

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 19, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 2359
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 Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 2359, H.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure the timely and relevant administration of mental health examinations to support the expedient administration of justice and due process for defendants who may have mental health issues. Specifically, this measure reduces the time defendants spend in state custody awaiting forensic mental health examinations and the resultant rulings on fitness to proceed and penal responsibility by separating the two evaluations.

The Department of Health and two individuals testified in support of this measure. The City and County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney opposed this measure. The Office of the Public Defender and an individual commented on this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2359, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.



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



KARL RHOADS, Chair



