

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3119**

Honolulu, Hawaii

JUN 29 2020

RE: H.B. No. 1661
H.D. 3
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
to which was referred H.B. No. 1661, H.D. 3, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the
criteria for emergency examination, release from emergency
examination, emergency hospitalization, and release from emergency
hospitalization for individuals suffering from a behavioral health
crisis.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition,
Hawaii Psychological Association, Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i, and
The Queen's Health Systems. Your Committee received comments on
this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and
Hawaii Disability Rights Center.

Your Committee finds that a comprehensive mental health
response crisis system is needed to serve the dual purposes of
supporting individuals suffering from a behavioral health crisis
and maintaining public safety. Because the mental health crisis
response system has multiple steps for mental health crisis
intervention, the Department of Health and various stakeholders,
including the Legislature, have been actively evaluating and



restructuring the mental health crisis response system. This measure further defines and guides the process that occurs when an individual has been transported to an emergency room or behavioral health crisis center for evaluation and the disposition of the individual once the evaluation has been completed.

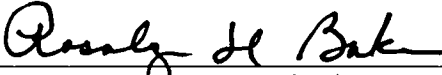
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting proper statutory references in the findings section of the measure as it relates to the process for emergency admissions;
- (2) Inserting a definition for "behavioral health crisis center" under section 334-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (3) Clarifying provisions related to emergency examinations for the purposes of consistency, including removing the authority of a psychologist to conduct further examinations and assessments of a patient;
- (4) Clarifying provisions related to emergency hospitalization, including removing the authority of a psychologist to direct a patient to be hospitalized on an emergency basis;
- (5) Clarifying provisions related to the release of emergency hospitalization, including changing a reference from "licensed psychiatric facility" to "psychiatric facility" for the purposes of consistency; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarify and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1661, H.D. 3, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1661, H.D. 3, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



