

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 HB2042
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

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

Hearing Date: February 9, 2024

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests funding for this
2 measure be considered as a vehicle to expand services, including staff support, provided it does
3 not supplant the requests outlined in the Governor's executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) provides
6 the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 The Department supports this measure which proposes an appropriation to the Child and
8 Adolescent Mental Health Division of \$900,000 to contract for the provision of community-
9 based child and adolescent mental health services that will promote resilience and wellness. It
10 is in alignment with the Department’s vision that all Hawai’i residents have a fair and just
11 opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.

12 Recent disasters in Hawaii have highlighted the importance of protective factors for our youth,
13 and community-based mental health promotion plays an important role in increasing protective
14 factors and healthy behaviors. Psychoeducation and skill building can provide children and
15 adolescents with the tools they need to take care of their mental health and well-being in the
16 face of adversity.

1 **Offered Amendments:** While the Department supports the opportunity to award a contract
2 that promotes mental health, we suggest an amendment that clarifies that any contract award
3 would be the result of a competitive process, as required by Hawaii state procurement laws.

4

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

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawai‘i
to the House Committee on Health & Homelessness
and House Committee on Human Services

February 9, 2024

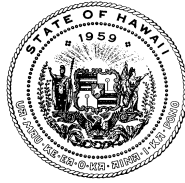
H.B. 2042: RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

Chair Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, Chair Marten, Vice-Chair Amato and Members of the Committees:

The Office of the Public Defender strongly supports H.B. 2042:

The Office of the Public Defender submit that there is an ongoing need for mental health services for our youth across the State of Hawaii. We are in full agreement that the “best approach to youth mental wellness is community-based, which meets youth where they are” as stated in Section 1 of this measure. Our office works with youth in the juvenile justice system, and we consistently see the need for mental health services, including counseling, therapy, and access to information and services to help youth manage their mental health challenges. We work with youth all along the spectrum of need. Youth who are in a severe mental health crisis and contemplating suicide or engaging in acts of self-harm. Youth struggling with serious depression. Youth in need of help to process trauma. Youth in need of help with anxiety disorders. Youth in need of grief counseling. These are just a few examples of the need in our communities. Funding for this measure would greatly benefit our youth in need and would be another tool to help keep youth out of our juvenile justice system and help keep youth engaged in mental health education, engagement, and services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
KE KE'ENA KŪPA'A MAULI OLA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
415 S. BERETANIA ST. #415
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

House Committees on Health and Homelessness and Humans Services

Friday, February 9, 2024

8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

In Support of

H.B. No. 2042, Relating to mental health

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) in the Governor's Office **SUPPORTS** H.B. No. 2042, Relating to Mental Health. OWR provides some comments for consideration, but defers to the Department of Health.

The OWR is dedicated to addressing adverse childhood experiences and appreciates any opportunity to help strengthen our State's system to mitigate childhood trauma. Addressing mental health needs early in life is critical for better health and well-being in adulthood.

We are excited that the measure recognizes the importance of community-based mental health support for children. OWR understands that community-based is in sync with "Peer support and mutual self-help" which is one of the six principles of a trauma-informed approach. These are integral to the service delivery approach and are understood as a key vehicle for building trust, establishing safety, and empowerment. We suggest considering adding language that speaks to contracting with service providers that are community-based and incorporates peer support in their service delivery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo,

Tia L R Hartsock, MSW, MSCJA
Director, Office of Wellness & Resilience
Office of the Governor



HB 2042
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH
House Committee on Health and Homelessness

February 9, 2024

8:30 am

Conference Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides testimony in **SUPPORT** for **HB 2042**, which would appropriate funds to address the mental health and wellness needs of youth in the State. **This crucial piece of legislation addresses the pressing need for enhanced mental health resources for Hawaii's youth, especially focusing on at-risk populations such as Native Hawaiians.**

This legislation underscores the dire need that OHA wishes to highlight. We understand that our Native Hawaiian youth are three times less likely to receive treatment for mental health services.¹ This is despite 2021 State Department of Health data that noted that Hawaiian high school students lived depression at a nearly comparable level as the general student population. The issue is especially critical for Native Hawaiian students though as they are more likely to attempt suicide according to the same Department of Health data. Thus, the need for our youth to get mental health support can be a matter of life and death for Hawaiian families.

OHA supports the funding increase proposed in HB2042. We believe that the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) can help make a difference to address the very real needs of our community. We are especially hopeful that CAMHD uses the increased funding to support community-based and culturally relevant programs and services to the youth they serve. We appreciate that the bill mentions the dire need of our community and look forward to CAMHD's work to support our youth. By prioritizing the mental health and wellness of our youth, especially Native Hawaiians, this legislation aligns with the core values of compassion, community, and collective responsibility.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB 2042. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

¹ *Mental and behavioral health - Native Hawaiians/pacific islanders. Office of Minority Health. (2019). <https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/mental-and-behavioral-health-native-hawaiianspacific-islanders>*



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

February 9, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill 2042 – Relating to Mental Health

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2042 – Relating to Mental Health.

This bill appropriates funds to address the mental health and wellness of needs of youth in the State.

DCAB urges the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health to spend the money on proven strategies and programs that serve as many youths as possible.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

February 6, 2024

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair Committee on Health and Homelessness
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair Committee on Health and Homelessness

FR: Greg Waibel
President and CEO
YMCA of Honolulu

RE: TESTIMONY-HB2042, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH – SUPPORT

In a study conducted as part of the Global Burden of Disease¹, mental health experts from across the country expressed a very high level of concern that we are in a second pandemic of mental health problems with not enough resources and approaches to help people. The voice of people who are seeking help include feelings of being stuck, empty, uncertain, anxious, overwhelmed, burned out, stressed, isolated, done, and depressed. The surveyed mental health professionals think the state and federal government must provide more resources.

The need is demonstrated daily in our communities and if it continues unaddressed will cause permanent damage to youth mental health. People who have a clinical diagnosis have access to care through Medicare/Medicaid/private insurance. We know that we task our schools to do so much more than academics and students have needs that go well beyond their academics into their social/emotional supports, physical health, etc.

The mental health crisis is not one that can be solved by one organization and one strategy alone. Just as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted many aspects of our community, the solution to this crisis will also need to be multifaceted, collaborative, and innovative. As a community-based organization that provides critical services to thousands of youth in our state, we are well positioned to meet youth “where they are” in ways that are comfortable and are relevant to the unique cultural identities of those who will be served. We approach our work with trained professionals and evidence-based practices to support the mental wellness support that our youth need. The YMCA has a track record of success in working with youth and can offer a community-based approach, providing programs to help youth at various points in their mental wellness pathway. We have been working in the mental wellness pathway in prevention and intervention for 2 years. The program that we are seeking support from the legislature has been initiated through a Federal earmark through Congressman Case in 9 DOE middle and high schools. Our DOE schools have embraced our help and we have found where our program fits within their behavior health supports. This bill would expand our reach across the state and allow us to serve additional teens in a variety of experiential and therapeutic activities to help participants develop selfawareness, self-esteem, social skills, appropriate coping mechanisms

¹ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)02143-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02143-7/fulltext)

and stress management tools to address their mental health and wellness needs. The program is conducted in person in Department of Education Schools and other community based locations where services are easily accessible and take place outside normal school hours. Program staff will conduct pre- and post-program surveys to measure participant outcomes and help them develop strategies and start habit formation for managing their mental health after completing the program. We also do social prescribing to connect participants with their passions and other youth who share their passions and interests. Participants will be referred to clinically appropriate care and resources if determined necessary. We track the outcomes to ensure effectiveness. We will use pre- and post-evaluation data, participation data, along with feedback from participants and those making referrals or working with the youth in the schools, homes, and other programs to help inform improvements to the program. We have developed this curriculum and outcome measures in conjunction with mental health experts for age appropriate delivery.

Since the Y began to deliver specific mental wellness programs we have served over 1,000 youth in the prevention space. Our curriculum and protocols are developed with the help of qualified mental health professionals and in consultation with schools on best practices and proven techniques. We understand assessment and treatment models, and we are partnering with licensed clinicians to guide our approach, tools, and curriculum. We are grateful for your consideration as we all work together to ensure the mental wellness of Hawaii's youth.



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Aloha Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Kyle Ishizaka; Executive Director of the YMCA of Honolulu – and I am responsible for leading our of Mental Health Wellness Initiatives for Teens.

The Y has a long history and heritage working with teens and receiving Government funds to provide services for youth.

In the past 60 years, the Y has provided outreach, prevention, intervention, mentoring, and substance abuse treatment services to youth in Hawaii.

This work continues today with the Y providing substance abuse treatment services to the island of Kauai and also to 14 High Schools and 15 Middle Schools on Oahu, Lanai, and Molokai.

Our work for decades with youth who are dealing with substance abuse crosses over to the work we do with mental health. It is addressing the root cause of what is happening in the lives of our youth. The most important elements of the work is listening, caring, providing support, resources, and direction. All of our work is backed by research and supported by experts in the field. We know that mental and behavioral health is connected to all dimensions of wellness. We are complex humans and solutions need customization, especially when we provide interventions.

The request of this bill is to support mental health prevention and intervention programs for teens. Our initial delivery of the program has been through 9 DOE middle and high schools in Central Oahu. The bill would provide resources to expand that across the state to provide screening for 1,200 youth and provide prevention or intervention programming to 725 of them. The program consists of sessions, both group and individual, to teach and practice skills on anger and stress management, crisis intervention, building protective factors, building a support network, and social prescribing. All effective methods recommended by licensed therapists. The delivery of these programs happens where youth are either at school or in the community.

The plan is to collaborate with the DOE and have the support of the Department of Health in this delivery, which is a similar model that has been effective for decades with substance abuse treatment.

Our initial results from working with the 9 DOE schools demonstrate all youth in prevention programs became more aware of their mental health condition, learned socialization/communication skills, learned a new coping skill, and increased their positive support network. The positive results are evident.

Our intervention program participants identified in our screening demonstrate higher levels of need and experience loneliness, depression, excess levels of stress, or anxiety. In addition to all of the learnings I just spoke about with the prevention program, all of these teens have also learned and practiced skills in group settings or role play, and almost all of them have used those skills in real life situations with the support of their counselors and their individualized plans. The last outcome that is promising is that the majority of these teens have joined clubs, started new hobbies, or started to improve their physical health. All healthy habits that will help them sustain their mental health and social connections.

These types of programs work. We are stepping forward to be part of the solution that requires a variety of tools to help our teen's mental health wellness. We owe this to our next generation, they are asking for our help, and we need to step up and respond.

Through Bill SB2460, I hope community based organizations will be able to provide Mental Health Prevention and Intervention Services to teens throughout the State of Hawaii.

Please support and fund SB2460. The time is now, and the opportunity is yours to help our teens.

Thank you.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2042:
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

TO: House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii

**Hearing: Friday 02/09/2024; 8:30 AM;
State Capitol Conf Rm 329 & via videoconference**

Chair Belatti and Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members, Committee on Health and Homelessness

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **HB 2042**, which appropriates funds to address the mental health and wellness needs of youth in the State. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving children, families, elders, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii has a long history of providing services for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD).

Through our work, we see the pressing need for enhanced mental health services, especially among the youth population. The effects of the pandemic added to the existing challenges faced by young individuals today, contributing to a rise in mental health issues. Increased funding for youth mental health services would enable organizations like Catholic Charities Hawaii to expand our programs, hire additional qualified professionals, and implement services that promote the mental health and wellness of our youth.

Catholic Charities Hawaii supports the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division and their efforts to increase services throughout the state.

We urge your support for this bill and ask for your assistance in its passing during this legislative session.

Please contact our Director of Advocacy and Community Relations, Shellie Niles at (808) 527-4813 if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808) 527-4813



Helping Hawai'i Live Well

Testimony to the Committee on Health & Homelessness Friday, February 9th, 2024, 8:30am Videoconference HB2042, Relating to Mental Health

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Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness! We write in strong support of HB2042, which appropriates funds to address the mental health and wellness needs of youth in the State.

Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH), an affiliate of the renowned national organization, is a highly regarded 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the State of Hawai'i. For nearly 80 years, MHAH has been fulfilling its mission "to promote mental health & wellness through education, advocacy, service, and access to care" through its vision of 'mental wellness for all.' We endeavor to reduce the shame and stigma of mental illness and improve the overall care, treatment, and empowerment of those with or at risk for mental health challenges across all stages of life in Hawai'i.

Considering the ongoing youth mental health crisis resulting from the global pandemic, and now, the traumatic events of the Maui fires, the need to address youth mental health, wellness, and resilience has never been more critical. Youth are especially impacted by disasters of this scale with the most manifested conditions being trauma, depression, anxiety, and substance use, with further impact trickling down from those who take care of them. In addition to the impacts of the fire, youth were already, and continue to be, severely impacted by the pandemic, with the CDC noting that COVID-19 created traumatic stressors for youth mental wellbeing. *Evidence has demonstrated that there is a critical need for mental health and resilience education and suicide prevention programs for all youth.* Late last year, the SAMHSA released its *National Guidelines for Child and Youth Behavioral Health Crisis Care* to express the need to improve prevention efforts and crisis response for children and youth. Earlier that same year, the US Surgeon General declared a youth mental health crisis in the U.S. According to the Hawaii Department of Health's Injury Prevention and Control Sections EMS & Injury Prevention System Branch, death by

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

suicide was the second leading cause of fatal injuries in Hawai'i between 2016 and 2020. During the same period, suicide was the 4th leading cause of fatal injury for those 0 – 15 years of age, and the 1st leading cause for those between the ages of 16 and 29.

We strongly urge you to pass this legislation, and we are grateful for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Respectfully,



Bryan L. Talisayan

Executive Director

Bryan.Talisayan@mentalhealthhawaii.org



HB2042 Funds for Youth Mental Health

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Friday, Feb 9, 2024: 8:30 : Room 329

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB2042:

ALOHA CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, 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-oriented services.

HSAC noticed that the YMCA pilot project last year was highly successful, which is needed due to the dramatic rise in youth behavioral health needs following COVID's isolation.

- The pilot screened a large number of youths to help them be more aware of their mental health status, needs and preventive factors.
- Enrolled some of them in either a one-week prevention program or a 13-week intervention group program depending upon need.

With such a high number of youths having positive results, this funding to go to CAMHD would be well worth an investment into our youth's mental health.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

Hawai`i True Cost Coalition

DATE: February 9, 2024
TIME: 8:30AM
PLACE: Via Videoconference and Conference Room 329
BILL: HB2042, Relating to Mental Health
Committee: House Committee on Health & Homelessness and House Committee on Human Services

Aloha Chairs Belatti and Marten, Vice Chairs Takenouchi and Amato, and members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Hawai`i True Cost Coalition (TCC), we are writing in support of HB2042 which would appropriate funds for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health (DOH) to contract for youth mental health and wellness services.

The TCC is comprised of over 50 community based nonprofit organizations, serving over 500,000 of people across the state, that have come together to ensure that government funding adequately and sustainably covers the true costs of providing governmental services by Hawai`i nonprofit organizations.

The demand for mental health and wellness services has increased, and we support the Legislature's efforts to provide resources to the Department of Health so that Hawaii's youth can access this critical service.

We also encourage the Legislature to support the Department of Health's and Department of Human Services' budget requests which includes increased funding for purchase of service contracts with local nonprofits to provide additional critical services for the community, as these contracts have not been increased in many years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2042.



HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Vonnell Ramos, President
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer
Greg Tjapkes, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

*Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i
Big Island Substance Abuse
Council*

*Bobby Benson Center
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i
Collins Consulting, LLC
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC `Ohana, Inc.*

*Family Programs Hawai`i
Family Support Hawai`i
Friends of the Children's Justice
Center of Maui*

Get Ready Hawai`i

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.

*Hawai`i Children's Action
Network*

Hawai`i Health & Harm

Reduction Center

*Hawaii Island Community'
Health Center*

Ho`ola Na Pua

Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i

Ka Hale Pomaika`i

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

*Kaua`i Planning and Action
Alliance*

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu`uwai Molokai Native

*Hawaiian Health Care
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P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

*Parents and Children Together
PHOCUSED*

PFLAG - Kona, Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

*Great Northwest, Hawaii
Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana*

*Residential Youth Services
& Empowerment (RYSE)*

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

*Susannah Wesley Community
Center*

The Catalyst Group

February 6, 2024

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2042 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) strongly supports HB 2042 Relating to Mental Health.

According to the 2021 Surgeon General's Advisory on Youth Mental Health, recent national surveys of young people have shown alarming increases in the prevalence of certain mental health challenges.

35% of middle and high school youth in Hawai'i experience persistent depression; 7% of high school and 11% of middle school students in Hawai'i reported having attempted suicide.

23% of middle school students report that their mental health was most of the time or always "not good" in the prior 30 days. Youth mental health issues are a risk factor for high-risk substance use.

The TeenLink Hawai'i website continues to get 2,000 site visits on average each month. The top topics/pages visited included Suicide; Health and Wellness Toolkit; Sleep; Stress; Mental Health; and Self-Care.

A Hawai'i Department of Health report using 2020 data estimates that 11,000 of Hawai'i's youth experienced at least one major depressive episode in the prior year. Of those who experienced a major depressive episode, approximately 6,000 did not receive mental health services in the prior year.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i

February 9, 2024

House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Hearing Time: 8:30 am
Location: State Capitol Conference Room 329
Re: HB 2042, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i hui, we are writing in **strong support** of HB 2042, relating to mental health. This bill appropriates funds to address the mental health and wellness needs of youth in Hawaii.

Amid growing mental health issues for Hawaii’s youth, investing funds to raise awareness for youth mental well-being and providing the necessary tools to combat adverse mental health is essential to long-term youth development.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth homelessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

Please support HB 2042.



TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

HB 2042, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** HB 2042, relating to mental health. Pursuant to the "Health and Wellbeing" section of the official Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform, the party supports "the creation of a universal healthcare system that values people over profit, and follows best practices and current research to deliver holistic care covering both physical and mental healthcare."

Mental health is just as important as physical health. This is especially true for our keiki. According to the 2022 Kids Count Data Book, however, about 2,200 more children in Hawai'i struggled with anxiety and depression in 2020, a 23 percent increase compared with 2016. The report also estimated that 5.9 percent of children aged 3 to 17 had anxiety or depression in 2020, compared with 4.8 percent in 2016.

Moreover, according to Hawai'i Health Matters, 1 in 3 Hawai'i public school students in grades 6 to 12 felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some of their usual activities. Sadly, less than 25 percent of those teens received the help they needed.

In 2023, Hawai'i received more than \$4 million in federal funds to expand mental health services for youth, including roughly \$1.4 million for Hawai'i's Department of Health, \$800,000 for the Honolulu division of DOH, \$1.25 million for

the alcohol and drug abuse division of DOH in Kapolei, and \$400,000 for the Health and Harm Reduction Center. The legislature has also increased funding for mental health services in recent years, such as by establishing a mobile mental health clinic pilot project on multiple islands in 2023.

Nonetheless, mental health resources remain small when compared to the amount of funding devoted to physical health, both locally and nationally. To uplift our children's mental wellness and resiliency, we must devote additional support for youth mental health programs and services and continue making our response to the youth mental health crisis a top priority for our state.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kris Coffield

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee

(808) 679-7454

kriscoffield@gmail.com

Abby Simmons

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee

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abbyalana808@gmail.com

HB-2042

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:52:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/9/2024 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB2042.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the wake of the
2 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, Hawaii youth need additional
3 mental health resources to strengthen organizational capacity
4 and expand outreach services to target youth most at-risk,
5 including native Hawaiians and Pacific islanders, who have
6 reported some of the highest rates of negative mental health
7 related to the pandemic.

8 The legislature also finds that the best approach to youth
9 mental wellness is community-based, which meets youth where they
10 are. Additionally, youth mental, emotional, and behavioral
11 health are just one aspect of wellness. Other factors include
12 environmental, financial, intellectual, physical, social, and
13 spiritual health. These dimensions are interdependent and
14 affect each other.

15 These youth mental health issues are a great concern for
16 the State's public health and welfare. According to an analysis
17 by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,



1 in 2021, nearly forty per cent of high school students reported
2 experiencing poor mental health during the coronavirus disease
3 2019 pandemic and forty-four per cent reported persistent
4 feelings of sadness or hopelessness in the last year.

5 The legislature further finds that the YMCA of Honolulu
6 secured funding for a pilot program in 2023 that will screen
7 four hundred fifty youth ages eleven through eighteen, enroll
8 one hundred youth in a one-week prevention program, and register
9 fifty youth in a thirteen-session intervention program. Also in
10 2023, the YMCA of Honolulu, through its intersession and summer
11 programs, delivered mental health wellness programming, and
12 results that showed that 81.2 per cent of youth became more
13 aware of their mental health condition, including identifying
14 moods, emotions, and their overall mental state; 72.6 per cent
15 of youth gained a new coping skill; and 82.9 per cent of youth
16 increased their positive support network.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide funding
18 for the provision of youth mental health and wellness services
19 to help address mental health challenges faced by youth in the
20 State.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$900,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
4 child and adolescent mental health division of the department of
5 health to contract for the provision of youth mental health and
6 wellness services to address the mental health and wellness
7 needs of youth in the State.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 health for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
11 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
13 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
14 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
15 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
16 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
17 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
18 exceeded by \$900,000 or per cent. The combined total
19 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
20 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
21 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by



H.B. NO. 2042

1 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
2 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

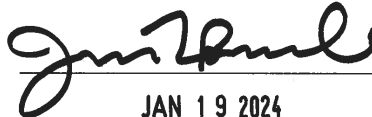
3 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
4 serve the public interest; and

5 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
6 addressed by this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

8

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 19 2024



H.B. NO. 2042

Report Title:

Youth Wellness; Mental Health; Department of Health;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds to address the mental health and wellness
needs of youth in the State.

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

2024-0557 HB HMSO-1



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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representation Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Friday, February 9, 2024 at 8:30 AM
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2042

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

RE: TESTIMONY-HB 2042, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH – SUPPORT

Honorable Chairs Belatti and Marten, Vice-Chairs Takenouchi and Amato, and members of the committees, My name is Dr. Robin Miyamoto, and I am a Clinical Psychologist who has been serving the State of Hawaii for 25 years. I am Past-President of Hawaii Psychological Association and an Assistant Professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I am testifying today as a board member for the Metro YMCA. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 2042 appropriating funds to address the mental health and wellness needs of the youth in our state.

In March 2020, I was the Director of Clinical Services and Behavioral Health for two departments at JABSOM. Over the course of a weekend, we had to pivot to providing telehealth services following the stay-at-home orders addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time, my department and psychologists across the state have been running to keep up with the mental health demands that continue to be the long tail of COVID. I have spent my career serving our state's rural and underserved communities, most recently in Maui following the wildfires. I am all too familiar with the growing list of behavioral health needs facing our community and the

shortage of mental health professionals. While there are other bills this session targeting the shortage, this bill helps to create an additional level of support that may prevent kids from developing significant and permanent mental health concerns that require the highest tier of care, individual therapy.

Take a moment to reflect on the children and adolescents you know, maybe your own children. As a result of social isolation and classroom time lost, most kids are three years developmentally delayed. Social functioning has declined, and the prevalence of anxiety and depression in children is the highest it has ever been. While most of us no longer wear masks, schools have reopened, and large-scale events are back, we may never recover from the mental health impacts of COVID-19.

In most cases, teens who attempt suicide do it on a whim. They have had a fight with someone and feel like suicide is their only option. We can never know when someone is going to have a mental health crisis when they feel suicide is their only option, but with a program like the YMCA, the early intervention they are providing is going upstream, heading off crises before they happen. They also provide coping skills and resilience that teens can draw on when they find themselves feeling alone and desperate.

The community-delivered and school-based programs designed by the YMCA help identify children who are struggling and get them into early intervention programs to increase resilience and change the trajectory of their mental health. Community-based group intervention programs offered by the YMCA are a necessary stop-gap measure that can be implemented immediately. While we continue to address the provider shortage, those solutions are years in the making. With the funding this bill provides, the YMCA could dramatically and immediately increase the number of children it serves. The YMCA has a proven track record, trained staff, and evidenced-based practices ready to support the mental wellness of our young people.

Addressing the long-term effects on the mental health of our entire community, but mostly our children will take a coordinated approach across schools, community organizations, and healthcare systems. We are asking for your support for this critical prevention piece that prevents more significant mental illness.

Mahalo for your time and consideration today.

Sincerely,



Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D
Clinical Psychologist

HB-2042

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 12:00:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/9/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Grace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Aimee Malia Grace, MD, MPH, FAAP and I am writing in my individual capacity to support this bill.

The mental health of our youth is critical and the YMCA has many important programs that are community-based to address these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of support for this important bill.



**HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
Conference Room 312 & Videoconference
State Capitol
10:00 AM**

February , 2024

Subject: HB 2091- RELATING TO SCHOOL IMPACT FEES

Chair Evslin, Vice-Chair Aiu, and members of the Committee:

My name is Max Lindsey, Government Relations Committee Chair of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-Hawaii is in support of HB 2091, Relating to School Impact Fees. This bill repeals school impact fees, and transfers unencumbered balances of the school impact fee subaccounts to school facilities special fund.

We appreciate the intent of this bill to repeal school impact fees. School impact fees are meant to be used to mitigate the impact of a proposed project on existing schools in the area. As the bill points out in its preamble, school impact fees can add thousands of dollars to housing units, and yet over \$17 million dollars of collected funds currently sits unused in a special fund.

As the state of Hawaii is in a dire housing crisis, we are in support of legislation such as this, which would help to lower the cost of building housing. As the Legislature is aware, the cost of housing in Hawaii is extremely high, and out of touch for many kama`aina. Approximately 153,967 U.S. households are priced out of buying a home for every \$1000 increase in price, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.