

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 , 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1831
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 1831 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a Behavioral Health Crisis Center Pilot Program in the Department of Health to redirect persons experiencing a mental health crisis who are at risk for involvement with, or involved with, the criminal justice system to the appropriate health care system and services.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Judiciary; Department of Health; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; The Queen's Health System; Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition; United Self-Help; Hawaii Disability Rights Center; Community Alliance on Prisons; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that thousands of people in the State are arrested each year for offenses such as drinking liquor in public, loitering in public parks after hours, and camping in restricted areas such as on sidewalks or beaches. Many of these people suffer from issues relating to drugs, alcohol, or mental illness and would be better served by being diverted from the criminal justice system and into the health care system, where they can receive appropriate health care services.



Your Committee further finds behavioral health crisis centers provide significant benefits to the community, including enabling more people in crisis to get help by creating additional rapid access points for care, reducing law enforcement time dealing with people in crisis, reducing the use of already over-crowded emergency rooms, and recognizing cost savings for the community in many areas, such as reduced criminalization and reduced use of acute care facilities. Your Committee believes that the establishment and use of behavioral health crisis centers will improve the government's response to individuals suffering from serious mental illness, particularly for those who may become, or already are, involved in the criminal justice system.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language that would statutorily authorize the Department of Health to establish or contract with behavioral health crisis centers in every county;
- (2) Changing the appropriation for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center Pilot Program to an unspecified amount;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation of \$9,500,000 for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center Pilot Program.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1831, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1831, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health &
Homelessness,



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Health & Homelessness

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1831	Committee Referral: HLT, CPC, FIN	Date: 2/7/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	/			
2. TAKENOUCHI, Jenna (VC)	/			
3. AMATO, Terez	/			
4. ILAGAN, Greggor	/			
5. KOBAYASHI, Bertrand	/			
6. MARTEN, Lisa	/			
7. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	/			
8. GARCIA, Diamond	/			
TOTAL (8)	8			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				