
previously eliminated or reduced; and
- (3) Appropriating funds for substance abuse treatment and  
mental health support services for individuals who are  
homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center, the Healthcare  
Association of Hawaii, Mental Health America of Hawaii, and the  
Community Alliance for Mental Health testified in support of the  
measure. The Hawaii Substance Abuse Council testified in support  
of the measure with amendments. The Department of Health  
testified in opposition of the measure.

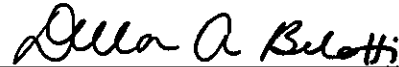


Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Providing further specification about the standards and rules for services established by the Department of Health;
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 649, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 649, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



