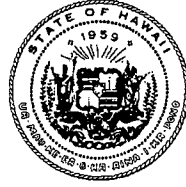


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LEANNE GILLESPIE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Phone: (808) 587-5710
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
1010 Richards Street, Suite 314
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 18, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Leanne Gillespie, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB 2042, HD1 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH
Hearing: March 20, 2024, 1:05 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Office of Youth Services (OYS) supports this measure, offers comments, and respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to provide funding for the provision of youth mental health and wellness services to help address mental health challenges faced by youth in the State.

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) shares concerns for youth impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and is in alignment with this measure by taking community-based approaches to youth mental health and wellness. Separately from this measure, OYS is requesting additional

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

March 18, 2024

Page 2 of 2

funds to increase mental health to high-risk youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth who are not eligible for services provided by the Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division. More resources are necessary to meet the needs of youth. This measure and OYS budget request, if approved, will be complementary to support youth in Hawaii to address their mental and behavioral well-being early and build their resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



HB 2042 HD1
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

March 20, 2024

1:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 2042 HD1, 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 Hawai'i'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 with 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 increased 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.

OHA defers to the Department of Health on costs and implementation. We believe that supporting the mental and emotional well-being of our keiki is a worthy investment.

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>

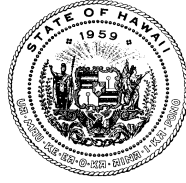


HB 2042
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH
House Committee on Health and Homelessness

However, we recognize the constraints of our state budget given the costs borne from the Maui fires.

OHA would also support the amendment DOH previously requested to include a provision ensuring any contract awards be done through a competitive process.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Revised Testimony
3-19-24

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2042 HD1
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

SENATOR JOY A. BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 20, 2024

Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) respectfully requests that the
2 funding for youth mental health wellness, not supplant the requests outlined in the Governor's
3 executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments on HB2042; and respectfully requests
5 that a Part II be inserted into the bill as recommended in the “Offered Amendments” section of
6 this testimony.

7 **Department Testimony:**

8 Community-based child and adolescent mental health services can promote resilience and
9 wellness to better withstand stresses later in life.

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

15

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 The Department also respectfully requests that a Part II be added to HB2042 to include the
5 following language to clarify and update the responsibilities of the child and adolescent mental
6 health division of the department of health to reflect the current mental health systems of care
7 that address mental health needs of children and adolescents in the State.

8 SECTION XX. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised
9 Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part
10 XV to be appropriately designated and to read as
11 follows:

12 "§321- Definitions. For the purposes of this
13 part:

14 "Client" means a child or adolescent who is
15 receiving services from the child and adolescent
16 mental health division.

17 "Division" means the child and adolescent mental
18 health division of the department of health."

19 SECTION XX. Section 321-171, Hawaii Revised
20 Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

21 **"§321-171 Children's and adolescents' mental**
22 **health services; department responsibility.** It shall
23 be the responsibility of the department of health to:

24 (1) Provide preventative health services for
25 children and [~~youth;~~] and adolescents; and

1 (2) Provide diagnostic and treatment services
2 for emotionally disturbed children and [~~youth; and~~

3 ~~(3) Provide treatment and rehabilitative~~
4 ~~services for mentally ill children and~~
5 ~~youth.] adolescents.~~

6 [~~Such~~] These services shall be delivered [~~at the~~
7 ~~earliest possible moment~~] as soon as reasonably
8 possible after the need for [~~such~~] the services is
9 established. [~~All~~] Subject to the availability of
10 state or federal resources, eligible children and
11 [~~youth~~] adolescents between the ages of birth and
12 seventeen years shall receive the necessary mental
13 health services to [~~insure~~] ensure their proper and
14 full development. [~~If there is any adjudication or~~
15 ~~settlement of any legal action involving the delivery~~
16 ~~of children's mental health services,~~
17 ~~the~~] The department of health shall be responsible
18 for the coordination of carrying out the terms of
19 [~~the~~] any judgment or settlement[-] related to the
20 delivery of children's and adolescents' mental health
21 services, as required by this section."

22 SECTION XX. Section 321-172, Hawaii Revised
23 Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

24 "**§321-172** [~~Children's mental health services~~
25 ~~branch.] Child and adolescent mental health~~

1 **division.** There is established within the department
2 of health [~~, mental health division, a children's~~] a
3 child and adolescent mental health
4 [~~branch~~] division, which shall coordinate the
5 effective and efficient delivery of mental health
6 services to children and
7 [~~youth,~~] adolescents, including services provided by
8 private nonprofit agencies under contract to the
9 department of health, and be responsible for the
10 development and implementation of centralized and
11 highly specialized programs for children and
12 [~~youth.~~] adolescents."

13 SECTION XX. Section 321-173, Hawaii Revised
14 Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

15 "**§321-173 [Community mental health**
16 **services] Family guidance centers for children and**
17 **[youth.] adolescents.** [~~There is established within~~
18 ~~each community mental health center a children's~~
19 ~~mental health services team which,~~] The division
20 shall implement and administer family guidance
21 centers. The family guidance centers, in conjunction
22 with public and private agencies, shall develop and
23 provide a network of preventative, early
24 identification, screening, diagnostic, treatment, and
25 rehabilitative services for children and
26 [~~youth~~] adolescents based on the needs of each

1 ~~[geographic region]~~ county in which the ~~[community~~
2 ~~mental health]~~ family guidance center is
3 located. The ~~[children's mental health services~~
4 ~~teams]~~ division shall cooperate with and promote the
5 coordination of the activities of local public and
6 private agencies servicing children and
7 ~~[youth]~~ adolescents in their ~~[particular geographic~~
8 ~~area.]~~ county or the closest county that has
9 resources and services that meet the client's needs."

10 SECTION XX. Section 321-175, Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

12 "**§321-175 Statewide [children's] child and**
13 **adolescent mental health services**

14 **plan.** (a) ~~[Commencing on September 1, 1980,]~~ No
15 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
16 regular session of 2027, and every ~~[four]~~ five years
17 thereafter, the ~~[children's mental health services~~
18 ~~branch, on or before September 1 of each four-year~~
19 ~~cycle,]~~ division shall develop and
20 ~~[present]~~ submit to the governor and the
21 legislature~~[, as well as release for public~~
22 ~~inspection and comment,]~~ a current statewide
23 ~~[children's]~~ child and adolescent mental health
24 services plan ~~[which]~~ that shall include:

25 (1) ~~[A survey of the children and youth in the~~
26 ~~State who are (A) in need of and (B) receiving mental~~

1 ~~health services showing the total number of such~~
2 ~~children and youth and their geographic~~
3 ~~distribution;]~~ An assessment of the mental health
4 needs of children and adolescents in the State;

5 (2) [~~Identification of the public and private~~
6 ~~providers of mental health services to children and~~
7 ~~youth;]~~ An assessment of resources available to meet
8 the mental health needs of children and adolescents
9 in the State;

10 (3) [~~Identification of the criteria and~~
11 ~~standards for the treatment to be received by~~
12 ~~emotionally disturbed or mentally ill children and~~
13 ~~youth;]~~ Identification of gaps between needs and
14 available resources;

15 [~~(4) A program for the recruitment, orientation,~~
16 ~~and in-service training of personnel in community~~
17 ~~mental health services to children and youth, and to~~
18 ~~allied fields, including participation, as~~
19 ~~appropriate, by institutions of higher learning,~~
20 ~~state and local agencies, and other public and~~
21 ~~private agencies having relevant expertise;~~

22 ~~(5)]~~ (4) A description of the provisions for
23 prevention, [early identification,] diagnosis,
24 screening, and treatment, which is inclusive of [and]

1 rehabilitation [~~(including, with regard to treatment~~
2 ~~and rehabilitation, services provided through~~
3 ~~inpatient, outpatient, and community residential~~
4 ~~facilities) of children and youth in need of mental~~
5 ~~health services;~~

6 ~~(6) An implementation plan for providing mental~~
7 ~~health services to all children and youth in the~~
8 ~~State in each of the above mentioned areas; and~~

9 ~~(7) Any additional matters which may be~~
10 ~~necessary or appropriate, including recommendations~~
11 ~~for amendment of laws, changes in administrative~~
12 ~~practices and patterns of organization, and changes~~
13 ~~in levels and patterns of financial support relating~~
14 ~~to children's mental health services.]; and~~

15 (5) Recommendations to the governor and the
16 legislature on how mental health needs of children
17 and adolescents can be met.

18 (b) Prior to the submission of the statewide
19 ~~[children's]~~ child and adolescent mental health
20 services plan under subsection (a) to the governor
21 and the legislature, the department of health shall
22 hold public hearings on the plan in accordance with
23 ~~[chapter 91.]~~ section 92-41. There shall be at least
24 one hearing in each county; ~~[except]~~ provided that

1 the city and county of Honolulu shall have three
2 hearings in strategic geographic locations to provide
3 the widest exposure of the plan to the population.

4 (c) Any amendments to the statewide
5 [~~children's~~] child and adolescent mental health
6 services plan shall be made after public meetings
7 held in accordance with [~~chapter 91.~~] subsection
8 (b)."

9 SECTION XX. Section 321-176, Hawaii Revised
10 Statutes, is repealed.

11 ~~["§321-176 Biennial review of progress. Every~~
12 ~~two years, starting January 1, 1979, the department~~
13 ~~of health, on or before January 1 of each two-year~~
14 ~~cycle, shall submit to the legislature and the~~
15 ~~governor a report setting forth:~~

16 ~~(1) A detailed analysis of the progress made~~
17 ~~toward fulfilling the statewide children's mental~~
18 ~~health services plan developed under section 321-175;~~
19 ~~and~~

20 ~~(2) Other matters which are necessary or~~
21 ~~appropriate, including recommendations for any~~
22 ~~amendment to any law, any change in the~~
23 ~~administrative practices and patterns of~~
24 ~~organization, the current and prevailing memoranda of~~

1 ~~agreement, and any change in the levels and patterns~~
2 ~~of financial support."]~~

3

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



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

Aloha Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Kyle Ishizaka; and I provide leadership to our mental health wellness programming at the YMCA.

I am here today asking for your support of HB 2042, which will expand Mental Health Programs statewide to provide screening, prevention, and intervention services to youth.

This year, as a legislative body, you indicated you had three (3) priorities you wanted to address in this legislative session:

- 1) Maui Wildfire Recovery and Relief
- 2) the Issue of “Houseless-ness” and affordable housing AND
- 3) Mental Health

This bill, HB 2042 is actually a trifecta that addresses all three legislative priorities in one form or another.

The Maui Wildfires created trauma for many who were directly impacted, as well as, others on Maui that have been indirectly impacted by the fires which are suffering emotionally, mentally, financially, and physically.

Many youth and adults that are “Houseless”, suffer from some form of Mental Wellness issue.

The Y currently delivers intervention level Mental Health programs to nine (9) DOE schools on Oahu and in the past two weeks, through the Maui relief fund, we have gone to three (3) schools on Maui to extend our program to youth affected by the fires in Lahaina.

Yesterday I was in Maui as we have initiated the work with three (3) of the schools that have students who have suffered directly from the wildfire. The response from students and the school administration have been very supportive. Our program is a missing component in an effort to address teen’s mental health resulting from the wildfires.

Senators, this bill addresses your legislative priorities and would have a positive impact on the future of our youth.

This bill can help youth deal with the issues they may face connected with becoming houseless in the future, it can further assist teens on Maui and throughout the state, and most importantly, addresses individuals who need help with their mental health wellness.

Thank you,

Kyle Ishizaka
Executive Director
YMCA of Honolulu



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

February 27, 2024

TO: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair Committee on Health and Human Services

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.

ROBIN E.S. MIYAMOTO
555 SOUTH ST. #1205
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TEL (808) 383-6154 FAX (888) 248-6762

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 1:05 PM
Conference Room 225
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 Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and members of the committee, 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

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

March 20th, 2024, 1:05pm

HB2042 HD1

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Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is in strong support of HB2042 HD1 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.

PRO BONO LEGAL COUNSEL

Paul Alston

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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 suicide was the leading cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii between 2016 and 2020.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

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 urge your positive review of this measure and are grateful for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Respectfully,



Bryan L. Talisayan
Executive Director

bryan.talisayan@mentalhealthhawaii.org



HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawaii 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 Hawaii
Big Island Substance Abuse
Council*

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

*Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Friends of the Children's Justice
Center of Maui*

*Get Ready Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kaula, Inc.
Hawaii Children's Action
Network*

*Hawaii Health & Harm
Reduction Center
Hawaii Island Community
Health Center*

*Ho'ola Na Pua
Ho'okele Coalition of Kaula
Ka Hale Pomaika'i
Kahi Mohala
Kokua Kalih Valley
Kaula Planning and Action*

*Alliance
Maui Youth and Family Services
Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native
Hawaiian Health Care
Systems*

*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*

March 16, 2024

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2042 HD1 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) strongly supports HB 2042 HD1
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 Hawaii experience persistent
depression; 7% of high school and 11% of middle school students in
Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii Department of Health report using 2020 data estimates that
11,000 of Hawaii'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,



HB2042 HD1 Funds for Youth Mental Health

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 20, 2024: 1:05 : Room 225

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB2042 HD1:

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 that community-based programs must be expanded to attend to the youth mental health crisis which is needed due to the dramatic rise in youth behavioral health needs following COVID's isolation. The YMCA pilot project last year has shown that a model of this kind can be effective to address mental health challenges as well as wellness and environmental issues.

- 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.



TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: HHS

MARCH 20, 2024

HB 2042, HD1, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports** HB 2042, HD1, relating to mental health. Pursuant to the “Health and Wellbeing” section of the official Democratic Party of Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii Health Matters, 1 in 3 Hawaii 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, Hawaii received more than \$4 million in federal funds to expand mental health services for youth, including roughly \$1.4 million for Hawaii’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

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Co-Chair, Legislative Committee

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Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i

March 20, 2024

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing Time: 1:05 pm
Location: State Capitol Conference Room 225
Re: HB 2042, HD1 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Aloha e Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i hui, we are writing in **strong support** of HB 2042, HD1 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, HD1.

HB-2042-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 1:55:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2024 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Corleone	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I'm writing to express my support for HB2042, related to the appropriation of funds to address the mental health and wellness of youth in Hawaii. I'm a resident of the state with three children in public school and have seen firsthand the benefit of mental health and wellness programs in the school.

My daughter Maya has been participating in the YMCA program at her school since fall 2023. It's one of the after school activities she looks forward to.

Maya is neurodivergent, so she learns and processes information in her own way. She's social and kind and makes everyone feel like their a superstar in her world.

However, Mayaaa has a hard time with friendships because she's hyperfocused and doesn't like to do things most kids like to do (go to the beach, watch movies, play video games).

Since starting the program, I've seen a change in Maya. She has a new perspective on friendship and a better understanding of the back and forth nature of relationships and the need for compromise. She recently reconnected with a friend from elementary school and now wants to do things other kids like with her friend. That's HUGE.

We all do better when we feel connected to our community. The YMCA program is a safe space for kids like Maya to share, learn, and practice social connections. Middle school is hard. Imagine how much harder it is for kids who already feel out of place or disconnected.

Taking care of our youth's mental health and wellness is vital to our future.

I urge you to support HB2042 and provide funding for mental health and wellness programs like the YMCA for the youth of Hawaii.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Corleone

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HB 2042 HD1 - RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Chairpersons Joy San Buenaventura and Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Henry Aquino and Sharon Moriwaki, and Committee Members –

My name is Haley Hocking. I am a graduate student studying social work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, with a specialization in behavioral mental health. I am testifying in support of HB 2042, relating to mental health

I have been privileged enough to work with our youth since 2021 when I first began my undergraduate fieldwork on Oahu. I first began with the YMCA, and now work for the Department of Education in Maui. Through this experience, I have witnessed firsthand the immense need in our communities for expanded mental health support benefiting our youth. In my current position, I often am unable to see all of the students who need a space to process a traumatic experience or gain a coping skill to better navigate their emotions – as myself and my colleagues are overwhelmed with our existing caseloads and the immense need throughout our campuses. Every day I witness children slipping through the cracks, as we don't have enough resources to support them. By allocating more funds to help address mental health challenges in youth, we can better bridge the gap between need and available resources.

More funds would allow an expansion of youth mental health service options, thus better preventing the retention of these issues into a youth's adulthood. Children with unresolved adverse experiences are much more vulnerable throughout their lives to continuing this cycle, with an increased susceptibility toward issues such as substance use, mental health disorders, abuse, and crime. Expanded funds for youth mental health would allow practitioners to address these challenges before they grow to such severe extents. Research has shown that the most important predictor for youth overcoming these challenges is the accessibility of a safe and caring adult. These funds would allow us to provide this for our children.

Thank you for your consideration,
Haley Hocking

HB-2042-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:11:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2024 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Marsha Hee. I support HB2042 HD1 to appropriate funds to address the mental health and wellness needs of youth in the State. I am a family member of a loved one who lives with mental health conditions. In my experience, I see a need for increased education and services to address the mental health and wellness of our community youth. Thank you for taking my perspective and opinion into consideration to support and pass HB 2042 HD1.

Sincerely, Marsha Hee, Volcano HI 96785, life-long resident/citizen of Hawaii

Family member of loved one with serious mental health conditions

HB-2042-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 8:18:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2024 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael EKM Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Students and youths have been in a mental health crisis for years, and the pandemic only exasperated it to pass its breaking point. Keiki, having been forced to isolate for their protection, have lost critical developmental skills that will be a problem for years. Please support this bill, understanding that this is only the first step in addressing a much larger issue that requires more than just throwing money at the problem.