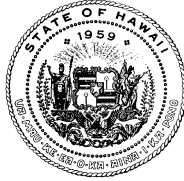


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A, M.P.H
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1594, S.D. 2
RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION**

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

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 9 a.m. in Rm. 329/VIDEO

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) supports this measure,
3 offering comments and amendments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) provides the following
5 testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a crisis
7 intervention and diversion program within the Department with the goal of diverting
8 individuals in need from the criminal justice system to the health care system.

9 The Department appreciates the intent of this measure which addresses a critical
10 component of our “safety net” system where individuals receive care when and where they
11 need it, and through the most appropriate level of service. In cases where an individual is being
12 diverted from the criminal justice system to the health care system, such as when behavioral
13 health crisis care is needed, the Department has an existing crisis care continuum available to
14 meet this need.

15

1 Expanding our crisis intervention and diversion programs will require the Department to
2 establish positions to oversee the implementation and administration of the expanded
3 activities. We estimate that we would need two FTE positions for a crisis services coordinator
4 and a jail diversion program manager. We estimate that the cost for the crisis intervention
5 team program could be approximately \$150,000.00 annually.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

7 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully requests the following amendments.

8 SECTION 2, page 2, lines 7-13

9 5334- Crisis intervention and diversion program. (a) There is established within the department
10 of health ~~a~~ an expansion of crisis intervention and diversion program activities to redirect
11 persons experiencing mental illness who are at risk for involvement with the criminal justice
12 system, or in the criminal justice system, to the appropriate health care system and services
13 ~~having mental illness to the appropriate health care system and services.~~ These activities
14 ~~program~~ shall collaborate with law enforcement, courts, mental health providers, and the
15 community.

16 SECTION 5, page 6, lines 17-21 and page 7, lines 1-2

17 There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of
18 \$11,407,200.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same
19 sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the crisis
20 intervention and diversion program activities; ~~provided that no funds shall be released unless~~
21 ~~matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from a private source.~~

22 SECTION 6, page 7, lines 5-16

23 There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of
24 \$150,000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same

- 1 sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to certify law
- 2 enforcement officers in... expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



RICHARD RIES, Psy.D., M.Ed.
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
LUNA HO'OMALU O KA PAPA

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
in SUPPORT of S.B. 1594 S.D. 2
RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON

Richard I. Ries PsyD, MEd

1st VICE CHAIRPERSON

Katherine Aumer, PhD

2nd VICE CHAIRPERSON

Kathleen Merriam, LCSW CSAC

SECRETARY

Eileen Lau-James, DVM

MEMBERS:

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Chris Knightsbridge, MAIR, MACL

Kau'i Seguancia

Lea Dias, MEd

Jean Okudara, CSAC

Ray Rice, MEd

Mary Pat Waterhouse

Kristin Will, MACL, CSAC

EX-OFFICIO:

Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director
Behavioral Health Administration

WEBSITE:

scmh.hawaii.gov

EMAIL ADDRESS:

doh.scmhchairperson@
doh.hawaii.gov

Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, establishes the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with mental illness or emotional problems, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Members are residents from diverse backgrounds representing mental health service providers and recipients, students and youth, parents, and family members. Members include representatives of state agencies on mental health, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and education. Members include representatives from the Hawaii advisory commission on drug abuse and controlled substances and county service area boards on mental health and substance abuse.

The SCMH supports this measure to address a clear gap in the continuum of care of persons who are mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse, are imminently dangerous to self or others, and in need of care or treatment. It encourages the allocation of adequate resources for cost-effective and appropriate crisis intervention efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact us at DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov.

VISION : A Hawaii where people of all ages with mental health challenges can enjoy recovery in the community of their choice.

MISSION: To advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access necessary treatment and support to live full lives in the community of their choice.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 22, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Senate Bill 1594 SD2 – Relating to Crisis Intervention

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 1594 SD2 – Relating to Crisis Intervention. This bill would establish a Crisis Intervention and Diversion Program within the Department of Health to divert those with mental health issues to appropriate health care services, define "crisis center" and "crisis intervention officer," authorize a person believed to be imminently dangerous to self or others by a law enforcement officer to be assisted by a crisis intervention officer and transported to a designated crisis center, appropriate funds for the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Program and for the Department of Health certify law enforcement officers in mental health first aid, as disseminated by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, and the crisis intervention team model, as developed by Crisis Intervention Team International.

Establishing a Crisis Intervention and Diversion Program would help ensure that individuals having mental illnesses or co-occurring mental illnesses and substance use disorders receive treatment for their conditions. This treatment could reduce or eliminate the individual's reoccurring involvement with the criminal justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **ML-HR**

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health and
Homelessness
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Au Belatti and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 1594, S.D. 2, Relating to Crisis Intervention

I am Mike Lambert, Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 1594, S.D. 2, Relating to Crisis Intervention.

Police officers respond to thousands of crisis calls annually. In 2022, there were over 2,400 documented "Applications by a Law Enforcement Officer for Emergency Evaluation (MH-1)." This figure does not include the numerous individuals who voluntarily went to a licensed psychiatric facility for examination or utilized crisis mobile outreach services.

Currently, Section 334-59 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes only allows officers to initiate an emergency admission without calling a mental health emergency worker (MHEW) for instances when an individual is threatening or attempting suicide. There are occasions when an individual is not threatening or attempting suicide but is clearly a danger to self or others. It is impractical for an officer to simultaneously de-escalate or detain this individual and call for an MHEW for transport approval. There are also situations in which having to call for an MHEW delays medical care for an individual whose behavior is due to the consumption of illicit drugs.

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members
Page 2
March 22, 2023

To ensure that the Department of Health (DOH) is comfortable with crisis intervention team officers being able to initiate an emergency admission, the HPD would like to request that the DOH provide training and a certification course for our officers.

Officers have an extremely dangerous job; not having control over real-time decisions at the scene increases the risk to officers, the person in crisis, and the observing community. By certifying officers to initiate an emergency admission, it allows officers to concentrate on the de-escalation and care of the individual in crisis thus reducing future trauma.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 1594, S.D. 2, Relating to Crisis Intervention, with the proposed amendment to include training by the DOH. We appreciate the committee's consideration of these concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Sincerely,



Mike Lambert, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division

APPROVED:



 Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police



SB1594 SD2 Mental Health Diversion to Crisis Beds

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday: Mar 22, 2023: 9:00 Room 329

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB1594 SD2

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR 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 services.

HSAC strongly supports a Crisis Intervention and Diversion Program within the Department of Health to divert those with mental health issues to appropriate health care services utilizing a "crisis intervention officer". Authorizes a person believed to be imminently dangerous to self or others by a law enforcement officer to be assisted by a crisis intervention officer and transported to a designated crisis center.

Recommend that police continue their training to help them be more effective in working with the crisis intervention officer.

We support **diversion alternatives** for people subject to their **mental health disease**. It's time for Hawaii to expand our criminal justice diversion programs. The diversions include screening and evaluations for involuntary hospitalization or assisted community treatment. It's important that this bill the **need for more behavioral health crisis centers so that more diversions can happen** in our justice systems.

- Often people who have severe substance use disorders that may include drug induced psychosis, or for those who are severely mentally impaired that are frequently arrested are unsheltered homeless and in dire need of intervention and crisis care.
- It requires a lot of time of police officers who have to arrest them even if the crimes are misdemeanors. This is how jails become overcrowded because of this population.
- The alternative is a danger to public safety when criminal defendants, who could qualify for commitment due to severe mental health issues, are released back into the community without appropriate care.

Diverting more people with mental health issues or co-occurring (substance use and mental health) disorders to treatment with enable a sooner realized benefit from treatment and more support for their conditions. Such treatment can reduce or eliminate their reoccurring involvement with the criminal justice system.

By focusing on people who are reoccurring in the justice system, HSAC strongly supports diversion strategies to help people receive effective mental health treatment and/or substance abuse treatment. Providing treatment and supports will help people with mental health issues to better access housing, employment and possibly get off the street entirely. This is a clear path to help end homelessness.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

SB-1594-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 6:42:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/22/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This seems like an excellent idea. To begin with, diverting people suffering a mental health crisis away from the criminal justice system is clearly a better way to address the situation for lots of reasons that many of us have discussed for a long time. A crisis intervention officer would also presumably be better trained than a police officer to deal with the specific situation at hand.

Further, transporting an individual who is "picked up" on an MH1 to a crisis center seems to be a more comprehensive way to asses and potentially treat that individual than the current practice of taking them to an emergency room.



The Institute for Human Services, Inc.
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

TO: Honorable Rep. Della Au Belatti,
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services

Honorable Rep. Jenna Takenouchi,
Vice Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Connie Mitchell, Executive Director
IHS, Institute for Human Services, Inc.

RE: SB1594 – RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION.

HEARING: March 22, 2023 at 9:00 am.

POSITION: IHS strongly supports the passing of SB1594.

IHS, the Institute for Human Services strongly supports the passing of SB1594 and the establishment of a Crisis Intervention and Diversion Program that includes giving police trained in Crisis intervention authorization to determine when some individuals may require emergency mental health evaluation and transport for such in accordance with established protocol. We see daily the impact that mental health treatment and intervention has on individuals who were imminently dangerous to themselves and others. A quick response is critical.

Currently, officers must call mental health emergency workers and request approval to escort those they assess as needing mental health assessment to emergency departments. This delay in the ability to initiate the transport puts not only the community in danger but the officers themselves, as they only have authority to either arrest, detain, or to observe the individual until a decision is made for emergency mental health evaluation. If approval is not granted, these individuals are released, only to be picked up by officers again and again.

We have seen an increase in need for specialized care for individuals struggling with mental illness, which often results in, often repeat, engagement with law enforcement. As such, IHS has conducted crisis training for Honolulu Police Department and is beginning to expand training to Hawaii County, so far over 180 officers have received such training to equip them with de-escalation skills, trauma-response, and how to assist while protecting themselves. SB1594 as proposed would empower law enforcement officers to utilize training they have immediately to those in need, and create opportunity for de-escalation and referrals through the establishment of a behavioral crisis center.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SB-1594-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 6:31:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/22/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every year, thousands of people in Hawai‘i are cited or arrested for offenses such as drinking liquor in public, loitering in public parks after hours, and camping on sidewalks, beaches, and other restricted public places each year. Many of these people suffer from issues relating to drugs, alcohol, or mental illness. Many of those cited do not appear in court, leading to bench warrants being issued for their arrests.

Time and resources are expended bringing people to court, and the court system, prosecutors, and police are caught in a never-ending revolving door situation. In response to this situation, mental health service providers have been working with appropriate law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system to implement a crisis intervention program on O‘ahu.

This system would provide individuals in need with appropriate care by establishing a crisis intervention and diversion program within the Department of Health, to divert people in crisis from the criminal justice system to the healthcare system, and appropriate funds to support crisis intervention efforts. Please support this bill.

SB-1594-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:18:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/22/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-1594-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:58:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/22/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of the intent of SB1594 SD2. We must support the diversion of those needing crisis care to the mental health and rehabilitative services that they need instead of into the revolving doors of our overwhelmed criminal justice system. But the reality is that these diversions require short term crisis stabilization beds, longer term behavioral health care beds, and assisted community beds. We should divert individuals to healthcare crisis centers while doing everything possible to increase the number of beds at all levels of care for continued, long term care. Thank you.

Melissa Rivas
94-294 Makapipipi St
Mililani, HI 96789
United States

SB1594-
Relating to Crisis Intervention

Wednesday, March 22th 2023.
9:00 AM, CR 329 & Videoconference.

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Health and Homelessness committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB1594. My name is Melissa Rivas and I am currently an **MSW graduate student** at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and am speaking to you on behalf of myself as a promising licensed Social Worker in the state of Hawai'i.

I am testifying in **favor** of the “Relating to Crisis Intervention” SB1594. When I worked as a Victim Advocate at the Thurston County’s Prosecuting office of Olympia, Washington, I was given the opportunity to see the benefits to our community from a Crisis Intervention and Diversion program in the criminal court systems. These programs were rehabilitative and restorative. According to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), **over 1,200 individuals have received behavioral health services instead of jail time**, thus minimizing the criminal revolving door in our courts.

Law enforcement are forced to endlessly cite and arrest individuals who suffer from substance abuse and/or mental illness on the Island of O’ahu. It is reported that most of these individuals due to obvious reasons **fail to appear in court**, thus judges have no other choice than to issue bench warrants for their arrest, feeding the **never-ending cycle**. A Diversion Program will provide individuals committing crimes influenced by their mental health issues the opportunity to access services that will benefit their succeeding behaviors.

I **favor** the intent of this measure because a **crisis intervention** officer for the public means the community gains a sense of safety again. Referring an individual suffering from a mental illness or substance use disorder crisis to the appropriate and necessary health care systems and services is **important and ethical**.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I encourage you to favor SB500 as well.

SB-1594-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:06:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/22/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. We have a lack of appropriate crisis intervention services to assist our residents who are experiencing severe mental illness. These persons often end up living - and dying - in dangerous circumstances on our streets. The Crisis Intervention and Diversion Program that this bill creates within the Department of Health can help divert those with mental health issues to appropriate health care services, rather than leaving them in the costly and useless revolving door of police, emergency departments, courts, and the street. The bill will facilitate early intervention and access to more effective treatments for those persons believed to be imminently dangerous to self or others.

We very much need services and funds authorized by this bill. In the long run, this program should create a much more humane, effective, and cost-efficient means of addressing mental illness.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Ellen Godbey Carson

SB-1594-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 9:15:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/22/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this very important bill.... Mahalo, JW