

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2637

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2073
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2073
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TELEHEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to allow for
standard telephone contacts for telehealth purposes.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the University of Hawai'i System, State Council on
Developmental Disabilities, State Council on Mental Health,
Disability and Communication Access Board, Hawai'i Pacific Health,
Hawai'i Public Health Institute, Hawai'i Primary Care Association,
National Association of Social Workers--Hawai'i, Waianae Coast
Comprehensive Health Center, American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network, Hawaii Medical Association, Hawaii Substance Abuse
Coalition, Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i,
Hawaiian Islands Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, AARP
Hawai'i, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and six individuals.
Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure
from the Hawaii Medical Service Association and Hawaii Association
of Health Plans. Your Committee received comments on this measure
from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Department
of Human Services, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, The Queen's Health
Systems, and Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association.



Your Committee finds that during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the Governor's emergency order allowed the use of standard telephone contacts between health care providers and patients to minimize in-person meetings while ensuring continued access to care. Allowing insurance reimbursement for telehealth through standard telephone contacts greatly increased access to care for vulnerable populations, including the elderly, low-income, medically- and socially-complex patients, and those in rural areas who do not have the broadband capabilities, electronic equipment, financial means, transportation options, or technological proficiency to operate sophisticated digital video conferencing software. This measure aims to make provisions of the emergency order permanent by including standard telephone contacts in the definition of "telehealth".

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of January 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

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. 2073, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2073, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

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



BARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH**

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2013	Committee Referral: HTH, CPN	Date: 2-16-2022
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEOHOKALOPE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (VC)	✓			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	-	-	-

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:
Rosalyn H Baker

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***Only one measure per Record of Votes**