

The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

**Testimony to the Thirty-First State Legislature
2022 Regular Session**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 10:15 a.m.
Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by

Shirley M. Kawamura
Deputy Chief Judge, Criminal Administrative Judge,
Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Melanie M. May
Deputy Chief Judge
District Court of the First Circuit

Trish K. Morikawa
Circuit Judge, Mental Health, Drug, and Veterans Treatment Courts
Circuit Court of the First Circuit

Kenneth J. Shimosono
District Judge, Mental Health Calendar
District Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2132, SD1, Relating to Adult Mental Health.

Purpose: Restores Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division funding and permanent positions cut during 2019. Appropriates moneys. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD1)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary provides the following testimony supporting the restoration of the positions lost to the Adult Mental Health Division of the Department of Health. The restoration of the positions within the Adult Mental Health Division will significantly aid in fulfilling the requirements of Act 26 (2020) and other requirements of Chapter 704 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and further has the potential to divert those suffering mental health crises from the criminal justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2132, S.D. 1

March 2, 2022
10:15 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2132, S.D. 1, amends Section 3, Items E-13 and E-14, of Act 88, SLH 2021, to add: 32.50 permanent full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and \$5,537,441 in general funds in FY 23 to HTH 420, Adult Mental Health – Outpatient; and 66.50 permanent FTE and \$4,426,896 in general funds in FY 23 to HTH 430, Adult Mental Health – Inpatient.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

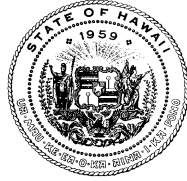
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2132 S.D. 1
RELATING TO ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 3/2/2022

Hearing Time: 10:15 a.m.

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) STRONGLY SUPPORTS this
2 measure and offers comments.

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

5 The Department is committed to protecting and improving the health and environment
6 for all people in Hawaii including assuring that basic mental health care is available,
7 appropriate, assured quality, and accessible. The AMHD is responsible for leading, fostering
8 and coordinating a comprehensive mental health system that promotes mental wellbeing
9 through the delivery of dignified, holistic, and culturally relevant mental health care and
10 services. The Department’s statutory mandate includes utilizing public and private resources to
11 reduce the incidence of mental and substance use disorders, including care and treatment for
12 homeless individuals with serious mental health challenges.

13 The COVID-19 pandemic has affected Hawaii’s communities by adversely impacting
14 individual mental, emotional, and psychological wellbeing. This has resulted in a significant
15 increase in the need for mental health services across all age groups. Successive waves of
16 COVID-19, with their mental health toll, continue to overwhelm an already stressed system of
17 care. Many who need mental health services may find it difficult to obtain them. A reduction

1 in qualified AMHD staff positions is a contributing factor to this critical and ongoing access to
2 care issue, including the loss of psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, nurses, and human services-
3 related positions.

4 Budget cuts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and enacted through Act 9, SLH 2020
5 resulted in an 11% reduction in the AMHD's workforce. The AMHD acknowledges that the loss
6 of these permanent and temporary positions has limited the Division's ability to meet its
7 mission during this time of duress. Restoring abolished positions will significantly improve our
8 ability to provide essential services, including to admit civil, non-forensic patients; reduce staff
9 burnout and expenditures related to overtime; and improve multidisciplinary care and
10 programming that can lead to more effective outcomes.

11 The Department respectfully requests that the Legislature pass this measure and restore
12 all AMHD permanent and temporary positions abolished due to COVID-19 budget concerns.
13 We note that budget cuts affect three of our program staffing categories (HTH 420, HTH 430
14 and HTH 495) which have permanent and temporary positions included within them.
15 We would be happy to work with your staff on specific details.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

18 **Fiscal Implications:** Restoration of these positions will increase the AMHD's operating budget
19 beginning in Fiscal Year 2023.



SB2132 Sd1 Restore AMHD Positions

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 2 2022: 10:15 : Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB2132 SD1:

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.

During these are challenging times exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health services have become even more essential to our recovery:

1. AMHD is crucial to maintaining mental health, and they are also key to prevent the ongoing development of psychosis, neurosis, and many other mental health disorders.
2. AMHD needs staffing and services to address the emotional, psychological, and physical well-being of individuals that substantially impacts our entire community.
3. We need services for the mentally ill to keep them out of jail where their untreated presence there is often problematic to the offender population.
4. Moreover, mental health services also **reduces the risk of chronic diseases related to stress, anxiety and substance abuse.**
5. Especially, **we need to better understand the role addiction** plays in mental health.
6. Most importantly, mental health services save lives, while improving the outlook for people who may feel hopeless and lost. Mental health services can and do help many people to enjoy an improved quality of life.

For the sake of our entire community following a major pandemic, we need more funding for AMHD's mental health services.

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2132 SD1

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, & Members – Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Trisha Kajimura
Deputy Director - Community
DATE: March 2, 2022 at 10:15 AM

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2132 SD1 which restores Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division funding and permanent positions cut during 2019.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many of our program participants live with mental health issues and co-occurring disorders such as substance use. In addition to specialized healthcare services, we provide homeless outreach and housing support services to individuals who suffer from inadequate mental health care. Every day we see the health and social consequences of inadequate mental health care up close.

Mental health is about much more than homelessness but Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division programs are critical to helping the state dig itself out of the homelessness crisis we are in. From the CARES line to specialized housing, stabilization beds and case management – all of these services are critical to supporting the mental health of our community. With the added strain of COVID-19 adding to poor mental health outcomes, we must ensure that our adult mental health programs are sufficiently funded. People cannot get better without access to quality care.

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

TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF HAWAI'I PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

To: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gil Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Dr. Denis Mee-Lee, Legislative Committee Co-Chair
Hawai'i Psychiatric Medical Association

Time: 10:15 a.m., March 2, 2022

Re: SB 2132, SD1 Relating to Adult Mental Health

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Psychiatric Medical Association (HPMA) appreciates this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2132 SD1, relating to adult mental health, which restores Department of Health AMHD funding and permanent positions cut during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, and appropriates money.

HPMA represents between 100 and 200 physicians, who after 4 years of medical school, receive a minimum of 4 additional years of specialty training in psychiatric and general hospitals, emergency rooms, clinics, and the community.

We support the legislature's efforts to address a significant shortage of behavioral health care in the State – a shortage affecting our patients, their families and, by extension, health care for all in Hawai'i.

The ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency has highlighted the imperative for robust investments to address our state's critical behavioral health workforce shortage.

The urgent need in Hawai'i for quality behavioral health care is significant; SB 2132, SD1 is an important step toward addressing that demand.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SD 2132, SD1.



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Date: March 2, 2022

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, Chair, HMA Legislative Committee

Re: SB 2132 SD1 DOH; Adult Mental Health; Positions; Restore; Appropriation Position: Support

The risk factors that are generally associated with poor mental health – fear, financial insecurity, unemployment – have increased through the pandemic. In direct contrast, the protective factors that may improve one's mental health – access to physical exercise, daily routine, access to health services, social connection, employment and educational engagement – have been diminished. It is clear that the effects of the COVID 19 crisis have led to a significant and unprecedented worsening of population mental health in Hawaii.

Looking ahead, poor mental health outcomes and access to care issues are likely to persist beyond the pandemic. Restoration of staff in the Hawaii Department of Health's Adult Mental Health division will be important in the management of mental health programs for the treatment, recovery and wellness of our Hawaii communities.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

REFERENCES

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/tackling-the-mental-health-impact-of-the-covid-19-crisis-an-integrated-whole-of-society-response-0cfa0b/>

<https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Health-Insurance-Marketplaces/Downloads/Mental-Health-Substance-Use-Disorder-Resources-COVID-19.pdf>

HMA OFFICERS

President – Angela Pratt, MD President-Elect – Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD
Immediate Past President – Michael Champion, MD Treasurer – Nadine Tenn Salle, MD
Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD Executive Director – Marc Alexander



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 3, 2022

S.B. 2132, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2132, S.D. 1 which restores funding and permanent positions to the Department of Health, Adult Mental Health Division that were cut during the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic.

Due to economic uncertainty from the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, the Legislature was forced to make significant budget cuts across state government. The severity of the budget shortfall did not allow the Legislature to make precise cuts based on community need or programmatic assessments, rather departments faced blunt cuts based solely on position vacancy. Now that our economy is rebounding, it is appropriate and necessary for the Legislature to restore funding and permanent positions to the Adult Mental Health Division which saw a loss of ninety-nine permanent positions and sixty-three temporary positions. In order to fulfill its mission and statutory mandates, we must provide the Adult Mental Health Division with adequate staffing support by funding much needed social workers, mental health specialists, nursing staff, psychiatrists, psychologists, and in-patient mental health staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2132, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SB-2132-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 9:36:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2022 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:

Support,