

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

312

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2017

RE: S.B. No. 1164

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 1164 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to advance the mental health treatment of students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa by establishing and funding three full-time psychologist positions and one full-time case manager position.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System, Counseling and Student Development Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and eight individuals.

Your Committees find that in recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of college students requesting mental health services, and that college students are increasingly presenting with severe and complex psychological problems. These trends have incited national alarm and are of concern for students and universities in Hawaii as well.

Your Committees recognize the growing demand for psychological services and the need for specialized expertise in working with traditional and non-traditional college students. Your Committees find that the University of Hawaii at Manoa has only seven and one-half tenured track psychologist positions even


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though average enrollment is twenty thousand students and the national guideline is one licensed psychologist for every one thousand to one thousand five hundred students. Your Committees further find that students should not have to wait up to two and a half weeks for an appointment at the University's counseling and student development center when the student is suffering from mental health symptoms. This measure will help students get the mental health services they need on a timely basis.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1164 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Higher Education
and Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



KAIA L'I KAHALE, Chair



