



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 950, H.D. 1, S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO ASSISTED COMMUNITY TREATMENT ORDERS**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date, Time and Room: Friday, March 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 016/VIDEO

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) appreciates the intent of this  
3 measure and offers comments.

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

6 The purpose of this measure is to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes §334-127, and Hawaii  
7 Revised Statutes §334-130. As drafted, this measure changes the timeframe for duration of the  
8 assisted community treatment court order from no more than one year to no more than two  
9 years, and to increase the criteria for continuing treatment from 80 to 100 days.

10 The Department is committed to addressing the needs of individuals who live with  
11 behavioral health issues and need necessary medical treatment when it is in their best interest.  
12 Assisted Community Treatment (ACT) is an important method to ensure the application of  
13 those services for those who would benefit from treatment over their objection. The  
14 Department is committed to supporting the availability and effectiveness of ACT, including  
15 working with state agencies and community partners to improve access and implementation.

1           We are unaware of data explaining how the proposed changed timeframes will impact  
2 outcomes when providing ACT. We respectfully defer to the Judiciary on items in this bill that  
3 impact judicial proceedings and defer to the Department of the Attorney General for legal  
4 matters.

5           At this time, our goal of effective and efficient use of ACT cannot be accomplished  
6 without changes in practice through training and clarification of instruction.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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