



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
Monday, February 7, 2022  
1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 2467, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Colin M. Hayashida, and I am the Insurance Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require that one annual mental health screening be included in health insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.

This bill would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes § 431M-4(b) to provide that the "coverage for diagnosis" currently required by that subsection include one annual mental health screening.

We appreciate the importance of efforts to improve access to mental health services. Although we are unable to speak definitively as to whether this bill may be construed as "in addition to the essential health benefits" within the meaning of 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 155.170(a) or subject to defrayment provisions under 45 CFR § 155.170(b), the approach to this issue in this bill appears the least likely to pose a defrayment issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**SB-2467**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 1:16:02 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 2467.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH



February 5, 2022

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

Re: SB 2467 – Relating to Mental Health Screenings

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2467, which requires that one annual mental health screening be included in health insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.

HMSA supports the intent of this measure to increase access to mental health services in Hawaii. At HMSA we take mental health very seriously. HMSA provides comprehensive treatment to our members with a serious mental illness which includes outpatient and inpatient hospital visits.

Additionally, HMSA members are also given a mental health and wellbeing questionnaire during their annual physical exams with their primary care provider who can refer interested individuals to a mental health provider for additional care. Mental health care is also readily available 24/7 via telehealth through HMSA Online Care which is available to anyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2467.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew W. Sasaki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Matthew W. Sasaki  
Assistant Vice President  
Government & External Relations



## HIPHI Board

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Dina Shek, JD  
Medical-Legal Partnership  
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai  
MDX Hawai'i

Titimaeva Ta'ase, JD  
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health  
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free  
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: February 6, 2022

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Health

Re: Support for SB 2467, Relating to Mental Health Screenings

Hrg: February 7, 2022 at 1:00 PM via videoconference

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The Hawai'i Public Health Institute<sup>i</sup> (HIPHI) is in **support of SB 2467, which requires annual mental health screenings to be covered by health insurance.**

HIPHI is committed to the prevention of disease and a holistic promotion of health. Mental health care is a critical tool in addressing chronic disease. Though mental health has conventionally been approached as separate and secondary to physical health, studies have shown that mental illness is integral to overall health and has been linked to chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Much of mental illness could be caught early in life, as the majority of lifetime mental health conditions begin before the age of 25.<sup>ii</sup>

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawai'i in its 2021 Hawai'i State Fact Sheet,<sup>iii</sup> 187,000 adults in Hawai'i have a mental health condition, and of the 31,000 adults in Hawai'i who did not receive needed mental health care in the last year, 15.6% did not because of cost.<sup>iv</sup> Among Hawai'i youth experiencing depression, the majority did not receive care in the last year.<sup>v</sup> Covering annual mental health screenings will help to normalize routine mental health "check-ups" and reduce stigma around mental health and mental illness, increase access to care, and would likely lead to earlier detection and treatment of mental illness, which could reduce the prevalence of chronic disease. For these reasons, HIPHI respectfully requests that the Committee **PASS** SB 2467.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amanda Fernandes'.

Amanda Fernandes, JD  
Policy and Advocacy Director

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<sup>i</sup> Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

<sup>ii</sup> Kessler RC, Berglund P, Demler O, Jin R, Merikangas KR, Walters EE. (2005). Lifetime Prevalence and Age-of-Onset Distributions of DSM-IV Disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 62 (6) pp. 593-602. doi:10.1001/archpsyc.62.6.593.

<sup>iii</sup> National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawai'i, Mental Illness in Hawai'i State Fact Sheet (February 2021). <https://www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/StateFactSheets/HawaiiStateFactSheet.pdf>.

<sup>iv</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s restricted online data analysis system (RDAS), National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2017 and 2018, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive. <https://www.kff.org/state-category/mental-health/>.

<sup>v</sup> *Ibid.*

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 07, 2022

**LATE**

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
The Thirty-First Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Keohokalole and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2467 Relating to Mental Health Screenings

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB2467** which requires that one annual mental health screening be included in health insurance coverage for diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.

Many individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) often have dual diagnoses (having both a disability and a mental health disorder). Providing mental health screenings can help better care for individuals who may have a dual diagnosis that has not been discovered yet.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2467**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

**LATE**

**SB-2467**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 8:56:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/7/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jo-Ann M Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is necessary in all times and even more so as the effects of the pandemic continue to grind on us.

Personally, I am taking advantage of telehealth to engage in weekly sessions. It has been tremendously helpful in navigating effects on my wellbeing from the pandemic and the relative isolation it causes.