



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1462 HD1
RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date and Time: February 21, 2025, 2:00 p.m. Location: Room 308 and Video

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) respectfully requests the
2 addition of an appropriation in this bill to fund a second 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 Behavioral
8 Health Crisis Center (BHCC) services on the island of Oahu.

9 BHCCs are an effective response to crisis as they expediently address behavioral or
10 substance use disorder crisis in the most trauma-informed and cost-effective way. The
11 Department has opened one BHCC to date in Iwilei and is currently considering expansion
12 based on community need.

13 To determine best utilization and cost effectiveness, the Department has engaged with
14 a consultant to assess the current state and provide recommendations for a future state. This
15 includes where and in what configuration BHCCs should be expanded across the State. This

1 assessment is ongoing and the Department anticipates a final report at the end of June 2025.
2 Our consultant, Recovery Innovations, is a national leader in this field and has done work in
3 numerous states, including Alaska, where there are numerous rural and remote areas with
4 geographic challenges.

5 The Department is appreciative of the Legislature's support of BHCCs and looks forward
6 to continuing to work with the Legislature and our community to expand services statewide.
7 The Department notes, however, that additional funds would need to be added to the
8 Department's operating budget to enable continued implementation.

9 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully requests the inclusion of an appropriation
10 to support the opening of the second site. The current Iwilei site has a budgeted cost of
11 \$4,288,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 for operations (not inclusive of startup costs) and anticipate an
12 increase in operating costs for Fiscal Year 2026. The Department notes, however, that this site
13 does not include any rental of space costs. Additionally, the configuration of the second site
14 based on location and community need may not be the same as the Iwilei site, and therefore
15 cost may vary significantly.

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



HB1462 HD1 Crisis Services Expansion

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Friday Feb. 21 2025, 2:00 Room 308

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 two more behavioral crisis centers on Oahu, with one located in Waianae 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.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Friday, February 21, 2025

Room 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

2:00 PM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1462 HD1 - CRISIS SERVICES

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi 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 3,703 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the “care and custody” of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on any given day. We are always mindful that 937 - 49.4% - of Hawai`i’s imprisoned male 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. This includes where

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, February 10, 2025

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2025-02-10.pdf>

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**

**Friday, February 21, 2025 at 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**To: Chair Kyle Yamashita
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi**

**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 Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

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.

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.

We thank Representative Darius Kila for introducing this bill and the Committee on Finance for hearing it. Addressing the ongoing mental health and substance use crisis in our communities requires new approaches, and this measure is an important step in ensuring that crisis services are available where they are needed most.

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 in the Wai'anae area, where unsheltered individuals often do not have access to adequate 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 Finance pass HB1462 HD1 to expand these critical services and improve outcomes for individuals in need.

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:19:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victoria Hill | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill and the expansion of 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. These are some of the most critical issues in our population and need as much support as possible.

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:54:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Maile Daniel | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

T. Maile Daniel supports HB1462 HD1: Relating to Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services

Hearing Date: February 21, 2025

Committee: Committee on Finance

Honorable Chair, Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair, Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1462, which seeks to expand the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program by establishing two crisis intervention and diversion sites on Oahu. As a social services professional for the last 18 years, a MSW practicum student, and a mental health advocate, I have witnessed firsthand the critical need for expanded mental health services, particularly for individuals at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system due to mental health and substance use disorders.

Hawaii faces significant challenges related to mental health crises, homelessness, and substance use disorders. According to the 2024 Point In Time Count Report presented by Partners In Care, 33% of our homeless population suffer from mental illness and 26% suffer from a substance use disorder which can include illegal substances and alcohol. Without proper intervention, individuals experiencing these crises often end up in emergency rooms or jails rather than receiving the appropriate care and support. By expanding crisis intervention and diversion services, this bill will help provide immediate, community-based assistance, reducing unnecessary incarceration and emergency room visits while promoting long-term recovery and stability.

I especially support the provision that one of the two new crisis intervention sites be established in a community disproportionately affected by these issues. The 2024 Point In Time Report also showed that our homeless population is made up of 51% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific

Islanders demonstrating the importance of crisis intervention in specific communities. Targeting resources where they are most needed will allow for a more effective and equitable response to our state's mental health crisis. Additionally, collaboration with law enforcement, courts, and mental health providers will ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to crisis intervention.

This bill represents an important step toward a more compassionate and effective response to mental health and substance use crises. I urge you to pass HB1462 to strengthen Hawaii's crisis intervention services and provide individuals in need with the right care at the right time.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Maile Daniel

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:06:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Collins | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please pass the important legislation. Mahalo!

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:44:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Stephanie Austin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this bill to increase services to those who need it the most, and secondarily keep our community safe!

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:22:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Austin Salcedo | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Stronly Oppose with No Reservations for any sort of intentions or different name's called for any State Operations for Crisis Center, Drug Programs Group Living Home's, and Sub-Contractor's. Oahu Waianae Coast have more State operations and Non-profit operations than other districts on Oahu.

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:28:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael I Rice | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I stand in SUPPORT of this bill, while much more than what is laid out needs to be done, it is a first step. Too often we see those with mental illness in the streets simply left to lie where they fall because ‘they’re not a threat to themselves or others’ so ‘no can do nothing’. Unfortunately when it gets to the point they are a threat to themselves or others, the police are called and they really only have basic tools to ‘end the threat’, which usually results in death. Sometimes even those who are lucky enough to not be housed and not on the streets cannot get the help they need.

Some time ago, my cousin who suffers from mental health and substance abuse issues lost his mother, suffered a crisis and got too close to a monk seal. An officer was called, and of course he was not responsive and the officer resorted to using baton strikes and pepper spray to attempt to arrest my cousin. I can’t exactly blame the cop, the officer in question was of rather small stature and my cousin is often described as a gentle giant. Yet, if one of those voices in his head said ‘rip this fucker in half’ he got his hands on that officer he would be dead.

There needs to be more resources aside from police for cases like these, as officers are already stretched thin with their responsibilities.

HB-1462-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:42:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2025 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Gina Kalei Salcedo | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strongly Oppose with No Reservations. No State funding to should be allocated for additional Crisis Center within the Waianae Coast District. The Waianae Coast is well supported of 24/7 operations by Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and numerous State Partnership of Non-Profit Operations. To include State Certified and State DOH Drug Threatment Operations upon the same property of Makaha Gateway Market Place, whereas Commercial Sale of Alcohol Products sold to anyone 21 years of age. The State will continue to be "Aiding & Abbiding" adversely to Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation efforts.