

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 502

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2023

RE: S.B. No. 1044  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 1044 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to hire school-based youth mental health specialists in Department of Education schools.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education, Hawai'i Youth Services Network, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus, Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i, and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that suicide rates and suicide attempts are disproportionately high among the State's youth. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death for children between the ages of ten and fourteen and the leading cause of death for young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four. Additionally, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other people of color have disproportionately high rates of suicide. Hiring mental health specialists will help provide critical support to Hawaii's youth experiencing mental health issues.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the appropriation is for the hiring of complex-based behavioral health specialists, rather than school-based youth mental health specialists;
- (2) Clarifying that the complex-based behavioral health specialists are for the State's rural public schools;
- (3) Inserting an appropriation amount of \$861,000 to hire complex-based behavioral health specialists for the State's rural public schools; and
- (4) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1044, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1044, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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

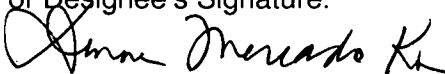


MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Education**  
**EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB1044	EDU:WAM	2/15/23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)	/			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	/			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original             Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes