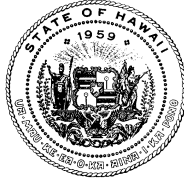


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A, M.P.H  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

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 H.B. 2800  
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

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

Friday, 02-02-2024 at 9:45 am, Room 329/VIDEO

1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal implications for this measure.

2 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure.

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

5 The Department expresses its support for HB2800, which proposes the establishment of  
6 an Advisory Committee on Mental Health Code Review in the State of Hawaii.

7 The Legislature rightly recognizes that the chapters relating to mental health have been  
8 amended in a piecemeal manner over the past several decades, leading to some lack of clarity  
9 and inconsistencies. Establishing a regular and systematic review, as proposed in this bill, is  
10 essential to maintaining the coherence and effectiveness of mental health laws.

11 The bill takes inspiration from the comprehensive reviews conducted every decade for  
12 the Hawaii Penal Code since its enactment in 1972. This reflects a commitment to best practices  
13 in legal governance and underscores the importance of periodic assessments for ensuring the  
14 relevance and efficacy of mental health laws.

15 The proposed composition of the advisory committee includes key stakeholders such as  
16 the Director of Health, Attorney General, representatives from relevant departments, judiciary,

1 legislative bodies, and community organizations. This diverse representation ensures a holistic  
2 and informed perspective in the review process.

3         The bill outlines a clear scope for the advisory committee's review, encompassing  
4 federal and state court cases, constitutional, statutory, and rule changes impacting the Hawaii  
5 Revised Statutes related to mental health. This comprehensive approach ensures that the  
6 review is thorough and addresses emerging issues.

7         The requirement for the advisory committee to submit a report of its findings and  
8 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature adds a layer of  
9 transparency and accountability. This ensures that the insights gained from the review are  
10 translated into actionable measures for the benefit of mental health in the state.

11 **Offered Amendments:** None

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



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

---

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: February 2, 2024

Re: Comments on HB2800: Relating to Mental Health

---

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB2800, requiring the Department of Health to convene an advisory committee of on mental health code review every ten years. As the largest healthcare system in the state offering comprehensive adult and adolescent psychiatric care (both hospital and community based programs and services) we respectfully request that the Committee amend the membership to include The Queen's Health System (or a representative from the private acute care hospitals who offer psych/mental health services).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

*The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*