

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2015

Honolulu, Hawaii

JAN 31 2014

RE: S.B. No. 2579  
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2014  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2579  
entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the  
Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds and to  
appropriate funds for the Department of Health to develop a secure  
inpatient psychiatric facility in which services can be provided  
for the mentally ill who need stricter security, and for inmates  
and detainees who need a higher level of mental health care.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Department of Health; Department of Public Safety;  
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of  
Honolulu; Hawaii Disability Rights Center; Hawaii Government  
Employees Association; Community Alliance for Mental Health; and  
two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii State Hospital is not  
equipped to be a forensic facility and lacks the capacity to serve  
the current needs of its patients. Your Committee further finds  
that the State needs a secure inpatient psychiatric facility in  
order to promote greater safety for patients, staff, and the  
public. A separate facility would appropriately house populations  
of mentally ill patients who need stricter security, as well as  
inmates and detainees who require a higher level of mental health



care, with well-trained staff operating at a sensible ratio to the patients.

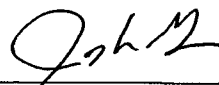
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding language to require the Department of Health to establish a task force to study the needs of the populations that will be served by the inpatient psychiatric facility, develop a coordinated interagency action plan to implement services, and submit the interagency action plan to the Legislature; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee notes that providing mental health campus facilities, rather than a hospital setting only, would encourage the compassionate care of patients.

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. 2579, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2579, 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,



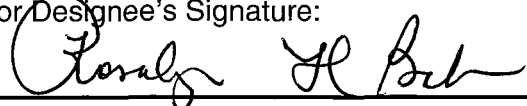
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JOSH GREEN, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health**  
**HTH**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2579	HTH, WAM	1-27-14		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GREEN, Josh (C)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (VC)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	-	-	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original                      Yellow                      Pink                      Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes