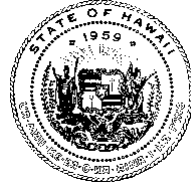


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



KATHERINE AUMER, PhD
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 Senate Committee on Judiciary
in Support of S.B. 2992 SD1
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

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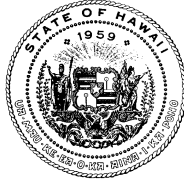
February 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m., CR16 and Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, established 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 State Council on Mental Health members unanimously support SB2992 HD1. Regularly reviewing the state's mental health code is necessary to keep it up-to-date and consistent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact us at DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2992 SD1
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., Room016/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 supports the intent of SB2992 SD1.

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

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

14 The Department defers to the Department of the Attorney General to determine the
15 process by which the Mental Health Code Review is conducted.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair

February 27, 2024
10:00 AM
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 016 & Via Videoconference

SB 2992, SD1
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH
Beginning 7/1/2025, and every ten years thereafter, requires the Department of Health to convene an Advisory Committee on Mental Health Code Review.

Edward N. Chu
President & Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in support of SB 2992, SD1 Relating to Mental Health, with a request for an amendment.**

HHSC provides psychiatric care in its hospitals on the islands of Hawaii and Kauai. As such, the mental health code has an impact on HHSC facilities. We respectfully request an amendment to include the President and CEO or a representative of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to the Advisory Committee so that the interests of the neighbor island hospital facilities may be represented as part of these discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

Date: February 27, 2024

Re: Comments on SB2992 SD1 – 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 SB2992 SD1, 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 provide testimony 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.