

Honolulu, Hawaii
February 9, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2357
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 2357
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGE OF CONSENT FOR ADOLESCENT
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to reduce barriers for
adolescents in accessing mental health care that may otherwise be
unobtainable due to family dynamics or other circumstances by
permitting minors twelve years of age or older to consent to
receive mental health treatment or counseling services provided by
a licensed mental health professional.

The Department of Health, The Judiciary, Hawaii Youth
Services Network, Waikiki Health, Friends of Youth Outreach,
Hawai'i Psychological Association, and two individuals testified in
support of this measure. The Department of Education opposed this
measure. The Hawaii Medical Service Association and an individual
commented on this measure.

Your Committee finds that this measure will help one of the
State's most vulnerable populations receive critical health
services. To support further deliberation on this measure in the
legislative process, your Committee requests the Department of
Health to provide information on standard practices regarding
minors' access and consent to mental health care in other states.
Your Committee also requests the Department of Health and the

HB2357 HD1 HSCR HLT HMS 2016-1668



Department of Education to engage in further discussion on this measure to avoid the unintended consequence of interfering with Individualized Education Programs of children with disabilities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the age of consent for mental health treatment or counseling services from twelve years of age or older to fourteen years of age or older;
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2070, to enable 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. 2357, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2357, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

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



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



