



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Friday, February 7, 2020 at 8:30 a.m., Rm 229

By

Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor

And

Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP
Dean

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 3075 – RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 3057. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo takes no position on the current version of the bill but offers the following comments.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is well aware of the challenges that patients with medical needs in mental and behavioral health face with the shortage of specialist providers and the access to care, especially in rural areas. The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy suggests that in order to address these extremely complex patient care issues that require medical, emotional/psychological and pharmacological expertise, a best practice approach would be through a team of providers that include psychiatry, psychologists and pharmacist practitioners who specialize in behavioral health and psychiatry. We urge the exploration of various methods, for example telehealth, as a means to utilize each discipline's strength to deliver the best possible patient care and overcome the geographic challenges.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment.