

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that thousands of people  
2 in Hawaii are cited or arrested for offenses such as drinking  
3 liquor in public, loitering in public parks after hours, and  
4 camping on sidewalks, beaches, and other restricted public  
5 places each year. Most of these people suffer from issues  
6 relating to drugs, alcohol, or mental illness. Many of those  
7 cited do not appear in court, leading to bench warrants being  
8 issued for their arrests. Time and resources are expended  
9 bringing people to court, and the court system, prosecutors, and  
10 police are caught in a never-ending revolving door situation.  
11 In response to this situation, mental health service providers  
12 have been working with appropriate law enforcement agencies and  
13 the criminal justice system to implement a crisis intervention  
14 program on Oahu.

15           The purpose of this Act is to provide individuals in need  
16 with appropriate care by establishing a crisis intervention and  
17 diversion program within the department of health to divert



1 people in crisis from the criminal justice system to the health  
2 care system and appropriate funds to support crisis intervention  
3 efforts.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
6 and to read as follows:

7 "§334- Crisis intervention and diversion program. (a)

8 There is established within the department of health a crisis  
9 intervention and diversion program that redirects individuals  
10 with mental health issues to the appropriate health care system  
11 and services and away from the criminal justice system. The  
12 program shall collaborate with law enforcement, courts, mental  
13 health providers, and the community.

14 (b) The department may lease or acquire a crisis center to  
15 treat and refer patients to appropriate services and providers  
16 rather than the criminal justice system."

17 SECTION 3. Section 334-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately  
19 inserted and to read as follows:

20 "Crisis center" means a clinic or psychiatric urgent care  
21 center that offers immediate attention to people who are



1 suffering from mental health crises and evaluates patients for  
2 placement in a mental health program within the department.

3 "Crisis intervention officer" means an officer who has been  
4 trained to recognize and communicate with a person suffering  
5 from a mental health crisis. Officers shall be certified by the  
6 department of health as specialized first responders for calls  
7 involving people in crisis."

8 SECTION 4. Section 334-59, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by amending its title and subsection (a) to read as  
10 follows:

11 "§334-59 Emergency examination and hospitalization[-] or  
12 placement in a designated mental health program. (a)

13 Initiation of proceedings. An emergency admission may be  
14 initiated as follows:

- 15 (1) If a law enforcement officer has reason to believe  
16 that a person is imminently dangerous to self or  
17 others, the officer shall call for assistance from the  
18 mental health emergency workers designated by the  
19 director[-] or a crisis intervention officer. Upon  
20 determination by the mental health emergency workers  
21 or crisis intervention officer that the person is



1           imminently dangerous to self or others, the person  
2           shall be transported by ambulance or other suitable  
3           means[7] to a licensed psychiatric facility or a  
4           designated crisis center for further evaluation and  
5           possible emergency hospitalization. A law enforcement  
6           officer may also take into custody and transport to  
7           any facility designated by the director any person  
8           threatening or attempting suicide. The officer shall  
9           make application for the examination, observation, and  
10          diagnosis of the person in custody. The application  
11          shall state or shall be accompanied by a statement of  
12          the circumstances under which the person was taken  
13          into custody and the reasons therefor, which shall be  
14          transmitted with the person to a physician, advanced  
15          practice registered nurse, or psychologist at the  
16          facility.

17          (2) Upon written or oral application of any licensed  
18          physician, advanced practice registered nurse,  
19          psychologist, attorney, member of the clergy, health  
20          or social service professional, or any state or county  
21          employee in the course of employment, a judge may



1 issue an ex parte order orally, but shall reduce the  
2 order to writing by the close of the next court day  
3 following the application, stating that there is  
4 probable cause to believe the person is mentally ill  
5 or suffering from substance abuse, is imminently  
6 dangerous to self or others and in need of care or  
7 treatment, or both, giving the findings upon which the  
8 conclusion is based. The order shall direct that a  
9 law enforcement officer or other suitable individual  
10 take the person into custody and deliver the person to  
11 a designated mental health program, if subject to an  
12 assisted community treatment order issued pursuant to  
13 part VIII of this chapter, or to the nearest facility  
14 designated by the director for emergency examination  
15 and treatment, or both. The ex parte order shall be  
16 made a part of the patient's clinical record. If the  
17 application is oral, the person making the application  
18 shall reduce the application to writing and shall  
19 submit the same by noon of the next court day to the  
20 judge who issued the oral ex parte order. The written  
21 application shall be executed subject to the penalties



1 of perjury but need not be sworn to before a notary  
2 public.

3 (3) Any licensed physician, advanced practice registered  
4 nurse, physician assistant, or psychologist who has  
5 examined a person and has reason to believe the person  
6 is:

7 (A) Mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse;

8 (B) Imminently dangerous to self or others; and

9 (C) In need of care or treatment;

10 may direct transportation, by ambulance or other  
11 suitable means, to a licensed psychiatric facility for  
12 further evaluation and possible emergency  
13 hospitalization. A licensed physician, an advanced  
14 practice registered nurse, or physician assistant may  
15 administer treatment as is medically necessary, for  
16 the person's safe transportation. A licensed  
17 psychologist may administer treatment as is  
18 psychologically necessary."

19 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2024-2025 for the crisis intervention team program;  
3 provided that no funds shall be released unless matched on a  
4 dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from a private source.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
6 of health for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
11 year 2024-2025 to certify law enforcement officers in:

12 (1) Mental health first aid, as managed, operated, and  
13 disseminated by the National Council for Mental  
14 Wellbeing; and

15 (2) The crisis intervention team model, as developed by  
16 Crisis Intervention Team International.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of health for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Crisis Intervention; Diversion; Crisis Centers; Crisis Intervention Officers; Crisis Intervention Team; Mental Health First Aid; Certifications; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a Crisis Intervention and Diversion Program within the Department of Health to divert those with mental health issues to appropriate health care services. Defines "crisis center" and "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. Appropriates funds for the Crisis Intervention Team 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. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

