

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
DIRECTOR

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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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1462
RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES
Before the House Committee on
HEALTH
HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
Friday, February 7, 2025, 8:30AM
State Capitol Conference Room 329, & Videoconference
Testifiers: Mike Lambert

Chair Takayama, Marten, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Olds, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports House Bill 1462, which expands the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program to include at least two sites on the island of Oahu, including one program in west Oahu.

The establishment of additional crisis intervention sites, particularly in west Oahu, directly aligns with law enforcement goals of providing appropriate responses to individuals experiencing mental health crises. This expansion will create vital access points for diverting individuals with mental health and substance use disorders away from the criminal justice system and toward appropriate healthcare services.

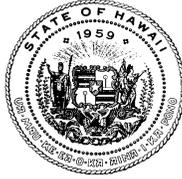
Law enforcement officers frequently encounter individuals in crisis, and having dedicated facilities in strategic locations will significantly enhance our ability to respond effectively to these situations. The addition of a site in west Oahu (96792 postal code)

addresses a critical gap in services for this growing community and provides law enforcement officers with much-needed alternatives to arrest and incarceration when dealing with individuals in crisis.

This program expansion strengthens the collaborative relationship between law enforcement, mental health providers, and the courts, creating a more comprehensive and effective response system for our communities. It supports our ongoing efforts in crisis intervention training and provides our officers with additional resources to fulfill their community-oriented policing responsibilities.

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

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



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A, M.P.H
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1462
RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE SUE L. KEOHOKAPU LEE-LOY, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE LISA MARTEN, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE IKAIKA OLDS, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date and Time: February 7, 2025,8:30 a.m. Location: Room 329 and Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) respectfully requests the
2 addition of an appropriation in this bill to fund a second site.

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

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 that seeks to expand Behavioral
7 Health Crisis Center (BHCC) services on the island of Oahu.

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

1 To determine best utilization and cost effectiveness, the Department has engaged with
2 a consultant to assess the current state and provide recommendations for a future state. This
3 includes where and in what configuration BHCCs should be expanded across the State. This
4 assessment is ongoing and the Department anticipates a final report at the end of June 2025.
5 Our consultant, Recovery Innovations, is a national leader in this field and has done work in
6 numerous states, including Alaska, where there are numerous rural and remote areas with
7 geographic challenges.

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

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

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



HB1462 Crisis Services Expansion

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Friday Feb. 7 2025, 8:30 Room 329

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

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.

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 HEALTH

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair

Representative Sue L. Keohokapu Lee Loy, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair

Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Friday, February 7, 2025

Room 329 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

8:30 AM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1462 - CRISIS SERVICES

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Marten, Vice Chairs Lee Loy and Olds and Members of the Committese!

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 3,697 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% - 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

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, January 20, 2025

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2025-01-20.pdf>

Services Program to include at least two sites on O`ahu, including one program in west O`ahu.

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.

Diverting people contending with behavioral challenges in 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 7, 2025 at 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS**

**To: Chair Gregg Takayama
Chair Lisa Marten
Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy
Vice Chair Ikaika Olds**

**From: Ian Ross
Public Affairs Director**

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1462 - RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES

The Waiānae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) **supports HB 1462**, which expands the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program to establish additional sites on O'ahu, including one in West O'ahu.

Waiānae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is 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 remains committed to providing comprehensive healthcare by addressing social determinants of health.

We thank Representative Darius Kila for introducing this bill and the House Committees on Health and Human Services & Homelessness 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 Coast, where unsheltered individuals often have access to limited resources. By establishing crisis intervention and diversion site in the 96792 zip code, this bill would 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 the passage of HB 1462 to expand these critical services and improve outcomes for individuals in need.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1462

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:57:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I stand in strong support of HB1462, I wanted to help develop the City and County's CORE program, but at the time they only serviced Chinatown & Makiki areas with about 130 individuals under Ian Santee. But since then, I have seen the CORE ambulance had reached Ewa that will really need their services in West Oahu.

I had applied for HPD 911 Operator, but their training session was poorly organized, since it set up in September on Aloha Festivals Parade day, and the pre-test was too antiquated or showed utilities repair which Hawaii didn't have at the time using models from the continent. HPD trainers didn't realize that in Hawaii being a multicultural nation from both East and Western civilizations, we have far better talents with lived experiences than states that have only 2 main cultures. Besides I had passed the 911 exam about 2010, when I wanted to volunteer under my Professor/Doctor/HPD Chief Louis Kealoha! He improved the system with his 10-year plan when he applied as Police Chief, which no one had ever done before and is not widely publicized! If it wasn't for Chief Kealoha, the best professor I had at Chaminade University, I wouldn't have dropped all my advocating for behavioral health and concentrated on getting my Masters of Criminal Justice Administration. His staff also had to do my lifetime of issues dealing with any criminal activity because of the erroneous diagnosis placed on me by the medical profession since 1986, after I left my employment at nonunion Robert's Hawaii Tours, paying all their 6 company bills under comptroller, now President Roy Pfund. From 2000-2010, as a SAMHSA Consultant in Washington DC, a national and state Consumer Executive Council Committee member of NAMI, Hawaii Chapter President of USPRA (U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, now called PRA), and state trainer/coordinator for the Hawaii Certified Peer Specialists trained in Hawaii, Georgia, and Michigan for the Veterans of the Pacific under Tom Hester, MD, Chief of Adult Mental Health Division/DOH.

Some of you may recall how Dr. Hester turned our state from the worst (51st Best) in the nation under federal mandate improved our Hawaii State Hospital with the Community Plan and Judge Ezra and created great programs working with the University of Hawaii's RCUH Mental Health Services, Research, Evaluation, & Training (MHSRET), which brought in an \$11.2 million under the Mental Health Transformation State Infrastructure Grant (MHTSIG) 1 of 9 in the nation, after I testified in 2005 at Rockville, MD in front of SAMHSA CMHS National Advisory Council on my experiences here in Hawaii. They didn't realize that Hawaii was so advanced as an island state. Last year's January visit by NAMI National's Executive Director, Daniel Gillison showed how the organizations such as Mental Health America-Hawaii and NAMI-Hawaii can work together being in so close proximity. This month NAMI Hawaii has released their new

program's which I wasn't able to complete when I brought in their signature program, In Our Own Voice in 2004 when I got hired by AMHD. I am so glad that the CIT program will begin soon to expand the services offered by law enforcement to those that have behavioral health challenges and hopefully the improvement support line of 988, formerly the Access Line Dr. Hester created along with Steve Balcom and Ms. Danielson employed by AMHD!

Since becoming the most improved state in the nation by NAMI in 2006 and Dr. Hester departure from the islands in 2008, everything that he created under the Federal Mandate has since deteriorated such as the Hawaii Certified Peer Specialist program, the only successful program that came out of AMHD, where higher management were blocking the progress reports of the program and claimed they were unable to read the reports created by MHSRET lead by A. Michael Wylie, my immediate supervisor. DOH closed MHSRET and our office in Kaimuki with grad students such as Tia Roberts, because I was told by Wylie that everyone was jealous that I had my own office as someone with a mental health condition.

I worked out of home after I did my last 2-week certification/training in Hilo and had more than 150+ HCPS. I was unable to get the support of HGEA, as an exempt employee, and had to return to DOH Kinau Hale. Although I was given a mediation attempt with the Mediation of the Pacific, I was not advised that I could have someone from HGEA, MP sided with my supervisors and staff, against myself. I was unable to get any assistance from EEOC or any advocacy agency. I was placed back under the Office of Consumer Affairs, with no special accommodations by then supervisor William Lennox and director Karen Krahn and had to work with men formerly from the East Coast who had me doing their work, as the local girl, as well as the HCPS program and support the consumers in Hawaii along with a waiting list for the next training. Within a month, January 29, 2009 due to budget cuts under Governor Lingle's administration due to the collapse of the national economy, I was terminated from my position.

Since then I acquired my Masters degree in 2011, but had turned down an offer to start up a Home for those with mental health and substance use challenges by Mark Chandler of Housing & Urban Development.

Mahalo for supporting HB1462 and letting me share my memories!

HB-1462

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:15:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

It is an absolute scandal that the most vulnerable in our society, especially those unable to take care of themselves, have essentially been abandoned by us. I see it every day in my neighborhood where people experiencing some combination of mental health illness/crisis coupled with addiction are left to fend for themselves. This is unsafe for them and the communities they reside in.

I strongly urge this Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

HB-1462

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:22:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Totally Oppose and Protest Against this entire intent of creating a "Crisis Center" in the 96792 of Senate District-22.

There's available established Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center in operation 24 hours/7 days. **Thats Safely Distance from harmsway from Children Schools, Children Recreational Area's, and from any Elderly Assisted Living and Rehab Facilities.**

The 96792 requires increase manning of State/City Law Enforcements for the criminal activities, and 11 measured Murders that recently occurred within the past #2024 year within the 96792 of Senate District-22.

There's major manning shortage in our HPD Law Enforcements to support this initiative's. Also the Recent Removal of "Posted 24/7 Surveilence" by State DLNR Law Enforcement Agents from the Waianae Boat Harbor.

There's Un-measurable amount of State Approved Drug Threatment Operations, and Transitional Group Living Operations, and NonProfit Operations that Not monitored, No collaboration, and No Transparency to our City Council District Representative, District Neighborhood Boards, State Senator, and State House District Representative's.

Solution: Having the City CORE Department Operation involved to remove Crisis Individuals and relocate to other resoure's outside of the Senate District-22, 96792 Area.