
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO ANALYZE THE VALIDITY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND ETHICAL STANDARDS OF THE PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY PROGRAM OFFERED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO DANIEL K. INOUE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

1 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii at Hilo offers a Master
2 of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) degree within
3 the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP); and
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5 WHEREAS, the mission of the DKICP MSCP program is to
6 "educate clinical psychology practitioners and leaders" and to
7 "provide community service, including quality patient care"; and
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9 WHEREAS, for clinical psychologists with a specialty in
10 psychopharmacology, the MSCP degree provides the opportunity to
11 prescribe psychotropic medications in locales where prescribing
12 authority for psychologists has been authorized; and
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14 WHEREAS, 47 states do not allow psychologists to prescribe
15 medication; and
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17 WHEREAS, prescribing authority has not been granted to
18 psychologists in the State of Hawaii; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Legislature has rejected bills pertaining to
21 prescriptive authority for psychologists in Hawaii 11 times,
22 from 1996 to 2009; and
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24 WHEREAS, similar bills have been rejected over 150 times by
25 legislatures across the nation; and
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27 WHEREAS, the most prevalent argument advanced against
28 prescriptive privileges for psychologists is the discrepancy in
29 training and educational background between psychologists and



1 prescribing professionals, and the ensuing potential risk of
2 suboptimal care to patients; and
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4 WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness views
5 medication as having very significant side effects and believes
6 that the health care professionals allowed to prescribe
7 medication should have significant medical training; and
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9 WHEREAS, the standard training required of medically
10 trained health care professionals includes medical school and
11 prerequisite-level coursework in chemistry, biology,
12 mathematics, and microbiology; and
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14 WHEREAS, psychologists are not required to complete
15 coursework in biology, chemistry, physiology, medicine, and the
16 other sciences required of all other disciplines qualified to
17 prescribe medication, including primary care physicians,
18 psychiatrists, advanced practice registered nurses, advanced
19 practice psychiatric nurses, and appropriately trained and
20 supervised physician assistants; and
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22 WHEREAS, the training of all non-medically trained mental
23 health care professionals, such as psychologists, have little or
24 no overlap with the standard training required of medically
25 trained health care professionals; and
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27 WHEREAS, the training that psychologists receive does not
28 adequately prepare them to prescribe potentially dangerous
29 psychotropic medications, nor are they trained to screen for or
30 manage diseases, such as thyroid disorders, cancers, delirium,
31 and lupus, all of which can manifest themselves with mental
32 health symptoms; and
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34 WHEREAS, psychologists lack the training to evaluate and
35 manage side effects and complex medication interactions,
36 including metabolic syndrome, sexual dysfunction, seizures,
37 extrapyramidal symptoms, serotonin syndrome, Stevens-Johnson
38 syndrome, and neuroleptic malignant syndrome, all of which may
39 be side effects of medications prescribed for mental health
40 disorders; and



H.R. NO. 115

1 WHEREAS, psychologists are not trained to understand the
2 effects of medications on the brain, kidney, heart, liver, skin,
3 and other organs of the human body; and
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5 WHEREAS, a prevalent argument in support of prescriptive
6 authority for Hawaii psychologists is the need of residents for
7 increased access to medical care, especially in rural areas; and
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9 WHEREAS, in Hawaii and throughout the United States, there
10 are a number of alternative health care solutions being explored
11 in order to address such needs; and
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13 WHEREAS, one proven solution to aid in addressing unmet
14 medical needs on the Neighbor Islands is Project ECHO, which
15 focuses on expanding the capacity to provide best practice care
16 for common and complex diseases in rural and underserved areas
17 and to monitor outcomes; and
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19 WHEREAS, in September 2015, the Defense Health Agency began
20 a formal collaboration with ECHO Pain (DHA Telementoring
21 Program) in order to align and synchronize ECHO efforts across
22 the United States Department of Defense, support Air Force Pain
23 ECHO, and develop the technical services needed to increase the
24 capacity of primary care providers within the Military Health
25 System to safely and effectively treat chronic, common, and
26 complex conditions; and
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28 WHEREAS, as of 2016, Project ECHO has 48 hubs located all
29 around the United States as well as 22 hubs across 11 countries;
30 and
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32 WHEREAS, all 50 states and the District of Columbia
33 authorize nurse practitioners or other advanced practice nursing
34 professionals to prescribe certain medications, including
35 psychiatric medications, with certain conditions; and
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37 WHEREAS, prescriptive authority for psychologists has not
38 solved the mental health needs of the rural communities in those
39 very few states that have implemented such laws; and



H.R. NO. 115

1 WHEREAS, despite promises made in New Mexico and Louisiana,
2 psychologists did not and do not move their practices to serve
3 rural communities; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to distribution studies performed by the
6 American Medical Association, the two states with a history of
7 allowing for psychologists' prescriptive authority -- New Mexico
8 and Louisiana -- show that psychologists do not move to areas
9 with an underserved mental health population but rather to the
10 same areas currently served by psychiatrists and primary care
11 physicians; and
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13 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the health, safety, and
14 well-being of the state to further consider the appropriateness
15 of conferring prescriptive authority to various health care
16 professionals to provide greater access to care in rural areas;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association leadership
20 has been accused of colluding with the military and the Central
21 Intelligence Agency for more than a decade to support torture;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, there have been recent reports that a review of
25 publications of important psychological papers found that over
26 50 percent of those studies could not be reproduced; and
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28 WHEREAS, the same leadership was sued by its members
29 regarding the inappropriate use of membership funds to support
30 the issue of prescriptive privileges, and a substantial judgment
31 was rendered, forcing the return of those funds; and
32

33 WHEREAS, this same association has accredited the DKICP
34 MSCP program; and



1 WHEREAS, an increasing number of psychologists receive
2 their training at and degrees from what have been termed "free-
3 standing professional schools", and some of these for-profit
4 schools are characterized by psychology students as "diploma
5 mills", "diploma factories", and "diploma online retailers"; and
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7 WHEREAS, graduates of these free-standing professional
8 schools are eligible to enroll in the DKICP MSCP program and
9 thereby seek prescriptive privileges; and
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11 WHEREAS, the current Program Coordinator for the DKICP MSCP
12 is not a physician, psychologist, or doctor of pharmacy; and
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14 WHEREAS, given the controversial and undecided climate
15 surrounding prescriptive privileges for psychologists, the
16 Legislature would benefit from an analysis of the necessity and
17 effectiveness of existing programs within the University of
18 Hawaii that are dedicated to training clinical psychologists to
19 prescribe medication when such authority is not granted in the
20 state; and
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
24 Session of 2016, that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents
25 is requested to study the validity, effectiveness, and
26 underlying ethical standards of the psychopharmacology program
27 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of
28 Pharmacy; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Board
31 of Regents is requested to analyze the psychopharmacology
32 program regarding its usefulness for psychologists and analyze
33 the limited time and curriculum requirements that need to be met
34 in order for a graduate to obtain prescriptive authority; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
37 requested to direct the Dean of the John A. Burns School of
38 Medicine to convene a group to evaluate the psychopharmacology
39 program and the knowledge of the graduates of this program; and



H.R. NO. 115

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
2 transmitted to the Chairperson of the University of Hawaii Board
3 of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii, Chancellor of
4 the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and Acting Dean of the Daniel
5 K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.
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OFFERED BY: Richard Long

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