



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

February 19, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **SB2505 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact budget priorities.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to require and appropriate funds to the Department of Health (DOH) establish a continuum of stabilization beds statewide for non-forensic patients with substance abuse or mental health disorders, or both, by repurposing unused state facilities.

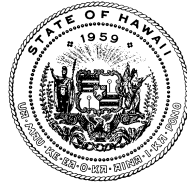
The Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH), a 27-member advisory council chaired by the Coordinator, recently voted to prioritize support for behavioral health reforms and programs as part of its 2020 legislative priorities to address homelessness. In particular, HICH supports the addition of over-150 new stabilization beds statewide, which will serve individuals experiencing severe mental illness, substance use disorder, and the need for medical detox.

The Coordinator notes the clear and critical intersection between homelessness and health, including issues related to behavioral health. Over the past four years, the State has developed and implemented a range of new programs to divert homeless individuals experiencing severe mental illness or substance use disorders to appropriate treatment and support. These new programs include the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program,

intensive case management for homeless individuals, CARES, and the Assisted Community Treatment (ACT) program. Short-term stabilization beds will complement the existing array of services and provide a safe place for individuals to recover and receive appropriate treatment.

While the measure does not specifically address the needs of homeless individuals, there is overlap between individuals experiencing severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders and individuals experiencing homelessness. According to the 2019 Point in Time count, the number of homeless individuals self-reporting severe mental illness on Oahu was 1,060 individuals, representing a 5.8% increase (58 individuals) over the past four years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

LATE

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, PHD
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2505 S.D.1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, February 19th, 2020 at 10:00am Room: 211

Department Position: The Department of Health ("Department") strongly supports this measure and offers the following testimony.

Department Testimony: The subject matter of this measure intersects with the scope of the Department's Behavioral Health Administration ("BHA") whose statutory mandate is to assure a comprehensive statewide behavioral health care system by leveraging and coordinating public, private and community resources. Through the BHA, the Department is committed to carrying out this mandate by reducing silos, ensuring behavioral health care is readily accessible, and person centered. The BHA's Adult Mental Health Division ("AMHD") provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

The Department strongly supports the repurposing of unused state facilities to house non-forensic individuals in short-term residential beds. These short-term residential beds are designed to 1) stabilize the individual's mental health and substance use conditions and 2) assess then triage the individual to a clinically appropriate level of care through the Hawaii Coordinated Access Resource Entry System ("CARES").

The Department, in collaboration with state agency partners through the task force and working group of Act 90 and Act 263 Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, recognizes that the lack of short-term stabilization services throughout the state creates unnecessary burdens on

1 emergency departments, law enforcement, and individuals living with behavioral health issues.
2 Long-term mental health recovery and community reintegration can be achieved through
3 appropriate clinical intervention and consistent flow through a care continuum based on clinical
4 need and level of care.

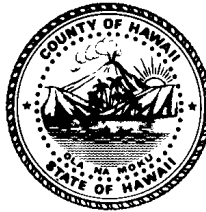
5 Short-term residential stabilization beds provide a sub-acute level of care for individuals
6 whose behavioral health issues do not meet medically necessary criteria for acute
7 hospitalization but whose presentation and current medical status are not conducive or
8 appropriate for community-based services such as low intensity residential, or outpatient
9 services. Constructing sub-acute stabilization services will enhance the state's current care
10 continuum by, for example, helping to reduce unnecessary emergency department admissions,
11 promoting jail diversion opportunities, and better assisting individuals with behavioral health
12 issues to be appropriately triaged through a coordinated care continuum.

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

14 **Offered Amendments:** None.

15 **Fiscal Implications:** There are other measures being heard by the legislature that allow the
16 Department to use the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Special Fund for the purposes
17 described in this measure including H.B. 0035-H.D.1, H.B. 2022, H.B. 2349, S.B. 2506-S.D.1, and
18 S.B. 2905. The Department respectfully requests that beyond legislative approval of use of the
19 special fund for these purposes that any additional appropriations made available through this
20 measure do not supplant budget priorities identified in the Governor's executive budget.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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February 18, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL ON SB 2505 SD 1, RELATING TO HEALTH

Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, February 19, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2505 SD 1, relating to health. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Public Safety Committee.

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Health to establish short-term residential beds for the purpose of stabilization from mental health and substance abuse use, and to assess patients and triage to clinically appropriate level of care through the Hawai'i coordinated access resource entry system. The Lack of stabilization beds is a significant gap in services during its first three months of operation. Current options for those needing stabilization from substance abuse, mental health, and homelessness are stretched and emergency facilities throughout the State have experienced substantial increases in psychiatric emergency admissions, which has resulted in overcrowding and unsafe environments for patients and medical staff. Repurposing unused State facilities to address this social service gap will keep the financial costs in a manageable level, and will help those in need.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

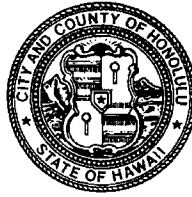
Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, #211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB2505 SD1 Relating to Health
In Support

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department which manages both the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Ocean Safety Lifeguard Services Divisions (OSD) for the City and County of Honolulu is in support of this measure.

Both the EMS and OSD Divisions are significantly impacted by the prevalence of individuals struggling with substance abuse, mental health conditions and homelessness. These impacts include employee safety, repeated responses by limited emergency response resources, transport to emergency room facilities and community complaints regarding the activities of these identified groups in the legislation.

Our EMS Division participated in task force and working groups respectively and it is the Department's position that this measure is a critical additional step in ensuring the safety of our responders, the general community and the population identified in SB2505 SD1.

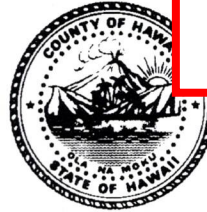
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the issue of major importance to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Howe Jr.", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

James D. Howe Jr.
Director

Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE

Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 18, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2505, SD1 Relating to Health

When it comes to the homeless, I rely heavily on Hawai'i Island's Continuum of Care, Community Alliance Partners for guidance. My understanding is that the CAP Executive Committee has identified SB 2505 as a priority, having found a strong correlation between mental illness and homelessness.

It is my hope that this Legislature can find appropriate funding for this important initiative.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2020 4:58:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Rantz	Testifying for Hawaii State Rural Health Association	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2020 7:22:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:



SB2505 SD1 Stabilization Beds

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:

- Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair; Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
- Wednesday: Feb. 19th, 2020: 10:00 am
- Conference Room 211

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2505 SD1:

GOOD MORNING CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of over 30 non-profit alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.

HSAC RECOMMENDS THAT PRIVATE NON-PROFITS COULD OPERATE STATE FACILITIES FOR NON-FORENSIC BEDS AND COULD SUPPLEMENT STATE FUNDING, INCLUDING FUND RAISING TO REMODEL AS WELL AS ACCESSING NON-STATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS.

For non-forensic patients: The reasons for creating Stabilization Services for Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Disorders and Transition Placement services is that we need to help our current systems that are overwhelmed with high utilizers of expensive emergent care for people with chronic conditions of mental health and substance use disorders.

- High utilizers typically are vulnerable populations with complex problems involving high behavioral health needs and multiple chronic conditions. Due to these complicated medical needs, such patients tend to heavily rely on ER facilities and are difficult to engage in ongoing care, especially with primary care providers.
- The emergency department is the last-resort healthcare where 5% of patients account for 25% of the visits. These are medically and socially complex patients. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) indicated that in 2010, the top 1% of high cost patients accounted for 21.4% of total healthcare spending at an average annual cost of \$87,570.

ECG Management Consultants: Siemens Healthineers Company: Rethinking Care for Emergency Department Super Utilizers in a Value-Based World (2016). <https://www.ecgmc.com/thought-leadership/articles/rethinking-care-for-emergency-department-super-utilizers-in-a-value-based-world>

Colonial Penn Center: Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics (2016): Targeting High Utilizers of Health Care <https://ldi.upenn.edu/sumrblog/targeting-high-utilizers-health-care>

Government resource expenditures for high utilizers are huge:

- Across three systems: healthcare (emergency care), criminal justice (including law enforcement, courts and corrections) and homelessness, high utilizers tax state [and city] mental health services yet still don't get adequate care for the severe often untreated mental illness and substance use disorders.
- Police are overwhelmed with responding to crisis situations with homeless people who have a drug induced psychosis from being high on methamphetamine. Frequently, such homeless are recycling through emergency care.

WHYY: PBS/NPR: High Utilizers tax state mental health services, but still don't get adequate care. <https://whyy.org/articles/high-utilizers-taxstate-mental-health-services-but-still-dont-get-adequate-care/>



Complex Patients need multiple levels of care to meet their individual need:

- Stabilization beds are a level of care that is needed for high end utilizers because we have high levels of care for acute emergent needs and then the only option for them is to step down to a lower more stabilized level of care when they are not yet stabilized.
- Given that the only option for people with high acuity, multiple chronic conditions is emergent care or treatment, they are often placed into higher levels of expensive, emergent care for a longer period of time or more likely, they are discharged from expensive, emergent care in a very short time and released back to the community rather than accessing treatment that requires some functionality and motivation.
- We need to implement the appropriate short term level of care to stabilize such patients until they can transition into residential or outpatient treatment services.



Patients can start with a Subacute Residential Stabilization level of care or transition down from emergent care:

- Emergency rooms are over utilized in some situations because it is the most accessible part of the system. Some patients need stabilization not emergent care.
- Other patients can transition to this care once their immediate crisis is addressed after emergent care. A post-stabilization period is often needed because their treatment goals have not been addressed in short term emergent care.



Without treatment options, the patient will not progress towards recovery but regress and end up back in the emergency department:

- This tragic cycle occurs because we have failed to stand up enough options that are accessible in the community.
- There needs to be options so that a “warm handoff” to a community setting can be made after stabilization to continue treatment and reduce the risk of recurrence of crisis acute admissions.



We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Senate Bill 2505 SD1
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

The Democratic Part of Hawai'i (The Party) stands in **support of SB2505 SD1** Relating to Health, which requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Health to establish a continuum of stabilization beds statewide for non-forensic patients with substance abuse or mental health disorders, or both, by repurposing unused state facilities.

Having a facility, or multiple facilities, in every county that increase access for those living with a mental health diagnoses, would benefit everyone in the state of Hawai'i.

Governor Ige's Administration has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the intersection of mental and physical health and homelessness by appointing the Lt. Governor as the point person for a more comprehensive and holistic approach — which would be complemented well by the stabilization facilities called for in this proposal.

Prioritizing access for the homeless community will drastically reduce the financial strain on emergency services in the state, including hospital visits and crime. According to Hope Services, 33 percent of Hawai'i's homeless population are mentally ill and 21 percent suffer with a substance abuse disability. If we treat the underlying illnesses, homelessness will be drastically reduced; causing a safer and more productive community for all people.

Homelessness among mentally ill is associated with fewer psychiatric and stabilization hospital beds. In 2006, Markowitz published data on 81 US cities, looking at correlations between the decreasing availability of psychiatric hospital beds and the increase in crime, arrest rates, and homelessness. As expected, he found direct correlations. This is consistent with past studies in Massachusetts and Ohio that reported that 27 and 36 percent of the discharges from state mental hospitals had become homeless within six months. It is also consistent with a study in New York that found that 38 percent of discharges from a state hospital had "no known address" six months later.

Read more at: <https://mentalillnesspolicy.org/consequences/homeless-mentally-ill.html>

The need for both inpatient and outpatient treatment for those living with severe mental illness, including those who are homeless, is a need that it exists in every county. As it stands right now, those living on neighbor Islands who require this type of assistance in order to live as productively as they are able, must get on a waiting list for the one facility that exists in Honolulu County.

Every person, regardless of the disability that they might be living with, deserves an opportunity to live with grace and dignity. For those that require stabilization in order to proceed to the next step in their treatment, this includes making sure that they have access to help when needed.

For these reasons we urge to vote favorably on this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Josh Frost
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Zahava Zaidoff
Co-Chair, Legislation Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2505: RELATING TO HEALTH

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawaii, Inc.
Hearing: Wednesday 2/19/20, 10:00am, Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **recommendations and testimony in support of SB 2505**, which would require the department of health to establish short-term residential beds for the purpose of stabilization from mental health and substance use. **I strongly encourage you to make funding appropriated for this purpose also available to county facilities**, so stabilization beds may be funded at Keolahou, a county-owned emergency homeless shelter and assessment center. **If only state facilities are granted this opportunity, we would not be able to create stabilization beds at Keolahou, which is less than half a mile from Hilo Medical Center.**

Time and time again, we see the need for crisis stabilization beds for our clients who suffer from mental illness and chronic homelessness. They frequently experience psychotic episodes so severe they are unable to take care of themselves. Some refuse treatment, while others are chronic over-utilizers of emergency services. Those who do seek help for mental health or substance abuse often have to jump through hoops just to receive an assessment, let alone treatment.


Angela Kalani, who works at our Hilo men's shelter, shared the story of a former resident named "Josiah." Josiah was a "level 5," which means he suffered from the most severe level of mental illness, and was considered too psychotic to be referred to the 24-hour residential services at Mental Health Kokua. In fact, there is nowhere on Hawai'i Island that patients like Josiah can be referred for residential psychiatric treatment.

Josiah was just about to move into permanent housing, when he had a psychotic episode and attempted suicide. "He went ballistic and broke the windows" says Angela. "This man was violently beating himself up because he believed if he punched his guts, they would explode and he would die." Josiah was taken to Hilo Medical Center, but because he was a danger to other shelter residents, if he was discharged before his new home was ready he'd be back out on the streets. "I went to Hilo Medical Center and advocated for them to keep him until he got into housing. I tried to get him a psychiatric bed, but they were full. Luckily he had a hand injury so they could take him on medical level—if he hadn't had that injury he would not have been able to stay in the hospital."

Stories like Josiah's are far too common, and investing in facilities we already have is a no-brainer solution. We've seen this model succeed with Ohana Zones, and we are likely to see an improvement in mental health and permanent housing rates, as well as a decrease in utilization of emergency services by passing this bill.

When we help our most vulnerable residents face their challenges, we create a better Hawai'i for all of us. I urge you to join us in that effort by **supporting SB 2505 with amendments to include county facilities.**

Mahalo nui for your consideration,


Brandee Menino
Chief Executive Officer

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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Brandee Menino



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2505, SD1: RELATING TO HEALTH

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members, Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: **Wednesday, 2/19/20; 10:00 AM; CR 211**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members, Committee on Ways & Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of SB 2505, SD1**, which would require the Department of Health to establish short-term residential beds for the purpose of stabilization from mental health and/or substance abuse. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We are also a member of Partners in Care.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Catholic Charities Hawai'i has a long history of working in the areas of affordable housing and homelessness.

Hawaii's mental health crisis continues, especially for many of the homeless people we see living on our streets. There is a huge gap in services for those suffering from mental health conditions and/or substance abuse. Often, they may be inappropriate for emergency shelters which are not set up to handle their complex medical conditions. Yet these are the folks who need help the most. As a community, we must seek ways to effectively and humanely help. Without additional resources, our emergency rooms, the police and emergency services will continue to be overtaxed and overused.

This bill would provide short-term stabilization beds which would allow homeless to receive assessment and links to appropriate levels of care. These beds are a missing piece to help homeless who are not sick enough to be hospitalized. By providing this respite from the streets, the program will also allow for outreach and housing navigation and other services to be offered. SB 2505 would create coordination between behavioral health services and homeless services to better serve these very vulnerable homeless people.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i also urges your support for SB 2506 which would provide the funding for these stabilization beds and the capital improvements needed to ensure best practices.

We urge your support for SB 2505 as well as SB 2506 which will provide funding for SB 2505. Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808) 373-0356 • bettylou.larson@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org






THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: Rowena Buffett Timms, Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer, The Queen's Health Systems

 Colette Masunaga, Manager, Government Relations & External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 17, 2020

Hrg: Senate Committee on Ways and Means Decision Making; Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. in room 211

Re: **Support for SB2505 SD1, Relating to Health**

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2505 SD1, relating to health. The proposed bill would require and appropriate funds for the Department of Health to establish a continuum of stabilization beds statewide for non-forensic patients with substance abuse or mental health disorders, or both, by repurposing unused state facilities.

As one of two providers of non-forensic acute care psychiatric services on Oahu, Queen's appreciates the efforts of the legislature and the Department of Health in developing a system of care for our mental health and substance use disorder patients and ensuring continuity in services, particularly for our MH-1 patients. MH-1 is a designation given to individuals transported to hospitals by the law enforcement who have reason to believe that the person is imminently dangerous to self or others. At Queen's, these individuals present to the Emergency Department (ED) where evaluation and possible treatment, if needed, take place. The Queen's Medical Center, Punchbowl has experienced disproportionate increases in the numbers of MH-1s brought to our facility over the years. In calendar year 2019, over 1,600 individuals were brought in on an MH-1. Of those individuals, over half did not meet the criteria for involuntary hospitalization. Although we have dedicated patient rooms for treating those with psychiatric illness, we had experienced times when we are at capacity and must find space in our Emergency Department to evaluate and treat. The proposed bill provides for resources and capacity within the community, at a level of care that is appropriate for this population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 10:00 AM Room 211

From: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Strong Support for SB 2505 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) strongly supports SB 2505 SD1 which would require the Department of Health to establish short-term residential beds for the purpose of stabilization from mental health and/or substance use. These short-term beds will allow the assessment and triage of people into the clinically appropriate level of care through Hawaii CARES (Hawaii Coordinated Access Resource Entry System). This resource is sorely missing in our community, which results in the overuse of Hawaii's already taxed emergency departments, excessive police and EMS involvement, and medically vulnerable people suffering on our streets because they are not ill enough to be admitted but too medically complex for most existing behavioral health programs.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities. We foster health, wellness, and systemic change in Hawai'i and the Pacific through care services, advocacy, training, prevention, education, and capacity building. HHHRC works at the intersection of homelessness, substance use and mental health. Everyday, HHHRC has contact with people on the streets that need a higher level of care, but have nowhere to go except cycling through our police department, jails and the hospital system. By creating an extra level of services to assess and triage people, agencies like HHHRC can help provide services by knowing where to find our clients and provide services that are clinically appropriate based on a coordinated treatment plan.

SB 2505 is aligned with the recommendations of the Act 90 and Act 263 which examined gaps within the behavioral health system of care. We also respectfully ask for support of SB 2506 which would provide funding for stabilization beds and the capital improvements needed to make them aligned with best practices. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:57:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Tanigawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurse who has worked in the community of Oahu for the last 15 years. I support this bill for many reasons. Primarily, many of the vulnerable clients that are being shuttled to local Emergency Departments and are cared for on the street by the EMS personnel would benefit so much from this alternative level of care. This current gap of care in our system is causing many of the most medically and mentally fragile to cycle through the jails, the local ERs, and the HPD Central Receiving Division. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:55:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Christina MB Wang	Testifying for Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	No

Comments:



PARTNERS IN CARE Oahu Continuum of Care

LATE

Partners in Care is a coalition of Oahu's homeless service providers, government representatives and community stakeholders working together in partnership to end homelessness.

Testimony in Support of SB 2505 SD 1 Relating to Health

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Partners in Care (PIC)
HEARING: February 19 @ 10:00 am room 211
RE: Strong Support for SB 2505 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Partners in Care (PIC) **strongly supports SB 2505 SD1** which would require the Department of Health to establish short-term residential beds for the purpose of stabilization from mental health and/or substance use. These short-term beds will allow the assessment and triage of people into the clinically appropriate level of care through Hawaii CARES (Hawaii Coordinated Access Resource Entry System). This resource is sorely missing in our community, which results in the overuse of Hawaii's already taxed emergency departments, excessive police and EMS involvement, and medically vulnerable people suffering on our streets because they are not ill enough to be admitted but too medically complex for most existing behavioral health programs.

PIC and its member organizations are receiving technical assistance (TA) from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address the crisis of unsheltered homeless in our community. The HUD TA providers, PIC leadership and member organizations have identified a significant gap in the continuum of homeless services for those on the street that suffer from mental health and/or substance use for those who are inappropriate for emergency shelter because of mental health, substance use or other complex medical conditions. SB 2505 would provide a respite from the streets for these vulnerable populations and will allow for homeless outreach and housing navigation as well as other wrap around services to be offered, in addition to being able to know where to find and connect with those who are homeless. SB 2505 will provide a coordinated intersection for the behavioral health continuum of care and the homeless continuum of care and link CARES with the homeless Coordinated Entry System (CES).

SB 2505 is aligned with the recommendations of the Act 90 and Act 263 which examined gaps within the behavioral health system of care. We also respectfully ask for support of SB 2506 which would provide funding for stabilization beds and the capital improvements needed to make them aligned with best practices.

We urge your support for SB 2505 as well as SB 2506 which will provide funding for SB 2505 SD1. Thank you for focusing on the intersection of homelessness, substance use and mental health. If you have questions, please contact our Advocacy Chair, Gavin Thornton, at (808)366-7875.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 5:12:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Huynh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Capitol, #211

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

I am a medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve.

I believe that it is important to allocate resources and appropriation specifically towards repurposing facilities for stabilization beds. Patients who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse are often stuck in a cycle that they cannot escape without medication or treatment. Currently, Hawaii does not have enough beds for patients who need sub-acute support outside a hospital. With no safe place to stay nor access to critical treatment, these patients eventually end up returning to our Emergency Rooms and on the streets. This outcome is a lose-lose for both the patient's health as well as the State of Hawaii.

It is now an ideal opportunity to repurpose un-used State of Hawaii facilities to provide a safe place for Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens. We urge you to support of SB2502

now. With your support to PASS bill SB2502, we can fulfill the critical gap in care for those seeking outreach and recovery services.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 5:55:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Dae Claypoole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Capitol, #211

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

I am a medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve. My father is also a clinical psychologist who works in the state's Jail Diversion Program, so my whole life I have heard about the lack of beds and healthcare for this at-risk population.

I believe that it is important to allocate resources and appropriation specifically towards repurposing facilities for stabilization beds. Patients who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse are often stuck in a cycle that they cannot escape without medication or treatment. Currently, Hawaii does not have enough beds for patients who need sub-acute support outside a hospital. With no safe place to stay nor access to critical treatment, these patients eventually end up returning to our Emergency Rooms and on the streets. This outcome is a lose-lose for both the patient's health as well as the State of Hawaii.

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SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 6:52:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eryn Nakashima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Capitol, #211

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

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SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 7:50:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kori Higashiy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Hawaii State Capitol, #211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

I am a medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve.

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SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 9:56:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyssa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 8:08:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amelia Hummel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)**Hawaii State Capitol, #211****Honolulu, Hawaii 96813****STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS**

I am a medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve.

I believe that it is important to allocate resources and appropriation specifically towards repurposing facilities for stabilization beds. Patients who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse are often stuck in a cycle that they cannot escape without medication or treatment. Currently, Hawaii does not have enough beds for patients who need sub-acute support outside a hospital. With no safe place to stay nor access to critical treatment, these patients eventually end up returning to our Emergency Rooms and on the streets. This outcome is a lose-lose for both the patient's health as well as the State of Hawaii.

It is now an ideal opportunity to repurpose un-used State of Hawaii facilities to provide a safe place for Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens. We urge you to

support of SB2502 now. With your support to PASS bill SB2502, we can fulfill the critical gap in care for those seeking outreach and recovery services.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 8:22:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Pono Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Capitol, #211

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

I am a medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve.

I believe that it is important to allocate resources and appropriation specifically towards repurposing facilities for stabilization beds. Patients who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse are often stuck in a cycle that they cannot escape without medication or treatment. Currently, Hawaii does not have enough beds for patients who need sub-acute support outside a hospital. With no safe place to stay nor access to critical treatment, these patients eventually end up returning to our Emergency Rooms and on the streets. This outcome is a lose-lose for both the patient's health as well as the State of Hawaii.

It is now an ideal opportunity to repurpose un-used State of Hawaii facilities to provide a safe place for Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens. We urge you to support of

SB2502 now. With your support to PASS bill SB2502, we can fulfill the critical gap in care for those seeking outreach and recovery services.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 9:13:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Gorenflo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Capitol, #211

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

I am a medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve.

I believe that it is important to allocate resources and appropriation specifically towards repurposing facilities for stabilization beds. Patients who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse are often stuck in a cycle that they cannot escape without medication or treatment. Currently, Hawaii does not have enough beds for patients who need sub-acute support outside a hospital. With no safe place to stay nor access to critical treatment, these patients eventually end up returning to our Emergency Rooms and on the streets. This outcome is a lose-lose for both the patient's health as well as the State of Hawaii.

It is now an ideal opportunity to repurpose un-used State of Hawaii facilities to provide a safe place for Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens. We urge you to support of SB2502 now. With your support to PASS bill SB2502, we can fulfill the critical gap in care for those seeking outreach and recovery services.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 9:59:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clarke Morihara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 11:17:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cori Sutton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 3:30:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This would be a huge contribution to tackling these health issues for those of the less-fortunate. I am in full support of advocating for this.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 4:51:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Reinhardt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of SB2505. We need to make the resources available to the homeless population to help them off the street. As a medical student, I work with the homeless and see the need for additional services to help people who are not quite sick enough for the ER, but really need intervention to help them on their way to health and recovery. Our population will be healthier with this bill and our streets will be safer.

Respectfully,

Joanna Reinhardt

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Hawaii State Capitol, #211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

I am a medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve.

I believe that it is important to allocate resources and appropriation specifically towards repurposing facilities for stabilization beds. Patients who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse are often stuck in a cycle that they cannot escape without medication or treatment. Currently, Hawaii does not have enough beds for patients who need sub-acute support outside a hospital. With no safe place to stay nor access to critical treatment, these patients eventually end up returning to our Emergency Rooms and on the streets. This outcome is a lose-lose for both the patient's health as well as the State of Hawaii.

It is now an ideal opportunity to repurpose un-used State of Hawaii facilities to provide a safe place for Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens. We urge you to support of SB2502 now. With your support to PASS bill SB2502, we can fulfill the critical gap in care for those seeking outreach and recovery services.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 7:53:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eden Ines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Hawaii State Capitol, #211

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

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SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 8:00:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 9:51:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen Chen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve.

I believe that it is important to allocate resources and appropriation specifically towards repurposing facilities for stabilization beds. Patients who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse are often stuck in a cycle that they cannot escape without medication or treatment. Currently, Hawaii does not have enough beds for patients who need sub-acute support outside a hospital. With no safe place to stay nor access to critical treatment, these patients eventually end up returning to our Emergency Rooms and on the streets. This outcome is a lose-lose for both the patient's health as well as the State of Hawaii.

It is now an ideal opportunity to repurpose un-used State of Hawaii facilities to provide a safe place for Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens. We urge you to **support SB2502** now. With your support to PASS bill SB2502, we can fulfill the critical gap in care for those seeking outreach and recovery services.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 10:27:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a much needed program.

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:15:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jester Galiza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:51:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aiko Murakami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
Hawaii State Capitol, #211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

STRONG SUPPORT for SB2505 SD1 – STABILIZATION BEDS FOR NON-FORENSICS PATIENTS

My name is Christina Tse and I am a second-year medical student who strongly supports SB2502 to create a continuum of stabilization beds for non-forensic patients. As a medical student, we study the latest evidence and studies in both substance abuse and mental health disorders. We also have the privilege of learning directly from both Hawaii's experts and the patients we serve.

I believe that it is important to allocate resources and appropriation specifically towards repurposing facilities for stabilization beds. Patients who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse are often stuck in a cycle that they cannot escape without medication or treatment. Currently, Hawaii does not have enough beds for patients who need sub-acute support outside a hospital. With no safe place to stay nor access to critical treatment, these patients eventually end up returning to our Emergency Rooms and on the streets. This outcome is a lose-lose for both the patient's health as well as the State of Hawaii.

It is now an ideal opportunity to repurpose un-used State of Hawaii facilities to provide a safe place for Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens. We urge you to support of SB2502 now. With your support to PASS bill SB2502, we can fulfill the critical gap in care for those seeking outreach and recovery services.

Respectfully,
Christina Tse
MD Candidate, Class of 2022
University of Hawai'i - John A. Burns School of Medicine.

LATE

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:10:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Staley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:07:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Maxera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2505. Short-term stabilization beds are sorely needed. I work with the houseless community, and because these short-term residential beds are not available some of the most vulnerable people in our community end up in jail or the emergency room. We cannot ignore the needs of our medically vulnerable community members and leave them to suffer on the streets. Please support SB2505!

LATE

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:33:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Shaku	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2505-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:33:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aashish Hemrajani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: