

Honolulu, Hawaii  
April 4, 2016

RE: S.B. No. 2886  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 2

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2886, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGE OF CONSENT FOR ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to reduce barriers to accessing mental health services for adolescents by lowering the age of consent to twelve years old for mental health treatment or counseling services provided by a licensed mental health professional.

The Judiciary, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services, Imua Alliance, Hawaii Youth Services Network, Hale 'Ōpio Kaua'i, Inc., Mental Health America of Hawaii, LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, and three concerned individuals testified in support of this measure. Several concerned individuals testified in opposition. The Department of Education and Hawaii Disability Rights Center provided comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Raising the age at which the minor may consent to mental health treatment or counseling services from twelve to fourteen years of age;



- (2) Requiring the consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian for prescription medication or placement into an out-of-home or residential treatment program; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purpose of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2886, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2886, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

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



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



