

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2017

RE: S.B. No. 401

S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,  
to which was referred S.B. No. 401 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NURSING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow advanced practice registered nurses to offer care and services to minors and patients in assisted community treatment similar to care and services offered by physicians and other healthcare service providers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Board of Nursing, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, Hawaii Government Employees Association, and ten individuals.

Your Committee finds that advanced practice registered nurses are licensed healthcare practitioners qualified to provide primary medical services to adolescents. Your Committee further finds that advanced practice registered nurses fill an important role in caring for patients' current and future health needs, and can help improve timely access to qualified behavioral health services for individuals most in need of care, such as severely mentally ill patients in assisted community treatment. Your Committee notes that while the State is experiencing a shortage of behavioral health specialists, the number of advanced practice registered nurses has nearly doubled in the years between 2005 and 2015.



Your Committee additionally finds that removing barriers to practice for advanced practice registered nurses will produce better access to safe, timely, quality healthcare for patients in Hawaii. More specifically, advanced practice registered nurses with psychiatric specialties are highly qualified to assess, diagnose, treat, and prescribe to patients with mental health conditions as well as adolescents in need of mental health services.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending the definition of "advanced practice registered nurse" and other provisions related to assisted community treatment to require that advanced practice registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority who are assessing, treating, or providing diagnosis or medication to individuals in assisted community treatment have a psychiatric specialization;
- (2) Inserting language to establish that an advanced practice registered nurse can only be a "licensed mental health professional" authorized to provide mental health treatment or counseling services to a minor if the advanced practice registered nurse holds a psychiatric specialization; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 401, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 401, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health,



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ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**  
**CPH**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB401</b>	Committee Referral: <b>CPH</b>	Date: <b>2/22/17</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
CHANG, Stanley	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	/			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.				/
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Clarence K. Nishihara</div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original    Yellow    Pink    Goldenrod File with Committee Report    Clerk's Office    Drafting Agency    Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes