



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony SUPPORTING SB2007, S.D. 1
Relating to State Council on Mental Health

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 23, 2016, 9:50 a.m. Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of the measure is to amend the principal state agencies
3 representatives on the State Council on Mental Health, establish the Council within the
4 Department of Health (DOH) for administrative purposes, and redefine quorum.

5 As specified in Section 334-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the principal state
6 agencies representatives on the Council are: mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation,
7 criminal justice, housing and social services. Since social services is under the Department of
8 Human Services and represents the Child Welfare Services, which provides the Council with
9 perspectives on systems change for children with mental illness, it is also important to add the
10 Medicaid agency which provides services to many of our adult consumers living with mental
11 illness. The passing of this measure will allow the Council to gain the Medicaid agency's
12 knowledge and expertise on issues and trends that influence the direction in which the mental
13 health field is headed in the State of Hawaii.

14 The DOH agrees with the amendment suggested by the Senate Committee on Commerce,
15 Consumer Protection, and Health to insert a reference to part 1 of Chapter 92, HRS for the

1 Council to be compliant with Sunshine Law. Since the Council is also under Federal Statutes,
2 Public Law 102-321, Section 1914, this amendment will allow the Council to meet regularly and
3 conduct business at least on a monthly basis.

4 We thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of this body of
5 volunteers.

6 **Offered Amendments:** None.