



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

LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB 2465
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

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

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: Friday, February 8, 2024, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) supports this measure and
- 3 offers comments.
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) provides the following
- 5 testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 The Department supports the intent of this measure which proposes to track and
7 publicly report statewide data relating to crisis reports, emergency mental health transports,
8 court-ordered medications and plans of treatments (“assisted community treatment” [ACT]
9 orders), and involuntary commitments to the Hawaii State Hospital. However, a majority of the
10 proposed requirements are already being tracked and reported.

11 Since the time that this bill was introduced, the Department, in partnership with the
12 University of Hawaii and other state and county agencies, developed and implemented a data
13 dashboard website (<https://bh808.hawaii.gov>), to better understand Hawaii’s current

1 behavioral health trends and needs, with a focus on drug overdose, polysubstance use, co-
2 occurring substance use and mental health disorders, and crisis care. We provide interactive
3 visualizations of data such as county-level emergency department discharges related to mental
4 health and co-occurring substance use disorders, number of consumers served by the AMHD
5 each day and by service type, number of and reasons for calls to the Hawaii CARES/988 crisis
6 line each day, number of dispatches by crisis mobile outreach each month, and number of
7 admissions to licensed crisis residential shelters each month. The Department is already in the
8 process of developing visualizations using other key data, such as that of mental health
9 emergency workers and stabilization beds, and we hope that this website can serve as a key
10 data tool to assist with program planning and decision-making.

11 The Department suggests soliciting monthly data (including demographics of subjects
12 and distribution amongst the various case management agencies) from DHS-MedQuest
13 regarding the number of outpatient ACT petitions filed by agencies contracted to provide care
14 through CCS (Community Care Services). The Department can work together with DHS-
15 MedQuest to determine and implement a mechanism to have the data readily available.

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

17 **Offered Amendments:** None.



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 8, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND JUDICARY

Senate Bill 2465 – Relating to Mental Health

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2465 – Relating to Mental Health.

This bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to track and publicly report certain data relating to crisis reports, emergency mental health transports, and court-ordered treatments. It also requires DOH to respond to reports about persons having severe mental illness who are in need of assistance, assess whether those persons fulfill criteria for assisted community treatment, and coordinate the process for an assisted community treatment order if indicated. It establishes that a court's denial of a petition for involuntary commitment shall serve as notification to DOH that the person should be evaluated for assisted community treatment.

Psychological disabilities are treatable, and like many conditions the sooner treatment is provided the more successfully the treatment will be. This bill would not only improve treatment services but help to establish baseline metrics, which allow the impact of this bill to be measured and may suggest where other improvements would be effective.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative Henry J. C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96822

February 2, 2024

Support for S.B. No. 2465, Relating to Mental Health

My name is Tiffany Bader and I strongly support S.B. No. 2465, Relating to Mental Health, which requires the Department of Health to track and publicly report certain data relating to crisis reports, emergency mental health transports, and court-ordered treatments. I am currently in the Masters of Social Work Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and this type of legislation could give service providers, government agencies, and other mental health professionals a better understanding of what the current mental health needs are for the community.

With the mental health crisis worsening in Hawai'i, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, this is the most appropriate time to analyze and track data of those individuals who are going through severe mental health issues and need assisted community treatment. With data publicly available, it gives different private, public, and non-profit organizations the opportunity to utilize the data and lobby for different programs to be created and implemented within the community.

This would also be extremely beneficial for the neighbor islands that do not have immediate access to mental health services. There is currently a shortage of health care providers across the state that has created significant barriers to accessing mental health treatment. These challenges have led to high rates of suicide, particularly on neighbor islands where the provider shortage is most pronounced.

In conclusion the data being collected and reported by the Department of Health could provide opportunities for future mental health programs to be created and implemented across the state. Thus, I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 2465. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



SB2465 Reports. ACT. SMI

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Friday Feb 8, 2024, 10:00 Room 016

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2465:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR 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, prevention agencies and recovery-oriented services.

These reporting and process requirements can help ACT to improve as a comprehensive program to help people with untreated mental illness.

HSAC supports those provisions in this bill that strengthens the reporting process to aid people having severe mental illness, including evaluating and coordinating with service providers.

HSAC recognizes that crisis intervention services and centers will need this stronger data collection process to guide its development to maximize benefits.

It's also important to provide services to those who are denied involuntary commitments so they can be assessed for ACT.

- This can help more people to have access to a mental health evaluation and subsequent treatment that could enable a faster resolution of their cases and a sooner realized benefit from treatment and support for their mental health.

HSAC strongly supports ACT strategies to help people receive effective mental health treatment and/or substance abuse treatment. Providing treatment and support will help people with mental health issues to better access housing, employment and possibly get off the street entirely. This is a clear path to help end homelessness.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions



The Institute for Human Services, Inc.
Ending the Cycle of Homelessness

TO: Honorable Sen. Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Connie Mitchell, Executive Director
IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc.

RE: SB2465 - RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

HEARING: Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10:00 AM

POSITION: IHS supports the passing of SB2465

As the homeless service provider with the most experience filing petitions for assisted community treatment in the State of Hawai'i, The Institute for Human Service supports this bill. Through better tracking usage of high utilizers of emergency services, our care system's capacity for addressing the needs of mentally ill or substance-abusing individuals who have lost their decisional capacity and are refusing needed mental health treatment to be provided such treatment will expand.

This bill calls upon the Department of Health to track petitions and guardianships filed for the purpose of facilitating behavioral health treatment to coordinate the continued treatment of persons who ordinarily cycle through arrests, emergency care at hospitals, adjudication in the courts and detention in our jails. Many of these individuals have also remained homeless on the streets and other places not meant for human habitation for years.

The Department of Health could begin by establishing a database of said information to help providers in our care systems (emergency departments, jails, homeless services providers, behavioral health case managers, and health plans) deliver safe, coordinated care to some of our most vulnerable homeless individuals. Last year, our team at IHS witnessed the deaths of three individuals who had remained on the streets untreated for many years, and in one case, a woman who had wandered the streets of Honolulu for over twenty years. Desiring to improve our quality and cohesion of care for unsheltered persons, IHS' outreach and clinical case managers and a few other service providers have begun utilizing our smartphone application to track interactions with clients and services offered/utilized.

While requests could be made of the Department of Health for such assistance in filing a petition for guardianship or assisted community treatment, the legal work of petitioning could be referred out to agencies contracted to do so or contracted out by the AMHD if funding were provided to them. The coordinating function is the key area that the Department of Health could contribute most significantly. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2465

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:55:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We think that all these additional opportunities to provide screening and assessment for assisted community treatment could be a useful component in the state's attempt to provide mental health treatment. We also think the data tracking could provide useful information to assess the effectiveness of all the different components and tools that are utilized. It would provide a good baseline of information to display the extent and severity of the mental health crisis in the community.

LATE

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FROM: SHANA KUKILA

RE: SB3139 RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES

POSITION: SUPPORT

ALOHA MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,

THIS TESTIMONY IS IN SUPPORT OF SB3139.

CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF GENERAL PUBLIC SAFETY AND SHOULD BE A COMBINED, COORDINATED, AND INTEGRATED EFFORT BETWEEN FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS.

INVOLVING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMPLIES WITH THE FEDERAL PROTECTIONS IN PLACE AND COULD PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE STATE TO PAY FOR POSITIONS AND OTHER SERVICES FOR HAWAII'S MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

MAHALO FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE MY TESTIMONY

SHANA KUKILA

HILO, HI

LATE

SB-2465

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 2:58:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Greg Misakian and I support SB2465.

SB-2465

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:49:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.