



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1442
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND
ADOLESCENTS.

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

Hearing Date: February 5, 2025

Room Number: 225

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) Child & Adolescent Mental Health
2 Division (CAMHD) strongly supports this bill. It has been 50 years since the Mental Health
3 Services for Children and Youth statutes have been codified. The amendments proposed by this
4 bill bring the statute up to date to reflect the current role of the Child & Adolescent Mental
5 Health Division in addressing intensive mental health needs of children and adolescents in
6 Hawaii.

7 Although originally a branch of the Adult Mental Health Division, Child & Adolescent Mental
8 Health became its own Division of the Department of Health decades ago as research emerged
9 about the distinct and specialized nature of child and adolescent mental health services. Today
10 CAMHD is the state's Medicaid provider for intensive mental health services for children and
11 adolescents with a serious emotional disturbance (SED). CAMHD works collaboratively with
12 other child-serving agencies and has developed a comprehensive array of treatment services for
13 youth with SED via Purchase of Service contracts. Mental health assessments, clinical oversight
14 and care coordination are provided by employees at Family Guidance Centers on Oahu, Hawaii,
15 Maui, and Kauai. In addition, the Family Court Liaison Branch on Oahu provides mental health
16 services to youth who are incarcerated or detained. This system of care is based on core values to
17 provide child and family-centered, culturally sensitive, least restrictive and evidence-based
18 mental health services. Over the past 30 years, CAMHD has leveraged federal system of care
19 grants to actively develop and improve the child and adolescent mental health service system of
20 care in Hawaii based on national standards and best practices.

- 1 In 2023, CAMHD partnered with the University of Hawaii, School of Public Health to conduct a
- 2 five-year statewide needs assessment of mental health services for youth. The final assessment
- 3 report is expected by December of 2027. Once completed, this assessment will be used to
- 4 develop a Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services Plan.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1442

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:19:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To the extent this bill is primarily a housekeeping bill we don't have much to add. However, we want to point out that the mental health services provided to children in the state suffer from a lack of resources and a lack of coordination between the Department of Health and the Department of Education. The fragmentation does not serve the children well and one of the main problems is that there are not adequate facilities or services for children, which at times forces them to be sent out of state in order to obtain treatment. We would urge both CAMHD and the Legislature to do more than simple housekeeping amendments and undertake the effort to actually provide more and better services than they currently do.



Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2025
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

We are in support of SB 1442 relating to mental health services for children and adolescents. Homelessness among youth and young adults is a multifaceted issue, often stemming from family conflict, economic instability, abuse, or neglect. The trauma associated with these experiences can lead to profound mental health challenges. Without the stability of a home and the support of a caring community, these mental health issues can become overwhelming, leaving our young people vulnerable and isolated. Early and consistent mental health interventions can significantly improve outcomes for youth experiencing homelessness.

In clarifying the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division's system of care we ask that the definition of adolescent includes youth up to the age of twenty-four as this aligns with contemporary patterns of growth and adolescent brain development.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla Houser!".

Carla Houser
Executive Director



HAWAI`I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Vonnell Ramos, President
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer
Greg Tjapkes, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive
Director

Network Membership

*Access to Independence TO
Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i
Bobby Benson Center
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai`i
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC `Ohana, Inc.
Friends of the Children's Justice
Center of Maui
Get Ready Hawai`i
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale `Opio Kaua`i, Inc.
Hawai`i Children's Action
Network
Hawai`i Health & Harm
Reduction Center
Hawaii Island Community`
Health Center
Ho`ola Na Pua
Ho`okele Coalition of Kaua`i
Ka Hale Pomaika`i
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Kaua`i Planning and Action
Alliance
Lines for Life Youth Line
Maui Youth and Family Services
Na Pu`uwai Molokai Native
Hawaiian Health Care
Systems
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together
PHOCUSED
Piha Wellness and Healing
Planned Parenthood of the
Great Northwest, Hawaii
Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana
Residential Youth Services
& Empowerment (RYSE)
Salvation Army Family
Intervention Services
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community
Center
The Catalyst Group*

February 2, 2025

To: Senator Joy San Bueanventura, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health and Human
Services

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1442 RELATING TO MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 1442 Relating to Mental Health Services to Children and Adolescents.

This bill provides updates that reflect the current structure of the Department of Health in relation to child and adolescent mental health services and removes outdated language.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

SB-1442

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:29:33 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Godwin Higa	Testifying for Consultant Trauma-Informed Restorative Justice Consultant	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Godwin Higa
Trauma-Informed and Restorative Justice Consultant
Member, Trauma-Informed Task Force Committee
[4666 Aldine Drive, San Diego, CA 92115](#)
February 3, [2025](#)

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill HB1442, which proposes the clarification and updates the responsibilities of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health to reflect the current mental health systems of care that address the mental health needs of children and adolescents in the State.

HB1442 is essential for ensuring our youths are receiving the best care and attention needed to support all youths in Hawaii.

As a Trauma-Informed and restorative justice consultant, I firmly believe that continuous updates and clarification are essential in this fast moving issues that Hawaii youths are currently experiencing.

A positive, trauma-informed environment that supports the well-being of Hawaii youths is critical.

HB1442 are a critical step in initiating the healing process and promoting effective communication among all stakeholders for the sake of Hawaii's youth suffering from various mental health issue's especially the trauma and toxic stress our youth are experiencing daily.

I urge you to pass Bill HB1442, which will provide a vital framework for supporting Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

Mahalo, for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Godwin Higa

SB-1442

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:28:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

As a long time resident of Kaneohe I strongly support the changes to statute that guide the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division. These changes are simple and will update the framework around the agency, which is long overdue.

Mental health is important for us all, and begins early. Let's support those that support our most vulnerable keiki.

This will also dovetail nicely with Hawai'i being a trauma-informed state and the integration of infant and early childhood mental health.

Sincerely,

Christina Simmons

SB-1442

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:07:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2025 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 Judiciary

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 3, 2025

RE: Upcoming Hearing for SB1442

Measure Title: RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN
AND ADOLESCENTS.

Report Title: DOH; Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division; Child and
Adolescent Mental Health; Services Plan

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support Senate Bill 1442 because addressing the adverse childhood experiences, traumas, and mental health needs children and adolescents have will always be imperative, especially considering the direct impact each can have throughout adulthood. Thank you for your consideration, and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore