



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

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

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

March 7, 2025

To: Senate Committee of Health and Human Services
Chair Joy San Buenaventura,
Vice Chair Henry JC Aquino, and
Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor
Josh Green MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: HB1462 HD1 – RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES

Position: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports this bill to expand the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program for DOH by two additional sites on O`ahu to address the growing problem of homelessness associated with mental health and/or substance abuse issues here, and which represents a blight to our affected communities, and often a dangerous circumstance affecting public safety. The consequences of these behavioral health crisis issues is also a major preventable cause of expensive emergency department and hospital costs which can largely be prevented with appropriate and available treatment and triage options for the tragically affected individuals.

We defer to the DOH on specifics of staffing and funding. However, the need is obvious and urgent.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

LATE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1462, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES
Before the Senate Committee on
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Monday, March 10, 2025, 1:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 1462, House Draft 1, which expands the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program to include at least two sites on the island of Oahu, including one program in an area with a disproportionate number of individuals with mental health conditions, substance use disorders, or homelessness.

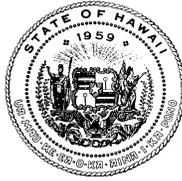
This bill appropriately addresses a critical gap in our community's crisis response infrastructure by establishing targeted service locations in high-need areas. The expansion of crisis intervention services to Oahu, particularly in communities disproportionately affected by mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and homelessness, will provide law enforcement with vital alternatives to the traditional criminal justice system.

Law enforcement officers frequently encounter individuals experiencing mental health crises who would be better served by appropriate healthcare interventions rather than incarceration. Courts and legislative bodies have consistently emphasized that officers should, when safe to do so, assess whether individuals may be suffering from some form of crisis or impairment - whether physical, developmental, cognitive, psychological, mental health, or substance-related - that influences their behavior. This bill directly supports these mandates by expanding the availability of appropriate diversion options.

The DLE has consistently supported similar initiatives that enhance our crisis intervention capabilities, as these programs provide officers with more effective tools to help vulnerable populations while improving public safety outcomes. By diverting appropriate individuals from the criminal justice system to the healthcare system, we can better address underlying issues while reducing unnecessary burdens on our criminal justice resources.

This expansion aligns with the DLE's commitment to community-oriented policing. It will significantly enhance our ability to respond effectively to individuals in crisis, potentially reducing repeat encounters and improving long-term outcomes for these vulnerable populations.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1462 HD1
RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES**

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

Hearing Date and Time: March 10, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Location: Room 225 and Video

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) respectfully requests the
2 addition of an appropriation in this bill to fund a crisis site provided that its passage does not
3 replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

4 **Department Position:** The Department supports the intent of this bill.

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

7 The Department supports the intent of this measure that seeks to expand Crisis Settings
8 on the island of Oahu.

9 Behavioral Crisis Stabilization Settings expediently address mental health or substance
10 use disorder crisis in a most trauma-informed way. If implemented while considering factors
11 such as geography, population, culture, community need, and workforce limitations, cost
12 effectiveness can also be optimized. The first Crisis Stabilization Setting that the Department
13 has opened is the Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) in Iwilei, which is a High-Intensity
14 Behavioral Health Emergency Center and Extended Stabilization Center.

1 To determine best utilization and cost effectiveness of creating a second Behavioral
2 Health Crisis Stabilization Setting, the Department has engaged with a consultant to assess the
3 current state and provide recommendations for a future setting. This includes potential
4 locations and type of setting (e.g. High- or Medium-Intensity Behavioral Health Emergency
5 Center, High- or Medium-Intensity-Behavioral Health Extended Stabilization Centers, or possibly
6 even Stabilization Chairs added to an Emergency Room). Our consultant, Recovery Innovations,
7 is a national leader in this field and has done work in numerous states, including Alaska, where
8 there are numerous rural and remote areas with geographic challenges. They also helped to
9 author the 2025 National Guidelines for a Behavioral Health Coordinated System of Crisis Care.

10 The Department is appreciative of the Legislature’s support of the Crisis Continuum and
11 looks forward to continuing to work with the Legislature and the counties to expand services to
12 communities that would benefit from these services. The Department notes, however, that
13 additional funds would need to be added to the Department’s operating budget to enable
14 continued implementation.

15 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully requests the inclusion of an appropriation
16 to support the opening of the second site. The current Iwilei site has a budgeted cost of
17 \$4,288,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 for operations (not inclusive of startup costs) and anticipate an
18 increase in operating costs for Fiscal Year 2026. The Department notes, however, that this site
19 does not include any rental of space costs. Additionally, the configuration of the second site
20 based on location and community need may not be the same as the Iwilei site, and therefore
21 cost may vary significantly.

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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

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Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy SanBuenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Monday, March 10, 2025

Room 225 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

1:00 PM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 1462 HD1 - CRISIS SERVICES

Aloha Chair SanBuenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,723 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as of March 3, 2025. We are always mindful that 938 - 49.5% - of Hawai'i's male prison population are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates this opportunity to share our strong support for HB 1462 that expands the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program to include at least two sites on O`ahu, including one program in west O`ahu.

We have read through all the testimony on this bill and we see that DOH has hired a consultant, Recovery Innovations, to assess the current state and provide recommendations for a future state. This includes where and in what configuration BHCCs should be expanded across the State.

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, March 3, 2025

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2025-03-03-2.pdf>

This includes where and in what configuration BHCCs should be expanded across the State. This assessment is on-going and the Department anticipates a final report at the end of June 2025. There is a dire need for behavioral health services on O`ahu and we applaud establishing one of the programs in west O`ahu.

Unaddressed behavioral health issues is one of the pathways to incarceration for many of our neighbors, and we are happy that this bill recognizes the need for crisis intervention and diverting individuals to a program where their needs can be properly addressed.

In short - and mindful of DLE's testimony about the need for these services in West O`ahu - Community Alliance on Prisons strongly supports establishing the second O`ahu BHCC in West O`ahu.

Diverting people contending with behavioral challenges into an appropriate program is a much better solution than incarceration, where their mental health issues often worsen.

Community Alliance on Prisons thanks the committee for hearing this bill and we hope that the committee will pass this important bill to stem the flow of people with a myriad of challenges into Hawai`i's carceral system.

Mahalo nui!



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**

LATE

Monday, March 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry J. C. Aquino

From: Ian Ross
Public Affairs Director
ianross@wcchc.com | (808)652-3380

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1462 HD1 - RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) **supports HB1462 HD1**, which expands the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program to establish additional sites on O'ahu, including one program in an area with a disproportionate number of individuals with mental health conditions, substance use disorders, or homelessness. Addressing the ongoing mental health and substance use crisis in our communities requires expanding successful models, and this measure is an important step in ensuring that crisis services are available where they are needed most.

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the West O'ahu community through accessible and affordable medical and traditional healing services, including outreach to people experiencing homelessness, crucial for our community's wellbeing. With 52 years of service, WCCHC is committed to providing comprehensive healthcare by addressing social determinants of health.

West O'ahu faces significant challenges, with a disproportionate number of individuals struggling with mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and homelessness. The need for crisis intervention services is urgent, particularly on the Wai'anae Coast area, where there is a need among unsheltered individuals for access to more care and resources. Our hope is that one of the crisis intervention and diversion sites is located in the 96792 zip code, as the original version of this bill specified. Passage of this bill would help create an essential access point for individuals in crisis, reducing unnecessary interactions with law enforcement and emergency rooms while directing individuals toward appropriate care.

We recommend that the Committee on Health and Human Services pass HB1462 HD1.



HB1462 HD1 Crisis Services Expansion
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Monday Mar 10, 2025, 1:00 Room 225

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 Supports HB1462 HD1

HSAC agrees that many people who suffer from drugs, alcohol or mental illness and are unstable need **crisis services for stabilization and then, if amendable, refer to treatment** such as “co-occurring” substance abuse and mental health treatment so they can recover from their illness.

HSAC applauds that DOH start more behavioral crisis centers on Oahu and supports that adequate resources be funded to cover both operational costs and any rental/remodeling costs.

1. **Stabilization is a good first step to then refer to housing with “support services” and/or an evidence-based treatment program.**
2. To screen, assess, admit for stabilization, and redirect a person to the most appropriate and least restrictive setting available regardless of the person’s ability to pay.
3. Meet all the criteria for a crisis drop off center.

This idea has strong evidential support across the nation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

March 10, 2025; 1:00 PM
Hawai'i State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB1462

To the honorable Chair Joy San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Henry, and members of the committee for this bill, my name is Kasandra Manacio Morse and I am a BSW student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and a resident of Mililani, Hawai'i. I am in support of HB 1462, which is related to Crisis Services.

The proposed measure offers necessary services for people who are unable to access the care to support their mental health. Furthermore, it supports our indigenous population as 51% of the houseless population in Hawaii do identify as Native Hawaiian, which this bill can assist. Having a place for our Kānaka Maoli to find refuge is important. In a general sense, our houseless population do deserve the same care and attention as anyone else will, and providing more crisis intervention and diversion services can assist them in rehabilitation and help them back into society.

The people who would also be using these services are also those who are impacted from substance misuse issues. Speaking from personal experience, I currently intern at a center whose target population is people who do suffer from substance misuse, and the number one concern that is consistent is the access to immediate crisis services. There are a lot of legal implications and processes that clients may need to go through to access basic services, and offering more places would help them get into these services at a quicker rate in order to support their recoveries.

Although I am in support of this bill, a suggestion that I propose in order to further strengthen the impact of this bill is to change when the bill is enacted. It bothers me that IF this Act is passed, it would not be enacted until the new millennium. As you all know, most of us will not be here, and I do not want this bill to be forgotten.

In conclusion, the impact and the changes that the bill can do for our houseless population can be enacted urgently. It is clear that this population deserves the advocacy that they may not be able to get themselves, and I want this bill to be enacted so they have advocates for recovery.

Thank you for your time,
Kasandra Manacio Morse
UH Mānoa, School of Social Work and Public Health
808-636-5316, kmanacio@hawaii.edu

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 9:48:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Salcedo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB1462 with Amendments

Amendment to incorporate language:

1) It is Prohibited for Crisis Center be within One-Half Mile of Any and All Children Schools, Children Recreational Area's, and any Commercial Business Sale's of Alcoholic Beverages that will adversely effect Rehabilitation efforts.

2) No Crisis Center will be constructed, built upon the Waianae Coast, Due to Huge Disparity of Transitional and Treatment Program Housing in comparison to other district's of Oahu. The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Facility is Already Facilitate this initiative programs and 24 hours crisis and emergency care.

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 12:06:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Gunther	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the committee chairs,

I am a medical student in Hawai'i. I strongly support the expansion of crisis intervention and diversion services on Oahu. I recently called a crisis intervention program for a patient who was psychotic. The crisis intervention services enabled this patient to get treatment and prevented them from sleeping on the street. This bill will help reduce costs for the criminal justice and healthcare system. Moreover, it will provide care to some of those most in need and make our community safer.

Thank you for your time,

Maya Gunther

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 4:09:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: March 8, 2025

RE: Upcoming Hearing for HB1462 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES.

Report Title: Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program; Department
of Health

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 1462 HD1. It is apparent that there is a great need in this area, and there will continually be a great need if the state of its condition continues as-is. I am grateful to those who introduced this bill and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

LATE

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:28:35 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha- I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB1462 because of the very high cost of the current Crisis Center (see Department Of Health prior testimony on this bill) and because discussions by members of the State Council On Mental Health (see publicly available recordings of the Feb. 2025 meeting of the State Council on Mental Health) were that the current Crisis Center is underutilized and that best practices need to be worked on for use of the Crisis Center.

As the Department Of Health states in their prior testimony, they have engaged a consultant and will not receive their report until later this year.

As a result, I would suggest that the State refrain from funding the many, many millions it will require to open another Crisis Center and give the Department Of Health a chance to determine their next steps after getting advice from their Consultant.

These proposed millions should then be allocated at this session of the State Legislature to current behavioral health services that are successfully operating within our state.

Thank you.

LATE

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:06:24 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of HB1462 Crisis Services.

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:46:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Hansen, NAMI Hawaii Policy Director	Testifying for National Alliance on Merntal Illness - NAMI	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
March 10, 2025; 1:00 PM
Hawai'i State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB1462

National Alliance on Mental Illness - NAMI Hawaii is committed to advancing efforts to “Reimagine Crisis Response” in our state. We are calling for a standard of care in every community that provides a continuum of crisis services that ends the revolving door of ER visits, arrests, incarceration and homelessness.

~Someone to Call

- Crisis call centers (988) and other hotlines

~Someone to Respond

- Mobile crisis response units
- Crisis intervention teams (CIT)

~Some Place to Go

- Crisis stabilization centers
- Inpatient psychiatric care
- Long-term supportive housing

~Someone to Provide Support

- Comprehensive case management services
- Assisted community and outpatient treatment (ACT, AOT)
- Clubhouses

NAMI Hawaii encourages continued efforts to meet the needs of those struggling with mental health conditions, especially during a time of crisis. Expansion of services on Oahu is critical, but so is the establishment of similar services on all neighbor islands.