

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

162

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2021

RE: S.B. No. 970
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 970
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TELEHEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the
establishment of a physician-patient relationship via a telehealth
interaction if the physician is licensed to practice medicine in
the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health, Hawaii Medical Board, Hawaii Health
Systems Corporation, Hawai'i Pacific Health, The Queen's Health
Systems, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, AARP Hawai'i, Healthcare
Association of Hawaii, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, American
Telemedicine Association, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that currently, the law is ambiguous as
to when a physician-patient relationship is established via
telehealth. As written, the physician-patient relationship with a
telehealth provider can only be established if the patient was
first referred to the telehealth provider by another health care
provider who has conducted an in-person consultation with the
patient. Your Committee further finds that the coronavirus
disease 2019 pandemic has resulted in an increase in the use of
telehealth services and the establishment of telehealth as a



community standard of care is a strategic priority for the Department of Health. This measure will make clear that a physician-patient relationship may be established via telehealth by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 970, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 970, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary.

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



JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



