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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that thousands of people  
3 in Hawaii are cited or arrested each year for offenses such as  
4 drinking liquor in public, loitering in public parks after  
5 hours, and camping on sidewalks, beaches, and other restricted  
6 public places. Most of these people suffer from issues relating  
7 to drugs, alcohol, or mental illness. Many of those cited do  
8 not appear in court, leading courts to issue bench warrants for  
9 their arrests. Time and resources are expended bringing people  
10 to court, and the court system, prosecutors, and police are  
11 caught in a never-ending revolving door situation. In response  
12 to this situation, mental health service providers have been  
13 working with appropriate law enforcement agencies and the  
14 criminal justice system to implement a crisis intervention  
15 program on the island of Oahu.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to establish a  
17 behavioral health crisis center pilot program in the department



1 of health to redirect persons experiencing a mental health  
2 crisis who are involved with, or at risk for involvement with,  
3 the criminal justice system to the appropriate health care  
4 system and services.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a behavioral health  
6 crisis center pilot program within the adult mental health  
7 division of the department of health to redirect persons  
8 experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis  
9 who are involved with, or are at risk for involvement with, the  
10 criminal justice system to the appropriate health care system  
11 and services.

12 (b) The pilot program shall establish two behavioral  
13 health crisis centers from which to treat and redirect patients  
14 pursuant to the pilot program, one to be located on Oahu and one  
15 at a site on a neighbor island; provided that the department of  
16 health shall determine the most appropriate sites for the  
17 behavioral health crisis centers. The department of health may  
18 lease or acquire property for the establishment of these  
19 behavioral health crisis centers.

20 (c) Each behavioral health crisis center established by  
21 the pilot program shall:



- 1 (1) Address mental health and substance use disorder  
2 crisis issues;
- 3 (2) Screen, assess, admit for stabilization, and redirect  
4 a client to ongoing care in the most appropriate and  
5 least restrictive community setting available,  
6 consistent with the client's needs;
- 7 (3) Provide services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a  
8 week;
- 9 (4) Provide services regardless of the client's ability to  
10 pay, subject to subsection (d);
- 11 (5) Offer a dedicated first responder drop-off area;
- 12 (6) Not require medical clearance before admission of the  
13 client but rather provide assessment and support for  
14 the client's medical stability while at the behavioral  
15 health crisis center;
- 16 (7) Have the capacity to assess physical health needs and  
17 deliver care for most minor physical health  
18 challenges;
- 19 (8) Be staffed at all times with a multidisciplinary team  
20 capable of meeting the needs of clients experiencing



1 all levels of mental health or substance use disorder  
2 crises; and

3 (9) Screen clients for suicide or violence risk and  
4 complete more comprehensive risk assessments and  
5 planning when clinically indicated.

6 (d) No person shall be denied services at a behavioral  
7 health crisis center operated under the pilot program because of  
8 inability to pay; provided that subject to section 334-6, Hawaii  
9 Revised Statutes, the behavioral health crisis center shall make  
10 every reasonable effort to collect appropriate reimbursement for  
11 the cost of providing services to persons with the ability to  
12 pay for services, including insurance or third-party payments.

13 (e) The department shall collaborate with law enforcement  
14 agencies, courts, mental health providers, and community  
15 stakeholders for the execution and implementation of the pilot  
16 program.

17 (f) The adult mental health division of the department of  
18 health shall submit a report to the legislature no later than  
19 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of  
20 2025 and 2026. Each report shall include progress updates on  
21 the establishment of the behavioral health crisis centers,



1 contracting of crisis intervention services and diversion  
 2 activities, actual delivery and utilization of crisis  
 3 intervention services, outcomes of services and diversion  
 4 activities at the behavioral health crisis centers, and  
 5 collection of reimbursements for the cost of providing treatment  
 6 or services, including reimbursements from insurance or third-  
 7 party payments.

8 (g) The behavioral health crisis center pilot program  
 9 shall cease on December 31, 2026.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
 13 the establishment of the behavioral health crisis center pilot  
 14 program, including the leasing or acquisition of property and  
 15 contracting for crisis intervention and diversion services,  
 16 pursuant to this part.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 18 health for the purposes of this part.

19 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
 20 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
 21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the



1 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
 2 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
 3 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
 4 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
 5 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
 6 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total  
 7 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
 8 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
 9 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
 10 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
 11 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
- 13 serve the public interest; and
- 14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
- 15 addressed by this Act.

16 PART II

17 SECTION 5. Chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 18 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
 19 designated and to read as follows:

20 "§334- Behavioral health crisis centers. Pursuant to  
 21 the authority and functions established under sections



1 334-2.5(a)(3)(B) and 334-3(a)(5), the director may establish or  
2 contract with behavioral health crisis centers in each county of  
3 the State to provide care, diagnosis, or treatment for persons  
4 experiencing a mental illness or substance use disorder crisis."

5 PART III

6 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



# H.B. NO. 1831 H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

DOH; Behavioral Health Crisis Center Pilot Program; Behavioral Health Crisis Centers; Crisis Intervention; Diversion; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Establishes the behavioral health crisis center pilot program. Authorizes the Department of Health to establish or contract with behavioral health crisis centers in each county. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

