



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., Room 329

by
Marcia Sakai
Interim Chancellor
and
Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP
Dean
Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 819 SD2 – RELATING TO PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the committee:

My name is Carolyn Ma, I am the Dean for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP). The University of Hawai'i at Hilo respectfully opposes this bill that will give prescriptive authority to certain clinical psychologists.

University of Hawai'i is well aware of the need for need for specialist providers in the area of mental health. With all due respect to the psychology profession and their expertise in diagnostic assessments and psychotherapy interventions, their training in regards to medications and therapeutics is fairly limited as compared to psychiatrists as well as clinical pharmacists who are Board Certified in Psychiatric Pharmacy (BCPP). Both physician (MD) and clinical pharmacist (Doctor of Pharmacy), undergo four years of professional curriculum, and at least 2 years (PharmD) or 3 years (MD) of post-doctoral residency. Expertise is developed in foundation sciences of biochemistry, pathophysiology, pharmacology, medicinal chemistry and therapeutics. Psychotropic medications and other types of medications utilized in the area of psychiatry often have a narrow window of safety for dosing, side effect management, drug-drug and drug-disease interactions of psychotropic medications.

The DKICP suggests that a team approach to patient care in these areas has been effective as demonstrated by our participation in the ECHO program and other multi-disciplinary team approaches in ambulatory care clinics and inpatient hospital facilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.