

SB2007

Measure Title: RELATING TO STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH.
Report Title: State Council on Mental Health; Quorum; Membership
Description: Amends the principal state agencies of the State Council on Mental Health and defines quorum for the Council.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: CPH, WAM
Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, Baker, Espero, Riviere



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony SUPPORTING SB2007
Relating to State Council on Mental Health

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 2, 2016, 8:30 a.m. Room Number: 229

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

13 The Council meets monthly, and based on the number of meetings during the fiscal year
14 2015, only four meetings were held where quorum was achieved. The re-definition of quorum
15 will enable the Council to conduct business based on the number of currently appointed members
16 and not based on the number of vacancies.

1 We thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of this body of
2 volunteers, who give their time and effort in supporting consumers living with mental illness in
3 our State.

4 **Offered Amendments:** The Department offers the following amendment to the statute on page
5 1, line 3, "§334-10, State council on mental health. (a) There is
6 established, within the department of health for administrative
7 purposes, a state council on mental health."

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: gregory.keane@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2007 on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM*
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 12:23:26 PM

SB2007

Submitted on: 1/27/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 2, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

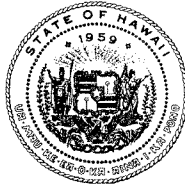
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Keane	Hawaii DOH AMHD	Support	No

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File: DOH/AMHD

MEMORANDUM

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Sandra Simms,
(Ret. Judge)

SECRETARY

Louise Crum

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
State Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Haaheo Mansfield, Chair, State Council on Mental Health

SUBJECT: SB2007, Relating to State Council on Mental Health

HEARING: Tuesday, February 2, 2016
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

MEMBERS:

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Frances (Elaine) Lyons

Theresa Minami

Noelani Wilcox, APRN

POSITION: **Strongly Supports SB2007**

The State Council on Mental Health, also known as the Council, has had a difficult time complying with Chapter 92-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in meeting quorum. In fact, in Fiscal Year 2015, the Council established quorum four (4) out of the twelve monthly meetings.

When the Council does have quorum, members are often rushed to approve business that has been on the agenda for several months and are unable to respond to mental health concerns in our State in a timely manner. It can often take three to four meetings to approve a letter or even action items. With that amount of time passing, the action item is often completed too late or lacking in a substantive stance to assist or amend the presenting situation.

Therefore, the Council recommends and is in support of SB2007, which would establish quorum based on the number of appointed members rather than the number that the Council is entitled to. With these changes, the Council would be in a better position to assure that assigned duties as measured by activities in our Strategic Plan could be completed timely and members could better serve and advocate for the children and adults living with mental illness and support their families. In addition, the Council supports the addition of the Medicaid State agency position into statute, which would require the position to be filled.

On behalf of members of the Council, thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

EX-OFFICIO:

Lynn N. Fallin
Deputy Director for
Behavioral
Health Administration

Haaheo Mansfield