

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2018

RE: S.B. No. 2244
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2018
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor, to which was referred S.B. No. 2244
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require health care providers in the workers' compensation system who are authorized to prescribe opioids to adopt and maintain policies for informed consent to opioid therapy in circumstances that carry elevated risk of dependency; and
- (2) Establish limits for concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions in the workers' compensation system.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Department of Health; City and County of Honolulu, Department of Human Resources; and Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Your Committee finds that a nationwide drug epidemic, associated with prescription pain relieving drugs, is causing



alarming rates of addiction, overdose, and death. This measure attempts to address the issue of misuse and abuse of prescription drugs by requiring health care providers in the workers' compensation system who are authorized to prescribe opioids to adopt and maintain policies for informed consent to opioid therapy in circumstances that carry elevated risk of dependency and limiting concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions.

Your Committee has heard the concerns from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Hawaii Health Systems Corporation concerning implementation of this measure but believes such concerns would be best addressed by your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of January 1, 2045, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2244, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2244, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health.

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




JILL N. TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Labor
LBR

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB2244</i>	Committee Referral: <i>LBR, CPH</i>	Date: <i>2/6/18</i>		
<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
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani (VC)				✓
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				✓
TOTAL	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes