



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

LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB384  
RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL  
PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

SENATOR ROSAYLN BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: February 9, 2017 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for Department of Health.

2 **Department Testimony:** As a population health management strategy, authorizing licensed  
3 clinical psychologists with specialized education and training for limited prescriptive authority  
4 may alleviate patient access barriers caused by the statewide shortage of behavioral health and  
5 other providers.

6 However, the Department of Health, in its capacity as a provider of direct health care and  
7 behavioral health care services, requires the following criteria as part of any enabling legislation:  
8 SB384:

- 9 1. A requirement for collaborative agreements with a patient's primary care provider;
- 10 2. A requirement for concurrence by a Department of Health psychiatrist for patients in the  
11 care of the department, to include those who are forensically encumbered or diagnosed  
12 with a serious and persistent mental illness; and
- 13 3. Restrictions on off-label use of medication for patients under seventeen years old.

14 The department defers to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on matters of  
15 professional licensure.

16

17 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

## CPH Testimony

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**From:** Bracken Gott <brackengott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 6:10 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Subject:** SB384 Testimony

**Categories:** Late

**LATE**

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Bracken Gott Psy.D.

Re: Testimony in support of SB 384, Relating to Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 9:00 am, Conference Room 229

My name is Bracken Gott. I am US Navy Veteran and Clinical Psychologist. I have been practicing in mental health for over 20 years. In that time, I have had the opportunity to work amongst many health professionals, both those who can prescribe and those who cannot. Prescribing is a detrimental part of mental health care and great caution and consideration should be given to those who are privileged to provide prescriptive services. I am currently enrolled at the University of Hawaii at Hilo's Psychopharmacology program. This will be my 3<sup>rd</sup> time enrolling in this very rigorous program. My past 2 attempts were thwarted due to my workload as an Operational Psychologist with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Regiment here at Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Base. My inability to complete the coursework is a testament to the level of depth and clinical training that is expected of a professional who is working toward prescriptive privileges. The program at U of H is extremely thorough and is accepted by the American Psychological Association as a program that is accredited to train Psychologists in order to become a Prescribing Psychologist. Many will argue that "Psychologists cannot prescribe because it is unsafe and they could kill someone". I DO agree with this statement. However, when a Psychologist becomes trained, obtains a Master's Degree from an accredited program, and takes a licensing exam; I do believe a Medically Trained Psychologist, should be privileged to prescribe. Medically Trained Psychologists have had prescriptive authority since 1974 through the Department of Defense, and later in the Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Guam, New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, and Iowa. There have been no reported adverse outcomes or malpractice complaints related to prescriptive authority for Medically Trained Psychologists. Passing SB 384 will give properly trained and approved Psychologists the ability to help consumers access the medication they need and should have a right to access.

I strongly support this measure because it will help to alleviate the difficulty that people suffering from mental health problems have in accessing proper treatment and care. The language in this measure will provide the necessary safeguards to ensure only those Psychologists with appropriate education, clinical training and registration will be authorized to prescribe from a limited formulary of psychiatric medications.

Thank you for hearing SB 384, which authorizes the Board of Psychology to grant prescriptive authority to Psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Very Respectfully,

Bracken Gott Psy.D.

US Navy Reserve

Clinical Psychologist

## CPH Testimony

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**From:** Neal Morris <nmorrisedd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 6:04 AM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 384, support

**LATE**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Health

Dear Senators,

Re: Testimony in support of SB 384

I write in support of SB 384, relating to *Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists* who have completed appropriate training and meet specific registration requirements to prescribe mental health medications. I ask you to vote YES on this legislation in favor of authorizing prescribing privileges for psychologists qualified by rigorous training to improve access to needed healthcare services.

The data is readily available demonstrating that appropriately trained licensed psychologists have comprehensive skills and capability in managing the use of pharmacotherapy agents for mental and emotional health needs of Hawaiian citizens. The post-doctoral training, education and registration requirements for clinical psychologists reveal similar standards compared to the training standards for a physician or nurse practitioner in the use of pharmaceuticals for treating mental and emotional health disorders. Hawaiian licensed psychologists have had four years of graduate education in the assessment and treatment of mental disorders plus they have completed a yearlong internship and often one or two years of post-doctoral training in addition to the specific rigorous training in clinical psychopharmacology.

Those who oppose SB 384 imply that there will be "problems" if appropriately trained clinical psychologists are authorized to prescribe mental health medications yet in the more than twenty years of prescribing by qualified psychologists there have been no reported adverse outcomes or "problems". And, there have been many successes!

The facts are that licensed clinical psychologists who are appropriately trained to prescribe psychotropic medications when treating mental health disorders are safe and efficacious...and needed given the limited manpower availability of other qualified practitioners such as psychiatrists and prescribing psychiatric nurse practitioners to provide for the public's mental healthcare needs.

Please vote YES for SB 384 to improve healthcare services for all Hawaiian citizens needing help in dealing with their mental and emotional problems.

Respectfully,

Neal R. Morris, EdD, MS

Licensed Psychologist (Maryland & West Virginia)

Board-Certified: Clinical Psychology and

Behavioral Sleep Medicine

2017 Past- President of the American Society for the Advancement of Pharmacotherapy,  
American Psychological Association (Division 55)

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Neal R. Morris, EdD, MS, CBSM, ABPP-CL

*Board Certified in Clinical Psychology  
and Behavioral Sleep Medicine*

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[www.mentalhealthmoorefield.com](http://www.mentalhealthmoorefield.com)

**CPH Testimony**

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**From:** Dana Kiesel <dkieselphd@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 7:33 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 384

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Dana Kiesel, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist

Re: Testimony in support of SB 384, Relating to Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 9:00 am, Conference Room 229

Thank you for hearing SB 384, which authorizes the Board of Psychology to grant prescriptive authority to psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements. I strongly support this measure because it will help to alleviate the difficulty that people suffering from mental health problems have in accessing proper treatment and care.

Psychologists have had prescriptive authority since 1974 through the Department of Defense, and later in the Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Guam, New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, and Iowa. There have been no reported adverse outcomes or malpractice complaints related to prescriptive authority for psychologists.

The language in this measure will provide the necessary safeguards to ensure only those psychologists with appropriate education, clinical training and registration will be authorized to prescribe from a limited formulary of psychiatric medications.

Passing SB 384 will give properly trained and approved psychologists the ability to help consumers that otherwise would be unable to access the medication they need and should have a right to access. Please help us improve mental health in Hawaii by passing SB 384.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Dana F. Kiesel, PhD.

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Nicole Aurellano, PsyD., MSCP

**LATF**

Re: Testimony in support of SB 384, Relating to Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 9:00 am, Conference Room 229

Thank you for hearing SB 384, which authorizes the Board of Psychology to grant prescriptive authority to psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements. I strongly support this measure because it will help to alleviate the difficulty that people suffering from mental health problems have in accessing proper treatment and care. □□Psychologists have had prescriptive authority since 1974 through the Department of Defense, and later in the Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Guam, New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, and Iowa. There have been no reported adverse outcomes or malpractice complaints related to prescriptive authority for psychologists.□□The language in this measure will provide the necessary safeguards to ensure only those psychologists with appropriate education, clinical training and registration will be authorized to prescribe from a limited formulary of psychiatric medications. □□Passing SB 384 will give properly trained and approved psychologists the ability to help consumers that otherwise would be unable to access the medication they need and should have a right to access. Please help us improve mental health in Hawaii by passing SB 384.

## CPH Testimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:43 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** drkeith1@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB384 on Feb 9, 2017 09:00AM

**Categories:** Late

**LATE**

### SB384

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 9, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Petrosky PHD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for hearing SB 384, which authorizes the Board of Psychology to grant prescriptive authority to psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements. I strongly support this measure because it will help to alleviate the difficulty that people suffering from mental health problems have in accessing proper treatment and care. Psychologists have had prescriptive authority since 1974 through the Department of Defense, and later in the Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Guam, New Mexico, Louisiana, Illinois, and Iowa. There have been no reported adverse outcomes or malpractice complaints related to prescriptive authority for psychologists. The language in this measure will provide the necessary safeguards to ensure only those psychologists with appropriate education, clinical training and registration will be authorized to prescribe from a limited formulary of psychiatric medications. Passing SB 384 will give properly trained and approved psychologists the ability to help consumers that otherwise would be unable to access the medication they need and should have a right to access. Please help us improve mental health in Hawaii by passing SB 384. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**LATE**

**To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Clarence K. Nishihara, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**  
**From: Pedro Haro**

February 9, 2016

**Testimony in support of SB 384, Relating to Prescriptive Authority for Certain Clinical Psychologists**

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 9:00 am, Conference Room 229

Mahalo for hearing SB 384, which authorizes the Board of Psychology to grant prescriptive authority to psychologists who meet specific education, training, and registration requirements. I strongly support this measure because it will help to alleviate the difficulty that people suffering from mental health problems have in accessing proper treatment and care.

As a public health professional, I am deeply concerned about the shortage of psychiatric physicians, particularly on neighbor islands. I have experienced personally trying to seek psychiatric care for a loved one only to learn that several of psychiatrists I reached out to are not taking new patients because of an already overloaded patient schedule. This is not the fault of our physicians, they are trying the best they can to fulfill their duties. This bill would help lessen their load so that more people can receive access to proper care.

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Passing SB 384 will give properly trained and approved psychologists the ability to help consumers that otherwise would be unable to access the medication they need and should have a right to access. Please help us improve mental health in Hawaii by passing SB 384.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Pedro Haro  
204 Koalele St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

345 Queen Street, Suite 500 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO  
February 13, 2017

## S.B. 385 – RELATING TO INSURANCE

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly opposes S.B. 385 which authorizes insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to offer, sell, or renew, on or after January 1, 2018, a high deductible health plan in conjunction with a health savings account to an employer subject to the Prepaid Health Care Act together with a prepaid health care plan insurance policy.

S.B. 385 establishes high-deductible health insurance plans along with health savings accounts which could negatively impact a number of employees in Hawaii. These plans may discourage workers from seeking medical care and could potentially cost workers more money each year in medical costs. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO respectfully requests the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health to defer this measure indefinitely.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
President

# Fax

**To :** Testimony in support of SB 384

**Date :** 2017-02-08

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**Fax :** +1(808) 586-6071

**Subject :** Testimony in support of SB

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**From :** Bracken Gott Psy.D.

**Email :** brackengott@gmail.com

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**Phone :** 7733010348

**Pages :** 2

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**Comments :**



To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

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US Navy Reserve  
Clinical Psychologist