

American Board of MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY  
& Academy Of Medical Psychology

2-23-16

Re: HB 1072

Dear Members of the Senate:

This letter is to communicate the Academy of Medical Psychology's support of HB1072. Prescription privileges for certain specially trained psychologists is already a reality in Louisiana, New Mexico, Illinois, all branches of the military, and Indian Health Services. HB1072 is timely legislation in Hawaii and the rest of the U.S., as there are far too few psychiatrists to meet the demand for the vast numbers of underserved mentally ill. Further, this insufficient supply of psychiatrists is projected to worsen over the next ten years, as psychiatry is the least favored choice of specialty for graduating medical students. In short, there are inadequate numbers of specially-trained behavioral health doctors to meet the needs of the mentally ill.

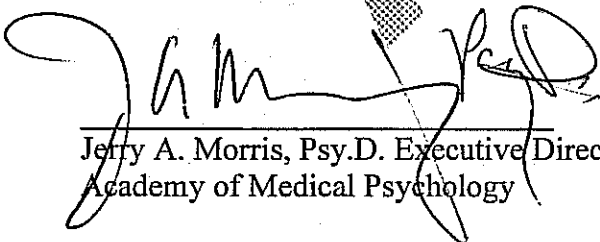
Psychologists who have the extra training to prescribe psychotropic medications are doctorally trained behavioral health experts that can fill the need in Hawaii. HB 1072 can ensure that those in Hawaii that suffer from a mental illness can have access to appropriate medication, increasing quality of life for so many people in your state.

The Academy of Medical Psychology supports HB1072. We ask that you do as well.

Sincerely



Ward Lawson, Ph.D. President of American Board of Medical Psychology & Academy of Medical Psychology



Jerry A. Morris, Psy.D. Executive Director of American Board of Medical Psychology & Academy of Medical Psychology

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