

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2037**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 03 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2481
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 2481 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO YOUTH CRISIS CENTERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish within the Department of Human Services Office of Youth Services, a Youth Crisis Center Branch that will implement and oversee the operation of regional Youth Crisis Centers with the primary objective of addressing the immediate safety and service needs of at-risk youth.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Department of Human Services, Department of Human Services Social Services Division Child Welfare Services Branch, Department of Human Services Office of Youth Services, Office of the Public Defender, Hawaii Youth Services Network, Opportunity Youth Action Hui, and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that instances of crisis occurring among the State's most vulnerable youth are increasing, especially in communities that have a high incidence of poverty, homelessness, crime, school truancy, school suspensions, runaways, physical and mental abuse, illegal drug use, juvenile crime, and crimes against



youth including sex trafficking. These communities lack sufficient resources and services to respond to the immediate needs of these at-risk youth, yet there is no collaboration among various state agencies to provide comprehensive, data-based services to adequately identify the needs and conditions of crises experienced by the State's youth. Your Committee also finds that there are a limited number of emergency shelter beds dedicated for youth who are not actively engaged with child welfare or criminal justice systems. Your Committee believes that this measure is essential in creating a framework of institutionalized Youth Crisis Centers that continue to operate even in the absence of grant funding to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, encourage the continuation of education, provide safer environments, and ensure continued services towards individual achievement of the State's at-risk youth.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2481, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2481, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Human Services,

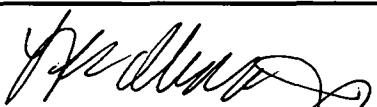


JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:* SD 2481	Committee Referral: HMS, WAM	Date: 1/27/2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
ACASIO, Laura	✓			
MISALUCHA, Bennette E.				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes