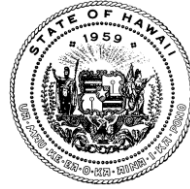


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



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 Finance
in SUPPORT of S.B. 1594 S.D. 2 H.D. 1
RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION

Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

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Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director
Behavioral Health Administration

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Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

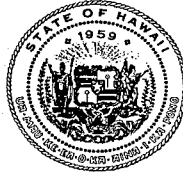
Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, establishes the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, 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. SCMH members recommend 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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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REVISED
TESTIMONY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1594, S.D. 2, H.D. 1
RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: Thursday, March 30, 2023, 3 p.m. in Rm. 308/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.

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 Our estimate for expanding crisis intervention and diversion program activities is
7 \$21,407,200.00 which includes \$3,202,000.00 for Hawaii CARES increased staffing and
8 expanding crisis services, \$8,205,200.00 for an additional 40 adult crisis stabilization beds, and
9 \$10,000,000.00 for a behavioral health crisis center, including start up and operating costs for
10 the first year.

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

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

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

14 There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of
15 \$21,407,200.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same
16 sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the crisis
17 intervention and diversion program activities; ~~provided that no funds shall be released unless~~
18 ~~matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from a private source.~~

19 SECTION 6, page 7, lines 5-16

20 There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of
21 \$150,000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same
22 sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to certify law
23 enforcement officers in... expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.



SB1594 SD2 HD1 Mental Health Diversion to Crisis Beds

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Thursday: Mar 30, 2023: 3:00 Room 308

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB1594 SD2 HD1

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 respond to 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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 3:25:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/30/2023 3:00:00 PM

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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:04:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/30/2023 3:00:00 PM

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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 4:40:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/30/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu