

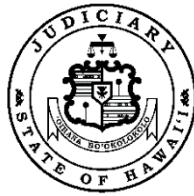
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2698
Relating to Rehabilitation**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Friday, February 2, 2024, Conf. Room 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests funding for this
- 2 measure be considered as a vehicle to expand services, including staff support, provided it does
- 3 not supplant the requests outlined in the Governor's executive budget request.
- 4 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure and offers comments.
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) provides the following
- 6 testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 7 The Department supports this model of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) and this bill
- 8 which requests funding to support BHCCs in Hawai'i. However, we would like to amend the scope
- 9 and number of BHCCs suggested in this bill.
- 10 Given the population and resources on the neighbor islands, our intent has been to incorporate
- 11 a crisis center into the CCBHCs (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic), which are in the
- 12 process of development, or in partnership with a hospital.
- 13 Oahu's population warrants multiple BHCCs as described in this bill. A pilot is slated to open in
- 14 Honolulu shortly. Additional BHCCs in other parts of the island warrant consideration.
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Second State Legislature, 2024 Regular Session

House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Representative Della Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair

Friday, February 2, 2024 at 9:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329 and Via Videoconference

by

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2698, Relating to Rehabilitation.

Purpose: Requires the Department of Health to establish or contract with behavioral health crisis centers in each county to provide care, diagnosis, or treatment for persons experiencing a mental illness or substance use disorder crisis. Appropriates funds.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports the intent of this measure. The establishment and use of behavioral health crises centers will improve the government response to individuals suffering from serious mental illness, particularly for those who may become, or already are, involved in the criminal justice system. Early access to, and the provision of, mental health care and services is integral to diverting those individuals who, but for their mental health crisis, would not be involved with the criminal justice system. As there are several bills presented that authorize and fund the use of behavioral crises centers, the Judiciary defers to the Department of Health as to the measure best suited to effectuate the purpose of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: February 2, 2024

Re: Support for HB2698: Relating to Rehabilitation

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2698, relating to rehabilitation. The bill seeks to require the Department of Health to establish or contract with behavioral health crisis centers in each county to provide intervention and stabilization services. We support the intent of this legislation, which is similar to HB1831, and see it as a step toward addressing a critical part of the mental/behavioral health crisis facing our state. We see this as a critical and important step in helping to alleviate pressure on our emergency departments and, importantly, directing those suffering from acute mental illness to the appropriate venue for future care (whether that be further stabilization, assisted community treatment, or in-patient long-term treatment).

We also support the additional language in Section 2(b)(7) which explicitly includes reference to the care team that will be tasked with crisis intervention care at these centers. Ensuring there are trained and experienced professionals with clinical experience is essential for delivering the quality of care needed for individuals experiencing mental health crises.

(7) Be staffed at all times with a multidisciplinary team capable of meeting the needs of clients experiencing all levels of mental illness or substance use disorder crises, including:

(A) Psychiatrists or advanced practice registered nurses with psychiatric specialization;

(B) Nurses;

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

(C) Licensed or credentialed clinicians capable of completing assessments of the client; and

(D) Peers with lived experience similar to the experience of the client;

We look forward to working with the Department and other stakeholders to support these efforts and urge the Legislature to also invest in the broader continuum of care – including growth in the healthcare workforce, expanded access to assisted community treatment programs and facilities, and refining and improving the coordination of care for patients throughout their stabilization and treatment process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



HB2698 Rehab Behavioral Crisis Center

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Friday, Feb 2, 2024: 9:45 : Room 329 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports HB2698:

ALOHA CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery-oriented services.

HSAC agrees that many people who suffer from drugs, alcohol or mental illness are cited or arrested when it would be **better to provide crisis services for stabilization and then refer or help them to start treatment so they can recover from their illness.**

HSAC agrees that a crisis intervention center could be developed:

1. One established in every county operated by the Department of Health:
2. To redirect persons with mental health issues or substance abuse issues to a healthcare center system.
3. To provide stabilization services
4. To be staffed with psychiatrists or APRN and Peers Specialists to include assessing for suicide.
5. To screen, assess, admit for stabilization and redirect a person to the most appropriate and least restrictive setting available regardless of the person's ability to pay.
6. Meet all the criteria for a crisis drop off center.

This idea has strong evidential support across the nation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-2698

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:07:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/2/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As with HB 1831 this is an excellent idea.