

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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**Testimony SUPPORTING SB2007, S.D. 1**  
**Relating to State Council on Mental Health**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 11, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of the measure is to amend the principal state agencies  
3 representatives on the State Council on Mental Health, establish the Council within the  
4 Department of Health (DOH) for administrative purposes, and redefine quorum.

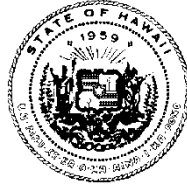
5 As specified in Section 334-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the principal state  
6 agencies representatives on the Council are: mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation,  
7 criminal justice, housing and social services. Since social services is under the Department of  
8 Human Services and represents the Child Welfare Services, which provides the Council with  
9 perspectives on systems change for children with mental illness, it is also important to add the  
10 Medicaid agency which provides services to many of our adult consumers living with mental  
11 illness. The passing of this measure will allow the Council to gain the Medicaid agency's  
12 knowledge and expertise on issues and trends that influence the direction in which the mental  
13 health field is headed in the State of Hawaii.

14 The DOH agrees with the amendment suggested by the Senate Committee on Commerce,  
15 Consumer Protection, and Health to insert a reference to part 1 of Chapter 92, HRS for the  
16 Council to be compliant with Sunshine Law. Since the Council is also under Federal Statutes,

1 Public Law 102-321, Section 1914, this amendment will allow the Council to meet regularly and  
2 conduct business at least on a monthly basis.

3 We thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of this body of  
4 volunteers.

5 **Offered Amendments:** None.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
P. O. Box 339  
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March 9, 2016

To: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health

From: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

Subject: **SB 2007 SD 1 – RELATING TO STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH**

Hearing: Friday, March 11, 2016, 9:00am  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure to amend the membership of the State Council on Mental Health by adding a representative of the medicaid program and defining the quorum.

**PURPOSE:** Amends the membership of the State Council on Mental Health, defines quorum for the Council, and specifies number of votes required to constitute valid acts of the Council. Designates the State Council on Mental Health within the Department of Health for administrative purposes.

The mission of DHS is to empower our most vulnerable people and to expand their capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination and independence. Including a medicaid member will assist in the collaborative effort to integrate and provide life span services, if appropriate, for persons with mental illness in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this committee.