



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2132
RELATING TO ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 1/31/2022

Hearing Time: 1:00 p.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.

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
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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 HEALTH
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2132

January 31, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

RELATING TO ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2132.

S.B. No. 2132 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 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.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

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

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair

Monday, January 31, 2022 at 1:00 p.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, Relating to Adult Mental Health.

Purpose: Restores Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division funding and permanent positions cut during 2019. Appropriates moneys.

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.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2132

TO: Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Baker, & Members – Senate Committee on Health
FROM: Trisha Kajimura
Deputy Director - Community
DATE: January 31, 2022 at 1:00 PM

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2132 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.



Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521 -8995

LATE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, January 31, 2022
TIME: 1:00PM
PLACE: Via Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB2132 RELATING TO ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports SB2132 which would restore funding to the Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division lost during the pandemic.

The pandemic has had devastating effects not only to our public health system and economies, but to our collective mental health. The disruptions COVID created in our personal lives have brought many in our community to the brink of emotional collapse. The need for mental health services could not be more apparent or pressing, particularly in the rural and underserved areas of the State.

Moreover, the state Council on Revenues recently forecast a 15% increase in the state's general fund for the fiscal year. HPA thus greatly appreciates this measure to improve access to quality mental health care that everyone in Hawaii deserves.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Raymond A Folen, Ph.D., ABPP.
Executive Director