

Honolulu, Hawaii
February 8, 2019RE: H.B. No. 42
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 42
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to assist persons who have
been diagnosed with autism to participate in their communities by
providing medicaid coverage for home and community-based services.

The Hawaii International Child Placement and Family Services,
Inc., O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the
Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii for Informed Consent, Hawai'i
Psychological Association, Hawaiian Islands Association for
Marriage and Family Therapy, and several individuals testified in
support of this measure. The Department of Health testified in
opposition to this measure. The Department of Human Services,
Hawaii Medical Service Association, and Hawaii Disability Rights
Center provided comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing its substantive language and inserting new
language creating a task force to study issues relating
to access to essential services for the State's
intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals;



- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to promote further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee notes the testimonies from the Department of Health and Department of Human Services indicate that Medicaid approval of home and community-based services are determined based on the level of care assessment, and not medical diagnosis. As such, should this bill be enacted as introduced, there is a concern that ensuring home and community services are provided to all individuals diagnosed with autism, regardless of the level of care needed, would divert resources away from individuals in need of services who have not been diagnosed with autism. Your Committee finds that a broader study of issues relating to accessing existing essential services would better serve the larger intellectually and developmentally disabled communities.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 42, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 42, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,


JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



