

## **Michele Wang**

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry

John A. Burns School of Medicine

1356 Lusitana St. 4th floor

Honolulu HI 96813

Phone: 808 586 1739/ Fax: 808 586 2940/ Secure Fax: 808 586 2944

Email: [mwang@dop.hawaii.edu](mailto:mwang@dop.hawaii.edu) / Pager: 808 577 1968

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2019

TIME: 9:45 a.m.

HB 1566 RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

My testimony is submitted in opposition to HB1156, relating to psychologists.

I am opposed to this measure because:

1. The proposal does not follow a medical model of training and only offers a cap of training which is not sufficient. Thirty years ago legislation requesting prescriptive authority for psychologists was declined. Nurses, osteopaths, optometrists and dentists have all been able to expand their scope of practice based on strength of training. Psychologists have been continuously denied due to a demonstrated lack of a medical curriculum, lack of standardization in training, and lack of regulation in schools of psychology.
2. The John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association, and the Department of Health make reducing system barriers to mental health access a priority. I am new faculty with the Department of Psychiatry and have a specialty in Public Psychiatry which focuses on mental health care for the Severely Mentally Ill population. I believe part of my appeal as a new hire is the fact that I have interest mental health and access to care. I have had many discussion with collaborators about ways in which to expand service through Telemedicine.
3. Hawaii has already increased mental health access in ways proven to be safe and effective, including Telemedicine, ECHO, and Collaborative Care. Telepsychiatry, ECHO, and Collaborative Care models are proven and their development should be expanded and supported.
4. Although the two states of New Mexico and Louisiana have passed legislation approving psychologist prescribing practices in hopes of improving access to care, there is no evidence that access to care in those states have improved, particularly in rural areas. New York state has passed legislation actually banning psychologist prescribing practices.

5. Above all, as an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves, mental health consumers deserve to receive the same quality of healthcare as all others. This includes knowing that the provider who prescribes medications for them has had appropriate training to prescribe medications safely. In a health care system where there is already some erosion of public trust in health care providers and health care delivery, it would be a misdirection to the public and potentially cause decreased faith in fully trained medical professionals if we were to allow an untrained equivalent to have the same practice privileges, especially if there is a negative outcome for our patients.

Thank you for your consideration to HOLD HB1566 in committee.

Michele Wang, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry

John A. Burns School of Medicine

1356 Lusitana St. 4th floor

Honolulu HI 96813

Phone: 808 586 1739/ Fax: 808 586 2940/ Secure Fax: 808 586 2944

Email: [mwang@dop.hawaii.edu](mailto:mwang@dop.hawaii.edu) / Pager: 808 577 1968

## **Testimony of the Board of Psychology**

**Before the  
House Committee on Health  
Tuesday, February 5, 2019  
9:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 1566, RELATING TO THE PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY  
FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board offers comments on this bill, as it has not had an opportunity to review and discuss this bill at a publicly noticed Board meeting. However, the Board has supported the intent of similar measures in the past and provided comments and recommendations.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) authorize and establish procedures and criteria for prescriptive authority for clinical psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements; (2) require the Board to submit a report to the Legislature, prior to the Regular Session of 2021, on the authorization of prescriptive authority to prescribing psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration pursuant to this bill, if enacted; and (3) repeal the prescriptive authority for clinical psychologists on August 31, 2025.

While the Board has not yet reviewed this bill, its language closely mirrors that of S.B. 384, S.D. 2 (Regular Session of 2017). The Board supported S.B. 384 and recommended the following amendments to strengthen the experience and supervision requirements:

- The minimum experience requirement should be increased from 400 hours completed within a 48-month period to 800 hours completed within a 56-month period. The Board felt that the increase in hours would benefit the individual receiving the training and ensure patient safety.

- The experience requirement should include a minimum of 8 weeks of rotation in each of the following areas: (1) internal medicine/family medicine; (2) women's health; (3) pediatrics; and (4) geriatrics.
- The supervision requirement of one hundred patients should include the following: (1) geriatrics; (2) pediatrics; and (3) pregnant women. The Board believed that clinical experience that includes these vulnerable populations would help provide a better breadth of training in appropriate prescribing.
- The Board requested a delayed implementation date to allow the Board time to handle other administrative responsibilities set forth in the bill, before it could grant or renew the prescriptive authority, including, but not limited to: prescribing application forms and fees; developing and implementing procedures to review the educational and training credentials of an applicant; and determining the exclusionary formulary for prescribing psychologists.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Health

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

**Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1566** RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

**Hearing: TUESDAY February 5, 2019, 9:45 am, CR 329**

Thank you for hearing **HB 1566**, which authorizes the Board of Psychology to grant prescriptive authority to psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements. We strongly support this measure because it will help to alleviate the difficulty that people suffering from mental health problems have in accessing proper treatment and care.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 77 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service.

Not everyone dealing with mental health issues needs medication, but when someone who needs it is not able to get it in a timely manner, they can end up in a crisis that could have avoided. This type of crisis takes a terrible toll on the individual, their support system, and their overall health. Hawai'i has been dealing with a physician shortage for years and it is not getting better. Prescriptive authority for psychologists with advanced training is one of the solutions that will help to alleviate this dangerous prescriber shortage.

The language in this measure will provide the necessary safeguards to ensure only those psychologists with appropriate education, clinical training and registration will be authorized to prescribe from a limited formulary of psychiatric medications.

Passing HB 1566 will give properly trained and approved psychologists the ability to help consumers that otherwise would be unable to access the medication they need and should have a right to access. ***Please help us improve mental health in Hawaii by passing HB 1566.***

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. You can reach me at [trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org](mailto:trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org) or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.



800 Maine Avenue, S.W.  
Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20024

February 5, 2019

**Board of Trustees  
2018-2019**

Altha J. Stewart, M.D.  
*President*  
Bruce J. Schwartz, M.D.  
*President-Elect*  
Philip R. Muskin, M.D., M.A.  
*Secretary*  
Gregory W. Dalack, M.D.  
*Treasurer*

Anita S. Everett, M.D.  
Maria A. Oquendo, M.D., Ph.D.  
Renée L. Binder, M.D.  
*Past Presidents*

Eric M. Plakun, M.D.  
Vivian B. Pender, M.D.  
Roger Peele, M.D.  
Cheryl D. Wills, M.D.  
Jenny Boyer, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.  
Melinda L. Young, M.D.  
Annette M. Matthews, M.D.  
Ayana Jordan, M.D., Ph.D.  
Ramaswamy Viswanathan,  
M.D., D.Sc.  
Richard F. Summers, M.D.  
Tanuja Gandhi, M.D.  
Rana Elmaghraby, M.D.  
*Trustees*

**Assembly  
2018-2019**

James (Bob) R. Batterson, M.D.  
*Speaker*  
Paul J. O'Leary, M.D.  
*Speaker-Elect*  
Seeth Vivek, M.D.  
*Recorder*

**Administration**

Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A.  
*CEO and Medical Director*

House Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association, a national medical specialty society representing more than 37,800 psychiatric physicians, as well as their patients and families, we urge you to oppose HB 1566 which would authorize clinical psychologists to prescribe powerful psychotropic drugs to Hawaii patients. While psychologists are experts in important behavioral interventions, they have no medical training. Giving them permission to prescribe would put the health and safety of Hawaii patients at risk.

There is often confusion about the difference between psychiatrists and psychologists. While psychologists are valuable mental health professionals and respected colleagues, only psychiatrists are medical doctors specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and substance abuse disorders. Just like surgeons or internists, psychiatrists are physicians who attend medical school (4 years), and then specialize through a medical residency. Psychiatrists complete a rigorous four-year medical residency in psychiatry after they complete medical school. This is over 12,000 hours of training specializing in medical treatment of mental health, including substance use disorders. Psychiatrists focus on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental, emotional and behavioral disorders. Through their vast medical training, psychiatrists are able to conduct psychotherapy and prescribe medications and other medical treatments.

Psychologists treat mental disorders with psychotherapy and other behavioral interventions. A psychologist has an advanced degree, usually a Ph.D. in psychology or Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.). Psychologists often have extensive training in research or clinical practice and in psychological testing and evaluation, but they **do not** have medical training.

HB 1566 would authorize psychologists to obtain a license to independently prescribe after completing as few as 400 clinical hours (including course work) and a one-year period of "clinical supervision." This course work can be done completely online.

Physicians spend years learning differential diagnoses, pharmacology, and honing their medical skills. This cannot be replicated in a 400-hour training period. Additionally, the “clinical supervision” does not have to be performed by a physician, which is disconcerting since psychologists have no medical training. HB 1566 would grant a psychologist prescriptive authority once they pass a 150-question multiple choice Psychopharmacology Exam for Psychologists (PEP). PEP is a product provided and administered by the American Psychological Association. No medical doctor’s license and ability to prescribe was based solely on a multiple-choice exam, nor could their course work be completed online. Additionally, testing of physicians is performed by medical boards that are separate from professional medical associations in order to prevent conflicts of interest.

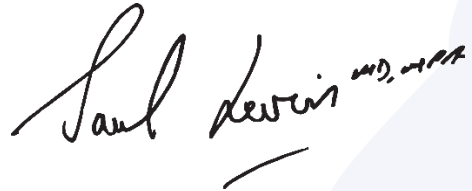
While we realize this legislation was intended to increase access to needed mental health care, granting psychologists prescriptive authority will not improve access. Proponents of psychologist prescribing claim that five states allow psychologists to prescribe and that this has increased access to mental health care in those states. However, while five states have enacted laws, only two states actually have active prescribing psychologists: Louisiana and New Mexico. Psychologists’ claims that this will increase access have not materialized. After having gained prescriptive privileges, few psychologists in either of those states have become certified to prescribe psychotropic drugs, let alone practice in a rural or underserved area. Prescriptive authority for psychologists has not solved the mental health needs of the rural communities in those very few states that implemented such laws. Despite promises made in Louisiana and New Mexico, psychologists did not and do not move their practices to serve the rural communities.

Patient safety must be paramount when considering the change of any law, and HB 1566 puts some of Hawaii’s most vulnerable patients at risk. Powerful psychotropic medications do not stop at the patient’s brain; they affect many systems of the body such as the heart, lungs, stomach, and kidneys. There can be seriously disabling or deadly side-effects of the medications if improperly prescribed and managed. Patients needing more than one drug at a time for other physical conditions, such as both heart disease or diabetes and mental illness, are at risk for potentially serious drug interactions. More than half of all patients who have a mental disorder also have one or more physical ailments. The medical providers who treat these patients must be trained to understand and treat all systems of the body to recognize the warning signs of adverse effects. In short, psychotropic medications should only be prescribed by clinicians with significant medical training and broad understanding of all systems of the body.

The practice of medicine is a serious responsibility requiring years of thorough and relevant medical education and training. Allowing psychologists to prescribe after dramatically short-cutting the medical education and training necessary presents a serious and avoidable danger to Hawaii’s most vulnerable patients. There are evidence-based solutions to address access to care such as Collaborative Care, where primary care providers and psychiatrists work together to provide mental health care, and telehealth, where providers can harness the power of technology to safely treat patients. Again, we urge you to oppose HB 1566 and would welcome the opportunity to work with you through our partners – the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association – to facilitate evidence-based, proven programs that can truly assist Hawaii patients with mental illness, including substance use disorders.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Erin Philp, Director of State Government Relations, at [ephilp@psych.org](mailto:ephilp@psych.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saul Levin" followed by "M.D., M.P.A." in smaller letters. There is a horizontal line under the name "Saul".

Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A.  
C.E.O. and Medical Director  
American Psychiatric Association



# Hawai'i Psychological Association

## *For a Healthy Hawai'i*

---

P.O. Box 833  
Honolulu, HI 96808

[www.hawaiipsychology.org](http://www.hawaiipsychology.org)

Phone (808) 521-8995

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura  
Rep. Joy San Buenaventura  
Rep. Calvin Say  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka  
Rep. Gene Ward

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR  
CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) is in **strong support** of HB1566. This bill would allow advanced trained medical psychologists to prescribe and dispense medication within the scope of practice of psychology as defined by Hawai'i Law.

Please note that on pages 11-12, under Prescriptive Authority Privilege requirements (§465-C section (4)), the nationally recognized Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists is no longer developed or administered by the American Psychological Association's Practice Organization's College of Professional Psychology. It is now developed and administered by **The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)**.

HB1566 will expand our ability to provide a full range of mental health services to the most underserved communities of Hawai'i, and I respectfully ask that you consider a "YES" vote on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Takishima-Lacasa, PhD  
Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:18:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evan Taniguchi, MD	Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

TO: House Health Committee (HLT)

DATE: 2/3/2019

**HB1566** RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS PRESCRIBING

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

My testimony is submitted in opposition to HB1566, relating to psychologists prescribing.

The bill in discussion does not provide a model for adequate training and safe medical care for patients and does not address the larger roots of our lack of access to adequate mental health care across the state.

In order to safely prescribe medicines, a certain standard of rigorous training must be applied not only in pharmacology but in physiology, anatomy, chemistry, pathophysiology, etc. There is no short-term course in my view that can replace years of intensive medical training. Psychologists often do receive an intensive training in psychotherapy, various areas of psychology, development, neurochemistry and may other areas that do make them experts in their respective field. However, many of our medicines affect a broader range of illnesses and pathophysiologic states including diabetes, seizure disorders, gastrointestinal complications, cardiac arrhythmias, etc. There may be interactions with medicines outside of psychiatry and mental health that interact with each other. For example, in the case of Libby Zion, the patient who influenced resident duty hour restrictions, a doctor in training administered a phenelzine (a mood medication) with Demerol (an opiate pain medicine) which resulted in the patient's death. In order to understand these risks and learn how to treat them we as psychiatrists undergo not only years of medical school but in addition years of residency training not only in psychiatry but in neurology, internal medicine and general pediatrics. APRNs, though a different curricular model, also spend years of training and apprenticeship before being able to independently prescribe medicines. The consequences of inadequate training are dire and should not be treated lightly.

In working with patients, I have also found that the barrier to receiving care goes beyond the number of providers. In our state especially, there are geographic limitations that make solutions like telemedicine more technologically elegant and effective solutions in reaching rural communities. In addition, mental health trends even on the mainland US are moving towards a collaborative care model. This often involves having a mental health professional in the same location as your primary care or other medical provider. This enhances not only collaboration and interdisciplinary communication but also reduces the level of stigma in seeing a mental health provider.

I would ask the committee to use evidence and expert advice in making a decision rather than succumbing to desperation in addressing what is a very real problem in our state. I certainly acknowledge the very real need for more mental health providers in our community. Having worked with a number of psychologists, and being a new provider myself, I am also not personally invested or interested in seeing other providers unnecessarily or territorially "blocked" from having a greater set of tools in serving their patients. However, the bill as it currently stands does not provide a model for safe training and I have grave concerns over what, in a moment of tremendous need, may happen to the patients of our local community if we do not guarantee their right to safe and equitable care. There may be indeed a route towards safe prescribing amongst psychologists (ie the APRN Rx training route through UHM) but the bill in discussion does not yet offer such a solution.

Thank you for your consideration to HOLD HB1566 in committee.

Evan Taniguchi MD



## HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376  
www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

**LATE**

TO:  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2019  
TIME: 9:45 am  
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association  
Jerry Van Meter, MD, President  
Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Re: HB 1566: Relating to Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists

Position: **Oppose**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and all members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

This legislation is a proposal that puts the health and safety of the citizens of Hawaii with mental illness, including substance use disorders, in serious jeopardy. HB 1566 proposes to allow clinical psychologists, who are experts in important behavioral interventions but who have no medical training, the permission to prescribe extremely powerful psychotropic drugs for patients with psychiatric disorders. While we understand the intention of this legislation is to increase access to needed mental health care, HB 1566 puts Hawaii's most vulnerable patients at risk while failing to promote *available evidence-based solutions* to mental health access challenges. We urge you to look at safer models already up and functioning in Hawaii, as there are better alternatives to supporting patients with mental health needs.

These alternatives include:

**Project Echo:** A program Hawaii began in 2017 that is helping deliver **quality** mental health care to patients in rural areas of the state. To go along with this, Congress also overwhelmingly passed the Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act (Public Law No. 114-270). The legislation, sponsored by Hawaii Senator Brian Schatz, will help better integrate the Project ECHO model originating out of the University of New Mexico into health systems across the country. Senator Schatz's legislation directs the

### HMA OFFICERS

President – William Wong, Jr., MD    President-Elect – Jerry Van Meter, MD    Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD  
Immediate Past President – Bernard Robinson, MD    Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD  
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO





## HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376

www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

federal Secretary of Health and Human Services to prioritize analysis of the model and examine its impact on addressing mental health and substance use disorders.

**Collaborative Care:** A specific type of integrated care that improves access to evidence based mental health care for primary care patients. Working with a patient's primary care provider and a "care managers", a medically trained psychiatric consultant" (i.e. psychiatrist, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist or physician assistant with psychiatric training with psychiatric training) deliver care to a population of patients needing care. This "care team" shares a defined group of patients tracked in a registry to ensure no one falls through the cracks. Practices track and reach out to patients who are not improving and mental health specialists provide caseload-focused consultation, not just ad-hoc advice.

As you know, HB 1566 would permit psychologists to obtain a prescription pad by acquiring a master's degree in psychopharmacology or "equivalent", as determined by the Hawaii Board of Psychology - a professional regulatory group that has no specific medical expertise or medical background. HB 1566 would require little clinical experience to prescribe medications including controlled substances, antipsychotics, and an almost unlimited range of non-psychotropic medications. Under HB 1566, only 400 contact hours with 100 patients is required as part of this training. Consider for a moment that psychiatric resident physicians, who complete a four-year medical residency program following graduation from medical school, **will generally see 100 patients in just two weeks.**

HB 1566 would require passage of an exam created and administered by the same national organization that accredits these haphazard postdoctoral degree programs and that stands to directly benefit from this new certification. No other voluntary, dues-paying membership organization in any medical specialty (e.g., cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry) has created such an exam – nor do national professional advocacy associations for nurses and physician assistants accredit their graduate programs. These dangerously low and inadequate requirements must be taken into consideration, and any proposed training standards must be compared to the 12 or more years of medical education and training psychiatrists and other physicians receive to be able to safely care for any patient that is suffering physical, mental, or substance use disorders.

As you review HB 1566, please consider the following:

- Proponents of HB 1566 state that this will increase access to mental health care in Hawaii and cite both Louisiana and New Mexico as examples. The facts in New Mexico and Louisiana illustrate that psychologists' claims about increased

### HMA OFFICERS

President – William Wong, Jr., MD President-Elect – Jerry Van Meter, MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD

Immediate Past President – Bernard Robinson, MD Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD

Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



## **HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376

[www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org](http://www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org)

access have not materialized. Specifically, after having gained prescriptive privileges, few psychologists in either New Mexico or Louisiana have become certified to prescribe psychotropic drugs, let alone practice in a rural or underserved area.

- Prescriptive authority for psychologists has not solved the mental health needs of the rural communities in those very few states that implemented such laws. Despite promises made in New Mexico and Louisiana, psychologists did not and do not move their practices to serve the rural communities.
- Fragmentation of Hawaii's health care system will increase by limiting the availability of behavioral therapy that integrated mental health care teams have come to rely on from psychologists. Coordinated, team-based care in which every member is relied on for their training and expertise is the model of practice and reimbursement the nation is moving toward. We would be happy to serve as a resource to this Committee on programs like Project Echo and collaborative care models already underway in Hawaii and in other states that would be more sustainable alternatives to solving significant access problems. HB 1566 would seriously undermine this movement.

In summary, the practice of medicine is a serious responsibility that requires years of thorough and relevant medical education and training. Allowing psychologists to prescribe after dramatically short-cutting the medical education and training necessary presents a serious and avoidable danger to Hawaii's most vulnerable patients. Again, we urge you to vote No on HB 1566 and would welcome the opportunity to work with you to facilitate evidence-based, proven programs that can truly assist citizens of Hawaii suffering from mental illness, including substance use disorders.

### **HMA OFFICERS**

President – William Wong, Jr., MD    President-Elect – Jerry Van Meter, MD    Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD  
Immediate Past President – Bernard Robinson, MD    Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD  
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO

TESTIMONY FOR SUPPORT OF HB1566, HEARING 2/5/19 AT 9:45 am

Dear Chairman Representative Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Health,

I am writing in support of HB1566 giving prescriptive privileges to psychologists who are specially trained and regulated by the state. This bill will help my clients who would benefit from medication for mental health purposes avoid months of delay for a psychiatric consultation. This bill will give more access to care with specially-trained psychologists.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT

Psychologist & Family Therapist

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:28:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, House Health Committee (HLT)  
Representative Bertha Kobayashi, Vice Chair

February 5, 2019

Re: HB 1566 Relating to Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists

Position: **OPPOSED**

Dear Representative Luke:

- The military crash course prescribing program for psychologists from 1991-1997 was ended because it was a failure.
- Psychologists quit, they failed the tests, they said it was barely enough training and it had more than 4x the work as HB1566. It was full time for 3 years, taught by psychiatrists and cost \$600,000 per psychologist.
- We don't want to subject native Hawaiian patients in rural areas to this when they deserve the best standard of care.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Aloha,

Leslie Gise MD

Psychiatrist on Maui and Molokai x 24 years

Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, John A Burns School of Medicine

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 4:55:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Mizuno and Health Committee Members:

I support HB1566 with first-hand knowledge as I am the spouse of a Clinical Psychologist and Marriage and Family Therapist in both California and Hawaii. To this end, there are many instances where a patient/client is in need of medications (mood stabilizers, antidepressants, etc.) and require first seeing a psychiatrist who can prescribe medications. However, in the area of adolescents, there are very few pediatric psychiatrists and there are long waiting periods before an appointment can be made. In such cases, a patient may be in danger of hurting him/her self or others and a specific medication can greatly help. It is time for appropriately trained psychologists to have the proper authority to prescribe such medications. Thank you for your support.

K. Ken Yabusaki, Ph.D.

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 7:58:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph E. Comaty, Ph.D., M.P.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ability of appropriately trained psychologists to safely and effectively prescribe psychotropic medications is no longer a question. The data that currently exists from over 20 years experience with psychologists in the DoD program, LA, and NM shows that these psychologists have not harmed anyone in all those years. And, these psychologists have provided much needed services to our active duty military personnel, to our native american citizens through the IHS, to individuals served by the PHS, and to the citizens in the rural areas of LA and NM where no access to competent psychiatric services exist. Adding appropriate training to already well-trained doctoral psychologists will add much-needed specialty services for the citizens of HI.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura  
Rep. Joy San Buenaventura  
Rep. Calvin Say  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka  
Rep. Gene Ward

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1566: RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

It was in 1989 that I first began supporting prescriptive authority for psychologists in Hawaii. That included participating in a months-long process of alternative dispute resolution required by the legislature at that time. The only consensus that was reached by the various disciplines involved in that process was that the mental health needs of the people of Hawaii were grossly underserved and even unserved in certain areas of the State. When we look around now, thirty years later, our people continue to lack access to much-needed comprehensive mental health care. The consequences are many, affecting not only the individual who could benefit from access to the services, but family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and others in their communities.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. The mental and behavioral health services which Psychologists across Hawaii already provide in their capacity as independently licensed, doctoral level mental health professionals will serve as the solid foundation for the comprehensive and integrative care which will be provided when augmented by prescriptive authority. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing just such comprehensive and integrative mental health care. Psychologists with the appropriate education and training have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the United States military, the Public Health Service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

HB 1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort. Please vote **YES** on HB 1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. McNamara, Ph.D., ABPP  
Diplomate in Clinical Psychology  
Private Practice of Psychology, Maui



Denis Mee-Lee, MD  
928 Nuuanu Avenue, Lower Level  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
Telephone (808) 538-2800 Facsimile (808) 536-2024  
denmееlee@aol.com

02 February 2019

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: 05 February 2019

HB 1566 RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

Dear Chair John M. Mizuno, Co-Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and Members,

My testimony is submitted in **opposition** to HB 1566, relating to psychologists.

From my experience as Chief of Hawaii's Mental Health Division for 10 years,, Founder and Director of Psychiatry, Castle Medical Center for 12 years, principal investigator for almost 400 psychiatric medication studies, lecturer for most new psychiatric medications for 20 years, and the long term practice of psychiatry, I submit the following.

I am **opposed** to this measure because:

- 1 **Psychologists are extremely important mental health specialists and are trained and oriented over many years to carry our distinctly different specialty functions from psychiatrists.** Good mental health treatment needs a **team of specialists expert in their unique and highly trained area of expertise.** Each specialty needs to maintain and strengthen that unique excellence, and not compromise or dilute it by taking on other foreign specialty functions through legislation and inadequate training. Each specialty develops an attitudinal mind set, acquires cognitive learning and practice skills over many years from college through specialty post graduate training, practicums, internship, residencies, fellowships and more significantly through practice of that particular specialty.
2. **Mental health illnesses are inadequately treated in Hawaii for many reasons even more important than the lack of access to psychiatric medications.** These include under funded case management and peer support, lack of comprehensive community crisis management and facilities, absence of assertive community treatment, impractical mental health laws, lack of facilities for the unresponsive and uncooperative seriously mentally ill and chronic substance abusers thus causing homelessness and increased crime, and many others. **Psychiatric medications are preferably available through the growing network of informed primary care physicians, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, collaborative care models, State and private clinics, and telepsychiatry.**
3. **It is a challenge to find good cognitive behavioral therapists** (cognitive behavior has been proven as good as, and sometimes better than, medication treatment for many

*Public Access Room  
testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Please deliver  
25 copies to Clerk in Rm. 329  
House HLT 2/5/19 at 9:45 in  
Conf. Rm. 329*

Denis Mee-Lee, MD  
928 Nuuanu Avenue, Lower Level  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
Telephone (808) 538-2800 Facsimile (808) 536-2024  
denmeelee@aol.com

psychiatric conditions), **good psychological and neuropsychological evaluation, and other specialty therapies that only psychologists have been adequately trained to practice with expertise.**

- 4. Psychologists are the best specialists with conceptual understanding of the interplay between emotions/behavior/interpersonal dynamics, social workers with social system and environment factors, and only physicians and the nursing profession are trained and practiced over many years with understanding and treating the complex biological/genetic/psychiatric components and interplay between mental and other physical illnesses.**

Thank you for your consideration to HOLD HB 1566 in committee.

Sincerely,

*Denis Mee-Lee, MD, MS, CPI, DLFAPA*

*President and Principal Investigator, Valden Medical Clinic*

*Member/Advisor, NAMI Hawaii Board of Directors (family/friends of the mentally ill)*

*Member/Advisor, United Self Help Board of Directors (mental health consumers)*

*Member, Board of Governors, Honolulu County Medical Society*

*Member, Practitioners Advisory Committee, AlohaCare*

*Head Elder, Honolulu Japanese SDA Church*

*Chair, HALE KÖKUA O MĀNOA, Adventist Community Center to Manoa, Executive Committee*

*Past Chief of Staff, Castle Medical Center*

*President Elect, Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association*

*928 Nuuanu Avenue, Lower Level, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817*

*Tel (808) 538-2800, Fax (808) 536-2024, Cell (808) 864-3214*

*denmeelee@aol.com, dmeelee@valdenmedical.com*

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:56:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Bowen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti

Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura

Rep. Calvin Say

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

Rep. Gene Ward

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1566: RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

1. communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners. As a social worker in Hawaii I have worked closely with the homeless population through the VA and at the shelters. I know first-hand the positive effects this would have on the homeless population. This would allow them to get the treatment they need to be stable to get housed and remain housed. There is a lack of professionals out there who are willing to go in the field and help these individuals. Passing this bill would help to house the homeless get them the treatment they deserve.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB 1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote **YES** on HB 1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bowen, LCSW

Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student at Argosy University

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: Committee on Health Services in support of HB 1566 (Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists)

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Rep. Joy San Buenaventura  
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura  
Rep. Calvin Say  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka  
Rep. Gene Ward

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM Room 329

From: Dr. Bracken Gott, Psy.D.

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566, Relating to Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists

My name is Bracken Gott and I wholeheartedly support HB 1566. I am a clinical psychologist, a U.S. Navy veteran, and am currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Psychopharmacology Program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UH Hilo). The Psychopharmacology Program at UH Hilo is a fully accredited, nationally recognized program by the American Psychological Association for prescribing psychologists.

I have been practicing in mental health for over 20 years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to work with many skilled health care professionals; both those who can prescribe and those who cannot. Prescribing is an essential part of mental health treatment. However, great caution and consideration should be given to those who provide prescriptive services. These individuals must acquire the knowledge and skills needed to deliver safe, high-quality mental health care with prescribing privileges.

Some may argue that advanced trained clinical psychologists should not prescribe because it may be unsafe or could result in negative outcomes. I disagree. When an advanced trained clinical psychologist undergoes extensive training, obtains a Master's Degree from an accredited program, and passes a national licensing exam, these medical providers should be permitted to prescribe.

Medically trained psychologists have had prescriptive authority since 1974. The Department of Defense, Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Guam, New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho all permit psychologists to have prescribing authority. There has never been any reported adverse outcomes or malpractice complaints related to prescriptive authority for medically trained psychologists. In fact, permitting psychologists to prescribe medications, will only enhance mental health care services throughout the State of Hawaii, by increasing access to care.

Passing HB 1566 will allow appropriately trained and credentialed psychologists the ability to help Hawaiians have access to medications needed to properly treat mental health disorders. As a practicing psychologist in Hawaii, I have gained first-hand knowledge of the limitations to accessing mental health treatment. I strongly support this measure because it will help to alleviate the difficulty people suffering from mental health problems have in accessing proper treatment and care. The language in this measure will provide the necessary safeguards to ensure only those psychologists with appropriate education, clinical training, and licensing will be authorized to prescribe.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bracken Gott", written in a cursive style.

Bracken Gott Psy.D.  
US Navy Reserve  
Clinical Psychologist

**THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019**

**TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
Rep John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**FROM: Jill Oliveira Gray, Ph.D.**  
Hawaii Licensed Clinical Psychologist

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1566**  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL  
PSYCHOLOGISTS

Honorable Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the Committee on Health, my name is Dr. Jill Oliveira Gray and I am a licensed Clinical Psychologist who has worked in rural, medically underserved areas for the past 18 years to include Hana, Maui, Molokai, and Waimānalo. I am also a past President of the Hawai'i Psychological Association and current Training Director at I Ola Lāhui, an American Psychological Association accredited pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship that has trained and placed psychologists in rural, medically underserved areas across our state since 2007. Because of my years of clinical experience serving rural, medically underserved areas, and first-hand knowledge of what the severe needs of these communities are and the profound impact that mental health provider shortages have on the psychological well-being of these communities, **I would like to submit this testimony in strong support of HB 1566.**

**The mental health needs of individuals across our state continue to outweigh the capacity of our mental health system.** I have been advocating in support of this measure for 16 years and during this time have not witnessed significant improvements in patients being able to access timely psychiatric care, particularly in rural areas of our state, but also on O'ahu where repeated referrals to multiple psychiatrists have to be made due to many who do not accept new patients and/or Medicaid/Medicare patients. Individuals on O'ahu are having to wait weeks to months before they are able to get appointments. The psychiatrists that I do know who have made themselves available in rural areas are ***severely overbooked*** and unable to provide patients the attention and connectedness they need and require in order to benefit from their services. We simply don't have enough psychiatric resources in our state.

According to the most recent Report on Findings from the Hawai'i Physician Workforce Assessment Project (December, 2018), physician shortages, including psychiatry, are highest in Hawai'i's rural areas. Across the different counties, in ranking order, the greatest shortage of psychiatrists is found on Maui at 36.91%, followed by Kaua'i county at 33.3%, and Hawai'i county at 32.95%. This annual report continues to indicate there is a 0% shortage for psychiatry on O'ahu but this doesn't take into account other aspects of accessibility including, availability (i.e., how soon and how often can a patient be seen?) and acceptability (i.e., quality of the relationship). I have witnessed all too often the suffering that persists due to individuals not being able to receive adequate psychiatric care on an outpatient basis. Psychiatrists practice in various types of health care settings, to include hospitals and residential treatment programs where the larger portion of our population does not require care, however, they do face access difficulties to receiving appropriate outpatient medication management in order to maintain functioning and prevent worsening of psychological problems.



**THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019**

**Prescriptive authority for advanced trained clinical psychologists is a long term, no-cost solution to addressing the mental health provider shortages in our state.** In Hawai'i, more people die from suicides than from motor vehicle accidents, drownings, falls, poisonings, suffocations, and homicides. From 2008-2012, there was an increasing trend in number of suicides and attempts in Hawai'i with an average of 170 deaths and 852 attempts per year. The highest reported number of deaths in a 21-year period was a mere 5 years ago in 2010 with 195 deaths (Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawai'i Injury Prevention Plan, 2012-2017). According to this report, the most common negative life events that precede suicide are relationship issues (34%) (i.e., break up or divorce), or serious illness or medical issues (26%). Many studies show that people who commit suicide receive little or no treatment for their mental health problems due to the multiple barriers that exist (i.e., access, availability, acceptability, cost). It is not to be taken lightly that despite a 0% documented shortage of psychiatrists on O'ahu, "...65% of the O'ahu [suicide] victims had a documented history of mental illness" (Hawai'i State Department of Health, Hawai'i Injury Prevention Plan, 2012-2017, p. 34). Something does not add up here. We need any and all solutions to address the problems of accessing timely, accessible, and acceptable care across our State.

**The basic argument from those who oppose this measure is that patient safety will be compromised by allowing psychologists to prescribe—but after 22 years of psychologists' prescribing, this has not proven to be true.** Psychologists have been prescribing in the Indian Health Service and Department of Defense for the past 2 decades. There are now 178 prescribing psychologists licensed through New Mexico, Louisiana, and Illinois, many of whom are serving in rural, medically underserved areas and medically underserved populations. Recently, Idaho and Iowa also passed legislation to allow prescriptive authority for advanced trained clinical psychologists. The prescribing psychologists in New Mexico have increased the number of doctoral-level trained prescribers by 100%, and increased access to care among Medicaid patients by 60%. Via personal communication with a prescribing Medical Psychologist (MP) in Louisiana, after 10 years of practice, there have been NO complaints against MP's regarding prescribing and one of the benefits of MP's is that they are able to fill in positions that have been left vacant by psychiatrists for years.

**HB 1566 contains increases in training requirements and supervised clinical experiences with a 580 hour increase and additional setting and population specifications such as obtaining 80 hours in a physical assessment practicum in a primary care, family practice, community or internal medicine setting and 100 hours of supervised community service that will include homeless, veteran and low-income populations.** Supervised clinical experiences will include no less than 2 hours per week of supervision by a licensed physician or osteopathic physician, an APRN-Rx, or a prescribing psychologist.

HB 1566 also contains multiple safeguards imbedded in this legislation to include:

- Passing a rigorous national exam, the Psychopharmacology Exam for Psychologists (PEP);
- Required to obtain Federal DEA license;

**THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019**

- Required to maintain malpractice insurance;
- Required to prescribe only in consultation and collaboration with a patient's physician of record and only after a written collaborative agreement has been signed; will not be allowed to prescribe for any patient who does not have a primary or attending physician;
- For forensically encumbered or severely mentally ill patients, a prescribing psychologist must work with the department of health psychiatrist and/or enter into a collaborative agreement with the department of health;
- Exclusionary formulary prohibiting the prescribing of schedule I-III drugs to include opiates and narcotics and no off-label prescribing for patients 17 years of age and younger; and,
- Annual continuing education requirements specific to psychopharmacology and in addition to the existing continuation requirements for licensed clinical psychologists.

For all these reasons, and most importantly, to improve the health care system for Hawaii's medically underserved areas and most vulnerable populations, I humbly ask for your support of HB 1566.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Oliveira Gray, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Direct of Training  
I Ola Lāhui, Inc

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:28:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rika suzuki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

RIKA SUZUKI M.D.

TO: House Health Committee (HLT)

DATE: February 3, 2019

HB 3105 RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS PRESCRIBING

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

My testimony is submitted in opposition to **HB1566** relating to psychologists prescribing.

I am opposed to this measure because the needs of medically underserved populations must be met as safely, consistently, and responsibly as any other population. The patient populations of the medically underserved, with whom I have worked and do work, are particularly vulnerable because of limited resources and information, often with limited literacy about mental health and medical treatment options. My big concern, among others, is that it is assumed that access to mental health care often means obtaining medication. Increasing the number of prescribers is not the solution to improving access to care. Sometimes, in the mental health care triage process,

patients are found to be treatable without medications. Even suicidal patients are not always in need of medications but rather intensive supportive counseling and psychosocial supports and interventions. The triage process to identify danger and acuity, and immediate needs can be carried out by a variety of mental health professionals.

In treating the underserved populations with medications, however, especially the very young, the very old and the very sick, it is even more imperative that comprehensive medical training of brain and organ systems take place before safely identifying those patients who may benefit from medications. In prescribing, the medical model must be adhered to, as in any other treatment population. To expedite services to underserved populations, we are now actively exploring and putting to use integrative and collaborative care models between primary care providers and mental health providers. This kind of collaboration improves the efficiency of delivery of care, increases the numbers serviced, and decreases the time to access care.

Please help protect and advocate for the welfare of our underserved populations by your consideration to HOLD **HB1566** in committee.

Thank you,

Rika Suzuki M.D., Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:17:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judi Steinman	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:26:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keiko Chen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**Keiko Chen**

1114 Punahou Street #12A, Honolulu, HI 96816

Ph: (626) 328-9747

---

TO: Consumer Protection and Health Committee (CPH) OR House Health Committee (HLT)

DATE: 2019

**HB1566** RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS PRESCRIBING

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

My testimony is submitted in opposition to **HB1566**, relating to psychologists prescribing.

I am opposed to this measure because: I am a psychiatry resident having worked in the Queens Emergency Room and Kekela and have worked with the vulnerable and high-risk population who have serious mental health conditions. There are complex issues that arise from prescribing psychotropics as they are not benign medications - including drug-drug interactions, psychotropic induced side effects that necessitates close monitoring. Mental health consumers deserve to receive the same quality healthcare as all others. Psychologists have a path open to them to obtain prescribing authority in Hawaii via the two year APRN program at the School of Nursing at the University of Hawaii. This is an accredited and nationally regulated training curriculum.

The John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association and the Department of Health are all working to reduce system barriers mental health services and helping to improve access to quality health care to all mental health

consumers. Hawaii is ramping up access improvement in ways proven safe and effective, including telemedicine and Collaborative Care. These proven and already implemented methods need to be expanded and supported.

Thank you for taking time for consideration.

Sincerely,  
Keiko Chen, MD, MPH

Dear Chair Mizuno and members of the House Committee on Health,

Please vote NO on HB1566.

It is not safe, has not been shown to improve access in the 2 states where implemented, and better, safer alternatives in Hawaii already exist and should be supported in their expansion, including:

Telemedicine

APRN-RX

Project ECHO

Collaborative Care

Below please find an analysis of HB1566 and safety concerns.

Also, the American Psychological Association had to settle a lawsuit for \$9 Million brought by its own members because the American Psychological Association Practice Organization (named in HB1566 as the entity overseeing the medical exam and grading) is in fact a lobbying arm that bullied the APA members into paying an additional lobbying fee of \$140 a year.

Please vote NO on HB1566.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Akaka, MD

## **HB1566 - ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED STANDARDS & SAFEGUARDS**

In 2006-2007, the Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) conducted an impartial review of the psychologist prescribing issue. The LRB's detailed 100 page report made no recommendation on the final question, but noted that only one training model has been evaluated and found to have successfully trained postdoctoral clinical psychologists to prescribe psychotropic drugs for patients with mental illness, the 1990-1997 Department of Defense PDP program (DoD-PDP). The Bureau's final recommendation was:

If the Legislature deems it appropriate to authorize prescriptive authority for qualified clinical psychologists who practice in community health centers, the Legislature may wish to consider requiring a training model that requires minimum classroom and clinical training requirements no less rigorous than the PDP program training model and a scope of practice and formulary for graduates that is no broader than limitations applied to PDP program graduates.



Regardless of the approach or solutions adopted to increase access to mental health services for the medically underserved population, it is clear that patient safety cannot be compromised. Patient safety should guide the Legislature's decision on the issue of prescriptive authority for qualified clinical psychologists under limited circumstances.

The primary question for policy makers should be,

“How close does the process proposed under HB1566 come to meeting the LRB’s recommended requirements for

- (A) clinical training,
- (B) scope of practice,
- (C) medication formulary and
- (D) patient safety?”

Another question of importance is (E)

“Does HB1566 have any budgetary implications or other risks?”

## **A. PROPOSED TRAINING AND SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS ARE INADEQUATE**

The LRB recommended that the Legislature require a training model with minimum classroom and clinical training requirements no less rigorous than the PDP program training model. How close does the process proposed under HB1566 come to meeting the LRB’s recommended requirements for clinical training?

As noted by the LRB, the Department of Defense PDP training program included the following four requirements or factors:

### **1. Curriculum:**

PDP students had one to two full-time years of classroom training in the basic and preclinical biomedical sciences, and one year of full-time clinical training at a medical center that included inpatient and outpatient experience. This totaled 2-3 calendar years of full-time study. The PDP training model and curriculum was designed and approved not just by psychologists, but also by psychiatric physicians,



UHH-MSCP program provided a total of 33 credit-hours education. This is equivalent to a one year, two semester graduate program, though it is spread over 6 semesters with a 1/4 - 1/3 time student schedule. The Argosy University MSCP program offered graduates only a 22 semester credit hour curriculum. For comparison, nursing students enrolled in the U.H. Hilo Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (BSN) receive a total of 123 credit-hours over 4 years, and APRN's with prescriptive authority receive even more. As the LRB concluded, "Current psychopharmacology training programs that authorize online learning, weekend classes, and optional clinical experience are considerably less rigorous than the PDP training model." HB1566 permits these low standards and lacks reasonable safeguards regarding quality and duration of the DoD-PDP curriculum.

**2. Selective Admission:** The PDP had a selective admission process and the LRB concluded that "candidates for any similar training program, whether military or civilian, should be held to high selection standards; several years of clinical experience was also suggested..."

The Advisory Council to the PDP program recommended that applicants to the program should have a minimum of 2 years experience as a licensed clinical psychologist."

There is no evidence that the criteria used by the UHH-MSCP program to select applicants recognized the challenges of its accelerated curriculum. It required no entrance examination or other evidence to ensure that its psychologists were sufficiently gifted or exceptionally qualified to allow them to safely bypass so much of the standard biomedical science coursework. In fact, its program coordinator admitted that her students were often "scared by biochemistry". The program did not require applicants to have 2 years or more of experience as a licensed clinical psychologist. The MSCP student selection process basically takes all comers.

Advising against this, the LRB cautioned, "Admission into current postdoctoral psychopharmacology programs require only a doctoral degree in psychology and a current state license to practice psychology;

these minimal requirements do not establish the high selection standards suggested by the ACNP evaluation panel or the minimum two year clinical experience recommended by the Advisory Council.”

HB1566 lacks these reasonable safeguards regarding the quality and experience of MSCP applicants.

**3. Expert Clinical Supervision:** PDP students were supervised by physicians specialized in psychiatry, and a wide range of health care professionals, labs, and other equipment available in close proximity.

The UHH-MSCP program’s first director was a pharmacist with no experience treating patients with psychiatric drugs, or even on the pharmacy aspects of psychiatric drugs. This is also the case for the next program director, Supakit Wongwiwatthanakit, PharmD, a **veterinary pharmacist** whose main contribution since transferring to the School of Pharmacy from the U.H. Cancer Center, was designing a curriculum for pharmacy students to treat animals. As he described this, “The curriculum was designed to expose students to a veterinary clinical setting.”

The basic science portion of the UHH-MSCP curriculum was not taught by qualified faculty with relevant degrees in these respective fields. Chemistry material was not taught by chemists. Biology material was not taught by biologists. This does not even meet community college standards.

According to past program listings, the only UHH-MSCP faculty who were trained to prescribe medications were Allen Novak, APRN-Rx and Kristine McCoy, MD, a family doctor. Both were listed as “guest lecturers”.

The UHH-MSCP program had no other faculty or clinical training sites to provide the necessary supervised clinical experience. Instead, students were required to find their own clinical training sites and volunteer supervisors. Generally this meant a primary care doctors at a community health center. It is notable that even though the program’s director advocated for

psychologist prescribing by insisting that primary care doctors are not qualified to treat mental illness, the program relied on these same doctors as the primary supervisors for its psychologist trainees. HB1566 lacks reasonable safeguards regarding the quality of program faculty and clinical supervisors.

**4. Post-graduate Collaboration:** PDP graduates received close supervision by psychiatric physicians during their initial postgraduate medical facility assignment, and an ongoing open, collaborative practice that permitted ready access consultation with physicians who were onsite or readily available.

The process proposed under HB1566 requires psychologists to maintain documented “collaborative agreements” and “treatment protocols” with DOH psychiatrists for patients with serious mental illness, and with the primary care physician for all other patients. These required collaborations, protocols and agreements would be the primary safeguards in the bill, but it is difficult to assess exactly what they would entail, how they will be meaningful, and their medico-legal implications. One thing is clear, these are likely to be the primary focus of scrutiny in event of adverse outcomes.

## **B. PROPOSED SCOPE OF PRACTICE LACKS SAFEGUARDS**

How close does the process proposed under HB1566 come to meeting the LRB’s recommended requirements for scope of practice?

The LRB recommended that the Legislature require a scope of practice that is no broader than limitations applied to PDP program graduates. It also noted:

There is no program that authorizes psychologists to prescribe psychoactive medications for children or seniors that has been evaluated or determined to be safe.

The PDP scope of practice was limited to outpatients between the ages of 18 to 65, without serious medical conditions or serious mental illnesses. HB1566 does not have this safeguard, would allow psychologists to prescribe risky drugs to children, teens, elderly, the

medically-ill and the severely mentally-ill. Most people don't understand that there are no requirements for adequate supervised clinical experience for each of these specialized areas of practice, either during MSCP training or even in psychology doctorate programs. HB1566 does not require psychologists to meet the usual standards American Psychological Association (APA) for specialized training in child psychology or for proficiency in assessment and treatment of serious mental illness before prescribing drugs to in these higher risk cases. There is no evidence that any MSCP program offers the specialized biomedical, clinical and psychopharmacologic training required to safely treat children, seniors and other higher risk patient populations with drugs. This bears repeating, HB1566 would allow psychologists who have no clinical experience evaluating or treated children with psychological or pharmacologic interventions to prescribe drugs to children. The same goes for prescribing drugs to teens, elderly, the medically-ill and the severely mentally-ill. The bill's lack of such a common-sense safeguard is of great concern.

### **C. PROPOSED MEDICATION FORMULARY LACKS SAFEGUARDS**

The LRB recommended that the Legislature require a formulary that is no broader than the limitations applied to PDP program graduates. How close does the process proposed under HB767 come to meeting the LRB's recommended requirements for the medication formulary?

Because PDP psychologists did not treat patients with severe mental illness, their medication formulary was limited to the lower risk drugs prescribed for less serious conditions. HB1566 lacks this reasonable safeguard, and would permit psychologists use all psychiatric medications, a formulary that is nearly equivalent to that used by psychiatric physicians.

### **D. HB1566 LACKS MULTIPLE DoD-PDP SAFEGUARDS**

The LRB recommended that patient safety should guide the Legislature's decision on the issue of prescriptive authority for clinical psychologists. All agree that psychiatric drugs are no less complex and no less risky when prescribed by a Hawaii psychologist than by others. Once they are in someone's body, the chemicals will do what they do. Nevertheless, HB767 lacks many of the common-sense safeguards of the PDP, that could be described as "someone allowed to provide a medical service, should first have the substantial and relevant education, training and supervised experience for that specific service". Consider the following comparison of safeguards:

- 2-3 years of quality, full-time biomedical training? PDP -yes, HB1566-no
- Selective applicant process? PDP -yes, HB1566-no
- Qualified preclinical and clinical faculty? PDP -yes, HB1566-no
- Supervisors expert in the use of psychiatric drugs? PDP -yes, HB1566-no
- Limited to the lowest risk medications? PDP -yes, HB1566-no
- Videotaped lectures as primary teaching method? PDP-no, HB1566-yes
- Prescribe drugs to children? PDP-no, HB1566-yes
- Prescribe drugs to teens? PDP-no, HB1566-yes
- Prescribe drugs to pregnant women? PDP-no, HB1566-yes
- Prescribe drugs to the elderly? PDP-no, HB1566-yes
- Prescribe drugs to the medically-ill? PDP-no, HB1566-yes
- Prescribe drugs for severe mental illness? PDP-no, HB1566-yes
- Psychology training in treating children? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Psychology training in treating teens? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Psychology training in treating pregnant women? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Psychology training in treating the elderly? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Psychology training in treating the medically-ill? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Psychology training in treating severe mental illness? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Medical training in treating children with drugs? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Medical training in treating teens with drugs? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Medical training in treating children with drugs? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Medical training in treating pregnant women with drugs? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Medical training in treating the elderly with drugs? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no
- Medical training in treating severe mental illness with drugs? PDP-n/a, HB1566-no

□ Does HB1566 mention any of this in its preamble? No.

#### SUMMARY

The available evidence continues to support the LRB's conclusion that, "There is no postdoctoral training in psychopharmacology for clinical psychologists in Hawaii that has high selection standards to choose participants or that meets the classroom and clinical training requirements of the PDP program."

The PDP only allowed psychologists to prescribe only after a 2-3 year, full-time biomedical training program, taught and supervised by qualified medical school faculty at Walter Reed. When finished, these military psychologists were only allowed to use a limited list of the safest psychiatric drugs to treat healthy adults aged 18-65, but not children, teens, elderly, the medically-ill or the severely mentally-ill.

HB1566 does not compare favorably to an objective examination of the PDP training program safeguards for the admission process, curriculum and training content, duration, faculty and supervisor qualifications, and required clinical settings. This is alarming given that the bill also fails to require and the important PDP safeguards of a narrow scope of practice and limited formulary. This risk is compounded by the fact that neither conventional clinical psychology training nor MSCP programs require any significant education or supervised clinical experience for children, seniors or other specialized patient populations.

7

Another safeguard missing from HB1566 involves psychologists who may have completed MSCP training years ago, perhaps 10-15 years ago or more, and who have no evidence of substantial relevant prescriptive practice or continuing education since then. Allowing these individuals to begin prescribing after such a long gap, especially given the sketchy quality of the training being considered, is yet another concern.



It is clear, according to the LRB's independent and objective analysis of this controversial issue, that

HB1566 does not require adequate education and training and poses significant risks to patient safety.

The bill's primary safeguard, consultation and collaboration with physicians, will push these risks

down to the level of those responsible for oversight the prescribing psychologists. For the highest risk

cases, this would include department of health psychiatrists. Any future claims of inadequate training

and negligent supervision would be very difficult to defend given the findings of the LRB and other

independent experts.

All of these risks and costs can be avoided by voting against HB1566, and instead implementing

initiatives that are safe and proven to work, like Telemedicine, Project ECHO and Collaborative Care.

Please vote NO on HB1566

**From:** [katrina.moss.psyd@gmail.com](mailto:katrina.moss.psyd@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 9:57:44 AM

---

Katrina Perreira  
462 Kahinu St  
Honolulu, HI 96821-2217

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Dr Katrina Perreira Moss

**From:** [steve@hawaiifamilytherapist.com](mailto:steve@hawaiifamilytherapist.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 9:47:44 AM

---

Steven P.  
407 Uluniu Street #414  
Kailua, HI 96734-2544

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Steven P. Katz, LMFT, Hawaii License #376  
Master's in Counseling Psychology, with and Emphasis in Marriage and  
Family Therapy 354 Uluniu Street Suite 412 Kailua, HI 96734 808-220-3625  
email: [steve@hawaiifamilytherapist.com](mailto:steve@hawaiifamilytherapist.com)

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Katz, LMFT, Hawaii License #376 Master's in Counseling Psychology, with and Emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy 354 Uluniu Street Suite 412 Kailua, HI 96734 808-220-3625 email: [steve@hawaiifamilytherapist.com](mailto:steve@hawaiifamilytherapist.com) 808-220-3625

**From:** [swfreedle@gmail.com](mailto:swfreedle@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 9:32:44 AM

---

Shannon FREEDLE  
25 KAHOA ST  
HILO, HI 96720-2205

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Shannon W Freedle  
5056992292

**From:** [kobleada@gmail.com](mailto:kobleada@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 9:12:40 AM

---

Katrina Obleada  
1504 Magazine St.  
HONOLULU, HI 96822-3733

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.



Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Katrina Obleada  
4076178089

**From:** [kobleada@gmail.com](mailto:kobleada@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 9:12:40 AM

---

Katrina Obleada  
1504 Magazine St.  
HONOLULU, HI 96822-3733

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Katrina Obleada  
4076178089

**From:** [kstueber@hawaii.edu](mailto:kstueber@hawaii.edu)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 9:02:45 AM

---

Kyla Stueber  
6042 Summer Street  
Honolulu, HI 96821-2379

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Kyla Stueber

**From:** [drlyleherman@gmail.com](mailto:drlyleherman@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 7:42:39 AM

---

Lyle Herman  
720 B 8th Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816-7100

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Lyle Herman  
8085454585

**From:** [dr.bbeltran@gmail.com](mailto:dr.bbeltran@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 7:42:37 AM

---

Brianna Beltran  
98-288 Kaonohi St, Apartment 1803  
Aiea, HI 96701-2359

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.



Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Brianna Beltran

**From:** [dr.brouwers@gmail.com](mailto:dr.brouwers@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 7:12:43 AM

---

Gerald Brouwers  
3265 Paty Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96822-1449

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Gerald Brouwers  
8082206689

**From:** [dr.lioujohnson@gmail.com](mailto:dr.lioujohnson@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 7:02:39 AM

---

Victoria Liou-Johnson  
7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy, Suite A143A #264  
Honolulu, HI 96825-1849

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Dr. Victoria Liou-Johnson

**From:** [drgamby@gmail.com](mailto:drgamby@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 6:57:37 AM

---

Tanya Gamby  
7220s kahuna Rd  
Kapaa, HI 96746-9027

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Tanya Evslin Gamby, PhD  
8083461939

**From:** [bradleyjmac@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyjmac@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 4:22:37 AM

---

Bradley McConnell  
9308 Four Pines Dr.  
Shafter, CA 93263-9430

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.



Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Bradley McConnell  
6618055003

**From:** [drginasamala@gmail.com](mailto:drginasamala@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 1:02:36 AM

---

Gina Samala  
95-1249 Meheula Pkwy Suite 195  
Mililani, HI 96789-1791

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Gina Samala  
8083661175

**From:** [nadinechiang@msn.com](mailto:nadinechiang@msn.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 11:57:36 PM

---

nadine chiang  
1188 Bishop St. Suite 2101  
Honolulu, HI 96813-3308

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

nadine chiang  
808-892-2663

**From:** [janetcovingtoncounseling@gmail.com](mailto:janetcovingtoncounseling@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:22:35 PM

---

Janet Covington  
240 Kilea Place  
Wahiawa, HI 96786-2764

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Janet Covington, LMFT, LMHC  
8082915321

**From:** [junewching@gmail.com](mailto:junewching@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:12:34 PM

---

June W. J. Ching, PhD  
1833 Kalakaua Avenue, Suite 800  
Honolulu, HI 96815-1528

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care. Advanced trained Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.



Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

June W. J. Ching, PhD  
808-949-9502

**From:** [ivan\\_irie@hotmail.com](mailto:ivan_irie@hotmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:42:34 PM

---

Ivan Irie  
730 Hausten St., Apt. 1  
Honolulu, HI 96826-3092

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Ivan Irie  
8083210712

**From:** [renee.nakama@gmail.com](mailto:renee.nakama@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:17:35 PM

---

Renee Bellis  
1829 Halekoa drive  
Honolulu, HI 96821-1028

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Renee Y. Bellis  
8083811408

**From:** [tsimmons4u@gmail.com](mailto:tsimmons4u@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:47:34 PM

---

Tamika Simmons  
536 Saddle vista  
Cibolo, TX 78108-3658

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Tamika Simmons  
8083171558

**From:** [erikjul@gmail.com](mailto:erikjul@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:42:37 PM

---

Erik Jul  
3056 Felix St.  
Honolulu, HI 96816-1912

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

This is a good idea. Deteriorate the unnecessary hierarchy that can exist in education communities and allow qualified providers to utilize this learnable skill set and apply to populations urgently in need. I want to have more options and providers I can trust to refer patients to. I work in Aiea and finding quality and quantity care for medication provision is so difficult it literally creates human suffering that I see day to day. You can change this!!

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the



military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Erik Jul

**From:** [jcwhite54@gmail.com](mailto:jcwhite54@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:42:33 PM

---

Judith White  
P.O. Box 1719  
Kapaa, HI 96746-5719

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Judith C. White, Psy.D.  
808-346-5856

**From:** [kellar@hawaii.edu](mailto:kellar@hawaii.edu)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:32:33 PM

---

Michael Kellar  
435 Haleloa Place, Apt. E  
Honolulu, HI 96821-2251

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care. As a retired Federal psychologist I personally safely and thoughtfully wrote in excess of 8,000 prescriptions to those in need of such care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full

support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Kellar, Psy.D.  
8082849500

**From:** [droduiguez@iolalahui.org](mailto:droduiguez@iolalahui.org)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:27:34 PM

---

Daniel Rodriguez  
303 Wai Nani Way Unit B  
Honolulu, HI 96815-3954

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Daniel Rodriguez, MA

**From:** [annienguyenpsyd@gmail.com](mailto:annienguyenpsyd@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:02:33 PM

---

Annie Nguyen PSYD  
47297 Hui oo Way  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-4511

February 3, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Every day patients struggle to obtain access to mental health services, particularly prescribers who are able to manage their behavioral health issues. I have witnessed this nearly every day for the last six years in my private practice.

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.



HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

In my six years of working in private practice as a psychologist in Kailua, Hawaii I have encountered extreme difficulty getting access to care for my most vulnerable patients. Patients are often released from the hospital without psychiatry follow-up and then are unable to find a psychiatrist who is willing to accept new patients. This is especially difficult for patients who are on Quest or Medicare. This bill is pivotal in allowing greater access to care for our most vulnerable citizens.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Annie Nguyen, PSYD  
808-381-1838

**From:** [n.sidun@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:n.sidun@hawaiiantel.net)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:52:37 PM

---

Nancy M. Sidun PsyD  
1195 Kamehame Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96825-3504

February 3, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Nancy M. Sidun, PsyD, ABPP, ATR  
808 395-9871

**From:** [sidhermosura@hotmail.com](mailto:sidhermosura@hotmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:52:35 PM

---

Sid Hermosura  
41-1347 Kalaniana'ole Hwy  
Honolulu, HI 96825

February 3, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Sid Hermosura  
8082597948

**From:** [rsconcepcion@gmail.com](mailto:rsconcepcion@gmail.com)  
**To:** [HLTtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566  
**Date:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:02:33 PM

---

Richelle Concepcion  
565H Mananai Place  
Honolulu, HI 96818-5318

February 3, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Richelle Concepcion

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** mchristopher@ponopraxis.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 10:33 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

**Categories:** Red Category

Michael Christopher  
3734  
Honolulu, HI 96818

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

ACCORDING TO THE HONOLULU EMERGENCY PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAM CURRENTLY 50-60% EVERYONE ARRESTED (ABOUT 7,000 ARRESTS) BY HPD SUFFERS FROM UNTREATED SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS, AND POLICE MAKE NEARLY 4,000 INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATIONS PER YEAR TO THE HOSPITAL, BECAUSE A PERSON IS A DANGER TO SELF OR OTHERS AS A RESULT OF UNTREATED MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. ONE OF THE REASON FOR THIS IS THE DECADES LONG CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN PRESCRIBE PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS.



Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Michael Christopher Psy.D., Ph.D.  
808-285-6721

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:13:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leanne Fox	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

The Native Hawaiian community continues to suffer because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Many rural areas in Hawai'i have limited or no access to psychiatric care; this has been the case for decades. The need is significant and increasing. Many Native Hawaiians from keiki to kupuna have mental health challenges and/or substance use challenges that impact them and their families. We need all providers to be hands on and practicing at the top of their licenses. Because of the mental health crisis facing Hawai'i, I support HB1566 and urge the committee to PASS this bill.

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** rjkravetz@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 10:18 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Richard Kravetz Ph.D  
122 Hoahana  
Honolulu, HI 96825-3520

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Richard Kravetz, Ph.D  
8082582598

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** drrozi@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 11:43 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Rosemary Adam-Terem  
1833 Kalakaua Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96815-1512

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Adam-Terem  
8082924793

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** nozanintherapy@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 7:48 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Nozanin Yusufbekova  
92-1309 Kuamu Street  
Kapolei, HI 96707-1555

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Nozanin Yusufbekova  
8084252625



## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** kathrine@hawaii.edu  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 11:18 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Kathrine Fast  
47-759 Hui Kelu St.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-4526

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Kathrine Fast

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** artfirestepper@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 10:48 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

**Categories:** Red Category

Charles Liu  
1114 Punahou St, 12A  
Honolulu, HI 96826-2054

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Dear committee on Health,

My name is Charles Liu, Ph.D. I am a behavioral health psychologist who has worked on both Oahu and the Big Island. My experience in working with rural populations has opened my eyes to the significant need in psychologists' ability to prescribe. As it sits, there are simply not enough psychiatrists working in rural areas to meet the need. With the training that psychologists would have to go through (obtaining a masters in psychopharmacology and obtaining supervision), this training is equal, if not more significant than the training many non MD providers obtain before having the same privileges. Furthermore, psychologists have the most training in accurately assessing for disorders, and would be trained to know when their patients are more complex than what they can treat with medication.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Liu  
6092260557

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** drjudyrocap@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 11:18 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Judith Rocap  
1231 Ala Alii Street, Apartment 18  
Honolulu, HI 96818-1880

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Judith Rocap  
8084971644

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** ksbrown33@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Kathleen Brown  
2743 1st St, #1105  
Fort Myers, FL 33916-1869

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities and criminal justice systems are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. Homelessness is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Brown, PhD  
8087783478



## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** drhitominihei@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 12:18 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Hitomi Nihei  
2825 S. King St. #2504  
Honolulu, HI 96826-3535

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Hitomi Nihei  
8082232474

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** drlsanderson@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 7:03 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Laura Anderson  
2325 Liliuokalani st  
KILAUEA, HI 96754-5304

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Hi- having lived and worked in the outer islands for nearly 20 years I know first hand that our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help.

We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advanced practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura Anderson  
8086391404

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** drrozi@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 11:43 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Rosemary Adam-Terem  
1833 Kalakaua Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96815-1512

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Adam-Terem  
8082924793

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** trey.hicks@me.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:28 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

William Hicks  
215 Luika Pl  
Kailua, HI 96734-3238

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

William Hicks  
2546303220



## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** lhufano@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:08 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Linda Hufano Ph.D.  
122 Hoahana Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825-3520

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Linda Hufano, Ph.D.  
808 258-2250

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** drmarianmiller@me.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:37 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

MARIAN MILLER  
1454 AKEKE PLACE  
KAILUA, HI 96734-4218

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Dr Marian Miller

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** lalikipaulo@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:22 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Lesley A. Slavin  
317C Olomana Street  
Kailua, HI 96734-5509

February 3, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Lesley A. Slavin, Ph.D.  
8083939110

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:12:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher Knightsbridge	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** hi.wellness.services@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 2:33 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Kalei Chandler-Ah Sing  
PO Box 755  
Kailua, HI 96734-0755

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.



Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

kalei Chandler-Ah Sing  
18087382099

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** c.kehaulani@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 1:23 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Christina Uemura  
PO BOX 334  
LAWAI, HI 96765-0334

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Christina Uemura  
8086348201

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** kmburns@gwu.edu  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 1:28 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Katherine Burns  
21 Homelani Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96817-1113

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Katherine Burns, PhD

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** seanscanlanphd@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 1:43 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Sean Scanlan  
1019 University Ave. #6A  
Honolulu, HI 96826-1509

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need. The current number of prescriptive providers is simply not sufficient and hasn't been for a long time. The other week, I had a patient that needed simple ADHD medication for school. The psychiatrist was able to get them an appointment..... in 6 months! That's summertime, and school is done. That's 6 months of suffering for no good reason.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Mahalo,

Sean W. Scanlan, Ph.D.  
808-277-7577

## **kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** eric.larsen79@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 3:43 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566



Eric Larsen  
7770 Norfolk Ave #301  
Bethesda, MD 20814-7038

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.



Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Eric Larsen, MD  
8608577126

**kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** drstephenchoy@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 3:53 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Stephen Choy  
1314 a king st  
Honolulu, HI 96814

February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

**LATE**

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**LATE**

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Stephen Choy phd  
8085938484

Elaine M. Heiby, Ph.D.  
Licensed Psychologist  
2542 Date St., Apt. 702  
Honolulu, HI 96826  
(808) 497-0929  
[heiby@hawaii.edu](mailto:heiby@hawaii.edu)



2 February 2019

Hawaii State Legislature  
House Health Committee

Re: OPPOSITION to HB1566 Relating to prescription privileges for psychologists

Dear Honorable Representatives:

This is individual testimony that is informed from my experience as a doctoral level psychologist since 1980. My experience includes being a Professor of Psychology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa from 1981 to 2014, a Hawaii Licensed Psychologist since 1982, and a former member of the Board of Psychology. My opinions do not represent the University or the Board. My opinions are consistent with testimony submitted by Psychologists Opposed to Prescriptions Privileges for Psychologists (POPPP) and I am on the Board of Advisors of POPPP (<https://www.poppp.org>).

#### Purpose of HB1566

This bill aims to expand the scope of practice of psychologists to that of psychiatrists based on only 10% of the medical training completed by psychiatrists. This expansion of scope of practice crosses disciplinary boundaries. It is not accurate to compare this expansion of scope of practice to permitting other health professionals, such as dentists and nurses, to prescribe as the training of these other allied health professionals is already premedical and medical in nature. In contrast, the training of psychologists is not related to the practice of medicine. Therefore, **this bill proposes a radical reduction of required medical training in order to practice medicine in Hawaii.** Many psychologists believe this bill is contrary to the profession's ethic of "do no harm".

#### Reasons for Opposition involve Risk to the Consumer

- Since 1996, bills similar to this one have been rejected at least 193 times in 26 states owing to substandard medical training (see 2016 map attached)
- Training for a doctorate in clinical psychology does not include pre-medical or medical training. Therefore, as stated above, comparison to expansion of

scope of practice for dentists and nurses is erroneous because the training of these other professionals is already medical in nature.

- There is virtually no evidence that reducing medical training to about 10% of that required for physicians and about 20% of that required for advanced practice nurses (advanced nurse practitioners) will protect the consumer. This bill suggests there is solid evidence that licensing requirements for physicians and nurses is extremely excessive. Yet no such evidence exists and no bills to reduce the training required for physicians and nurses are being entertained.
- 89.2% of about 1000 members of the psychological Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) argue the medical training for psychologists to prescribe should be equivalent to other non-physician prescribers (*the Behavior Therapist, September 2014*). A survey of Illinois psychologist yielded similar findings (78.6%) (Baird, K. A. (2007). A survey of clinical psychologists in Illinois regarding prescription privileges. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 38*, 196-202. doi:10/1037/0735-7028.38.2.196).
- Only 5.8% endorsed the effectiveness of online medical training, which is permitted in this bill (ABCT survey)
- Only 10.9% would refer a patient to a prescribing psychologist whose medical training is what is required in this bill (ABCT survey).
- 88.7% agreed that there should be a moratorium on bills like this one until there is objective evidence that the training involved protects the consumer (ABCT survey).
- The impact of prescribing privileges in New Mexico and Louisiana should be objectively evaluated for consumer safety before this experiment is repeated in Hawaii. Consumer safety outcome in the military is difficult to evaluate owing to the Feres Doctrine (barring lawsuits involving injuries to members of the armed forces) and the small number of prescribing psychologists (e.g., 2 in the Navy and 4 in the Air Force).
- Proponents claim that the lack of a reported death or serious harm by prescribing psychologists somehow provides evidence of safety. It does not. It only provides evidence that any harm done by these psychologists was not identified and reported by the psychologists themselves or their patients. **A lack of evidence about safety does not constitute evidence for safety.**
- There have been malpractice lawsuits filed against prescribing psychologists in New Mexico and Louisiana, so some problems in their practice have been asserted.

- Given proponents spent over \$500,000 to pass a prescribing bill in Louisiana alone speaks to the availability of funds to conduct such a consumer safety study for the amount of medical training required in this bill.
- The choice by the APA to not conduct a consumer safety outcome study suggests a lack of concern about consumer safety. There has been erosion in the ethics of the APA in the past decades. The ethics of the APA has changed from professional ethics designed to protect the consumer to guild ethics, designed to increase the income of psychologists regardless of the impact upon the consumer  
(<http://kspope.com/PsychologyEthics.php#contentarea>).
- Evidence of this erosion of ethics is apparent in the disregard for consumer safety in prescribing and in other areas, such as the APA's explicit support of doing harm by endorsing psychologists to conduct torture and the APA's admitted deception of the membership by presenting voluntary contributions as mandatory.

The State of Illinois has set the standard for prescription privileges for psychologists

- Illinois Model for psychologists prescribing is not controversial
- In 2014, the State of Illinois enacted a law to permit psychologists to prescribe some psychotropic medications (e.g., excluding narcotics and benzodiazepines) to a limited population (excluding youth, the elderly, pregnant women, the physically ill, and those with developmental disabilities).  
<http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1294&ChapAct=225%26nbsp%3BILCS%26nbsp%3B15%2F&ChapterID=24&ChapterName=PROFESSIONS+AND+OCCUPATIONS&ActName=Clinical+Psychologist+Licensing+Act%2E>
- The training requirement is similar to what is required of Physician Assistants, including undergraduate pre-medical training. This training includes 7 undergraduate and 20 graduate courses along with a 14-month practicum in multiple medical rotations.
- The Illinois Psychological Association and Nursing and Medical associations supported the Illinois law, as it requires the same medical training as other non-physician prescribers. Psychologists Opposed to Prescription Privileges for Psychologists (POPPP) does

not oppose the Illinois Model because of the standard medical training required.

Solutions to access to psychoactive drugs while protecting the consumer

1. Collaboration between psychologists and physicians.
2. Completion of medical or nursing school by psychologists. Encouraging medical and nursing schools to offer executive track programs for psychologists and social workers.
3. Use of Tele-psychiatry, which is promoted by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.
4. Modify this bill to meet the required training and scope of practice limitations in the Illinois law enabling psychologists to prescribe.
5. Encouraging all professionals to serve rural areas and those in poverty. The prescribing laws in New Mexico and Louisiana did not result in psychologists moving their practices to rural areas as they had declared would happen (see attached chart; Source: Prof. T. Tompkins, 2010; used with permission; no prescribing psychologists in Guam identified despite enabling legislation in 1999).

Thank you for your kind consideration of this opinion.

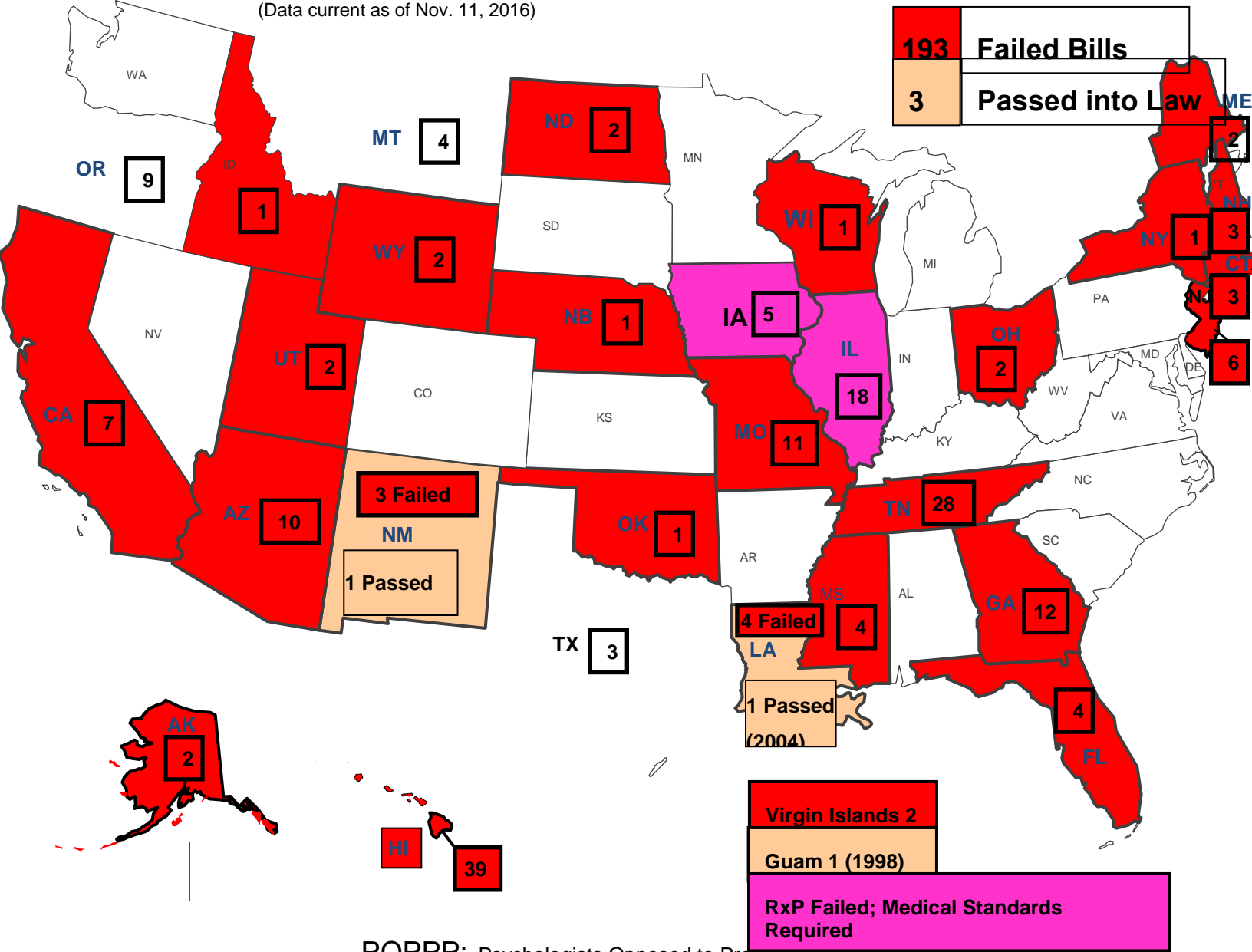
Respectfully,



Elaine M. Heiby, Ph.D.  
Psychologist (HI license 242)  
Professor Emerita of Psychology, UH-Manoa

# Psychologist Prescriptive Authority Legislative Bills 1995-2016

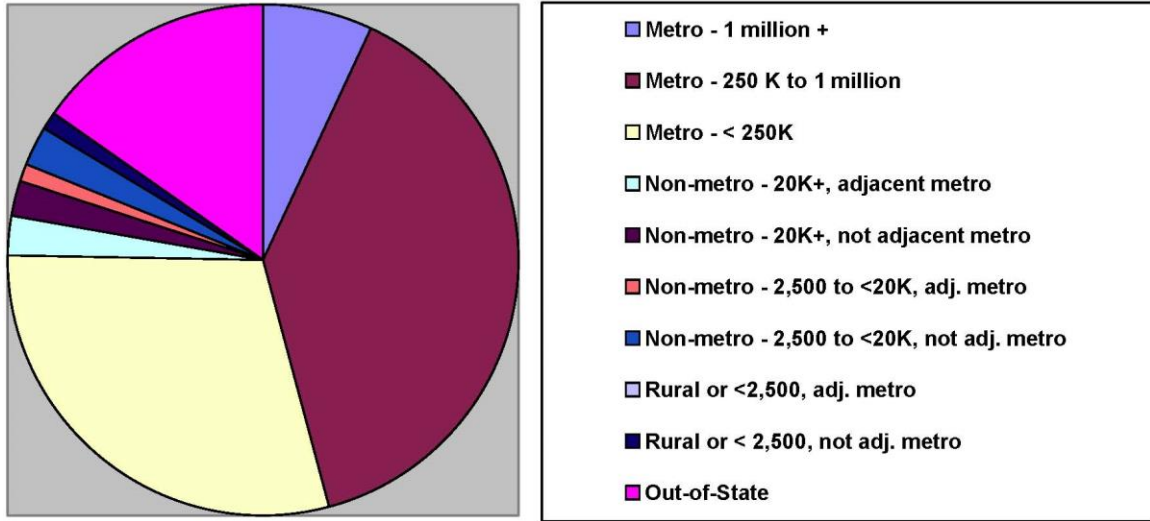
(Data current as of Nov. 11, 2016)



POPPP: Psychologists Opposed to Prescription Privileges for Psychologists



Combined Distribution of Psychologists Authorized to Prescribe Medications in NM, LA, and Guam



**LATE**

**IQBAL "IKE" AHMED, M.D.**

2861 KALAWAO STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96822  
TELEPHONE: (808) 554-4457  
EMAIL: [ahmedi96822@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedi96822@gmail.com)

TO: OR House Health Committee (HLT)

DATE: Feb. 4, 2019

**SB819** RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS PRESCRIBING

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

I am writing to you as not only a practicing psychiatrist of 40 years. I have been a professor of psychiatry in 4 major medical schools. I am also a consultant, teacher and researcher in psychopharmacology.

My testimony is submitted in opposition to **HB1566**, relating to psychologists prescribing. I am opposed to this measure because:

- The proposal does not provide for adequate level of psychopharmacologic education and training to allow safe and effective treatment of mental health disorders. Many of these disorders occur in the context of underlying medical problems and in vulnerable people such as our kupuna and keiki.
- My concern is that in trying to address the access issue, our most vulnerable citizens living in rural areas of Hawaii with mental illness are unnecessarily being exposed to risks from powerful psychiatric medications prescribed by the least trained prescribers of these medications. Every few weeks we learn more about the risks from the use of these psychiatric medications such as heart disease, sudden death, bleeding problems, strokes, falls, and interactions with medications prescribed for medical problems. Even psychiatrists and other physicians have to be cautious in the use of these medications. New warnings, including "black box warnings" (the highest level of warning), and other regulations for medical monitoring of people using these medications are being issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on a regular basis. Does the legislature really want to get in the business of exposing the people to unnecessary harm?
- Another issue that has been raised by the proponents of the bill is that suicides could be prevented if psychologists could prescribe. There is very little data that medications may prevent suicides. If anything, certain psychiatric medications, especially when not properly prescribed, may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior. That is the reason the FDA has issued "black box warnings" for suicide risk for all antidepressants. Crisis intervention and psychotherapy are often more effective than medications in preventing suicide. In addition, many of the more common psychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic disorders, and ADHD respond well to psychotherapies and other behavioral interventions, often better than medications. Psychologists are well qualified to provide these services.
- Psychologists can help with access to safe and effective mental health care by providing valuable nonpharmacological treatments for the severely mentally ill such as crisis

intervention, evidence based and effective psychotherapies such as cognitive behavior therapy (CBT), psychosocial rehabilitation programs, and recovery programs. Therapies such as CBT are just as effective as medications for most anxiety disorders and depression, without the associated side-effects of medications. Ultimately what we need is more access to good mental health care in rural areas, not more prescribers of medications

- Mental health consumers deserve to receive the same quality healthcare as all others.
- The John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association and the Department of Health are all working to reduce system barriers mental health services and helping to improve access to quality health care to all mental health consumers. These approaches have evidence of providing increasing access to both therapy and medication treatments.
- Hawaii is ramping up access improvement in ways proven safe and effective, including telemedicine and Collaborative Care. These proven and already implemented methods need to be expanded and supported.

Thank you for your consideration to HOLD **HB1566** in committee.

Iqbal "Ike" Ahmed, M.D.

**LATE**

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:29:30 AM  
Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thea Moran	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** dr.dlogan@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 5:48 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566

Diane Logan  
PO Box 5488  
Kailua Kona, HI 96745-5488



February 4, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane Logan  
8087855443

**kobayashi1 - Melvia**

---

**From:** drmarieterry@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 4, 2019 9:33 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1566



Marie Terry-Bivens  
2975 Haleko Rd, Suite 307  
Lihue, HI 96766-1366

February 5, 2019

John M. Mizuno  
Chair, House Committee on Health

Dear John Mizuno:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 9:45AM, Room 329

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1566  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Our communities are suffering because of the lack of access to comprehensive mental health care. Some of our most vulnerable citizens are unable to obtain the care needed to live healthy and functional lives. Often times, this leads to serious consequences such as drug overdose, suicide, and homelessness. The homelessness issue is a concern on every island and Psychologists are ready and willing to help. We already provide more access to care to Medicaid and Medicare patients than other prescribing mental health professionals, and are part of the coalition to address homelessness, and provide care along side of our colleagues and community partners.

Prescriptive Authority for specially trained advanced practice Psychologists is a safe and already utilized option in five other states, in Federally Qualified Health Centers, on Indian Reservations and in the military. More and more, prescriptive authority is being authorized by states for specially trained advance practice psychologists to use as a tool in providing comprehensive, and integrative mental health care.

HB1566 will provide the foundation to explore the suitability of Prescriptive Authority for advanced trained Psychologists to be able to support psychotherapy with psychopharmacological support, and I am in full support of this effort.

Prescribing Psychologists have been successfully prescribing since the 1990s in the US military, the Public Health service, the Indian Health Service, Louisiana, New Mexico, Guam, and most recently have the opportunity to do so in Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

Please vote YES on HB1566 to allow greater access to care for those most in need.

Sincerely,

Marie Terry-Bivens, Psy.D.  
8083327190



**LATE**

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:06:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1566**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:19:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/5/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Purvi Parikh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Hon Representative,

I am an internal medicine physician with ties to Honolulu, Hawaii. I am highly concerned about this bill in Hawaii which will allow psychologists, people with no medical training, to prescribe medications. This is deplorable and takes advantage of our very vulnerable mental health population. As someone who consults both psychology and psychiatry, each has their place and plays an important role in patient care. However, when I consult my psychiatry colleagues, I am seeking an expert opinion on medication management. My patients often have complex medical diagnoses and are on multiple medications that may interact with medications that psychiatrists prescribe. Psychologists are simply ill prepared for prescribing and could not possibly be safe prescribers unless they also completed 4 years of medical school, a 1 year general medicine internship and 3 years of psychiatry residency. I hope you'll consider protecting our patients as top priority.

Please vote NO on HB 1566

I have had patients die as a result of drug drug interactions from psych medications prescribed by practitioners without training

Purvi Parikh MD