

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **525**-22

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17, 2022

RE: H.B. No. 1666  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 1666 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to create a pilot program to make one or more licensed mental health counselors available to assist county first responders in responding to mental health crises in areas with high rates of homelessness.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu and Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, Department of Budget and Finance, and Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that, according to the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, approximately twenty-five percent of homeless persons in the United States suffer from a severe mental illness. Your Committee further finds that law enforcement officers who are dispatched to respond to a homeless person experiencing a mental health crisis often lack the expertise and resources to adequately help.

2022-1350 HB1666 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee recognizes that the Adult Mental Health Division of the Department of Health currently administers similar crisis mobile outreach services on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Oahu and a continuum of similar services for severely mentally ill adults. Your Committee further recognizes that in October 2021 the City and County of Honolulu launched its Crisis Outreach Response and Engagement program, which is designed to triage and connect homeless individuals to behavioral health and medical services, and collaborates with the Honolulu Emergency Services Department and Honolulu Police Department.

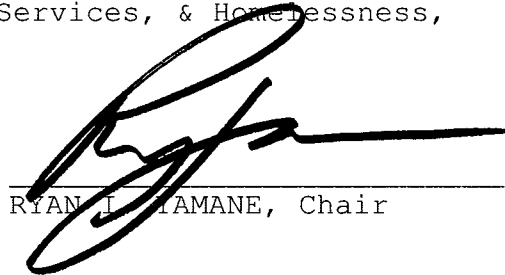
Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Establishing the pilot program in the Adult Mental Health Division of the Department of Health rather than in the Department of Human Services and adjusting the appropriation expending agency accordingly;
- (2) Clarifying that the purpose of the pilot program is to expand existing county programs that make one or more licensed mental health counselors available to assist county first responders in responding to mental health crises in areas in the urban core with high rates of homelessness;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1666, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1666, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health, Human  
Services, & Homelessness,



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RYAN J. YAMANE, Chair



State of Hawaii  
 House of Representatives  
 The Thirty-first Legislature

HSCR 525-22

Record of Votes of the Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1666	Committee Referral: HHH, FIN	Date: 02/10/2022		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HHH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. YAMANE, Ryan I. (C)	✓			
2. TAM, Adrian K. (VC)	✓			
3. GATES, Cedric Asuega	✓			
4. HAR, Sharon E.	✓			
5. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
6. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	✓			
7. WARD, Gene				✓
TOTAL (7)	6			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				