



February 25, 2017

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

**LATE**

Re: **SB 224 – Relating to Psychology**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, February 28, 2017, 10:30 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 224 – Relating to Psychology.**

To provide the best mental health care for Hawaii's students, especially those with special needs, a professional licensure program is needed for school psychologists. The general public is protected from non-licensed individuals practicing psychology, requiring anyone practicing "psychology" to have specialized training and expertise. Yet, school psychologists are currently exempt from having to have licensure when practicing in an educational setting. **Hawaii is the ONLY state in the nation that does not require licensing of school psychologists.**

Not only has this placed Hawaii students in the situation of receiving mental health services from people who have not received graduate training in school psychology or meet the nationally accepted certification standards, but it also prevents the state from receiving reimbursement from Medicaid for school psychology services such as evaluations. This is because only licensed or certificated professionals are billable under Medicaid. Not only is the state putting the health of Hawaii's students in jeopardy, but it is losing out on money as well.

School psychologists receive additional and extensive training in cognitive, academic, social/emotional, behavioral, and adaptive assessment practices. When unqualified and inadequately trained staff provide these services, students are not being fairly assessed, which can result in inaccurate results. It is vital to provide students with the best services in order to avoid the possible negative outcomes, such as dropping out of school, qualifying for lower-level jobs, or becoming involved in criminal activity. By licensing school psychologists, Hawaii's students can receive the best services possible.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.**

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.

## CPH Testimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017 5:29 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** HollyMHoke@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB224 on Feb 28, 2017 10:30AM  
**Attachments:** Support for Legislature Bill # SB224.pdf

**LATE**

### SB224

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 28, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Hoke	Individual	Support	No

### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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