



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ
235 S. Beretania Street, 16TH Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

COMMISSIONERS
HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)

HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Resolution 135, Urging the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System to Define Their Role and to Provide an Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress the State Has Made Towards Jail Diversion

Hearing: Monday, March 25; 10:30am
State Capitol, Room 026

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission, HCSOC) **supports** Senate Concurrent Resolution 135, Urging the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System to Define Their Role and to Provide an Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress the State Has Made Towards Jail Diversion. The Commission is particularly supportive of the data gathering on the various community programs funded by the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, and the Judiciary, that provide various services in the SAMHSA intercept model.

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) details how individuals with mental and substance use disorders come into contact with and move through the criminal justice system. And, more importantly, the SIM helps communities identify resources and gaps in services at each intercept and develop local strategic action plans. The SIM mapping process brings together leaders and different agencies and systems to work together to identify strategies to divert people with mental and substance use disorders away from the justice system into treatment.

As an entity mandated to formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility and ensure humane treatment within Hawaii's

Senate Concurrent Resolution 135, Urging the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System to Define Their Role and to Provide an Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress the State Has Made Towards Jail Diversion

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senate Committee on Judiciary

March 25, 2024, 10:30am

correctional facilities, the Commission's mission aligns closely with this resolution's objectives as the Commission believes the SIM is essential for effective jail diversion.

It is the Commission's hope that the required annual report to the Legislature of the identified programs, their capacities, and detailed reasons for the high failure rate and unmet needs also be made public to ensure greater transparency and accountability of the State's efforts towards continued reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LEANNE GILLESPIE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARK K. PATTERSON
ADMINISTRATOR

PHONE: (808) 266-9500
FAX: (808) 266-9506

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
42-470 KALANIANA'OLE HIGHWAY
KAILUA, HAWAII 96734

March 24, 2024

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Mark Patterson, Administrator
Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility
Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Resolution 135, Urging the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health, and the Justice System to Define Their Role and to Provide an Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress the State Has Made Towards Jail Diversion Hearing: Monday, March 25; 10:30am State Capitol, Room 026

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of Youth Service (OYS) **strongly supports** Senate Concurrent Resolution 135, Urging the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health, and the Justice System to Define Their Role and to Provide an Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress the State Has Made Towards Jail Diversion. Specifically, within the youth and young adult At-Risk Serving state agencies. The Commission is particularly supportive of the data gathering on the various community programs funded by the Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services, Department of Health, and the Judiciary (Family Court), that provide various services in the SAMHSA intercept model within the Juvenile Criminal Justice System.

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) details how individuals with mental and substance use disorders encounter and move through the criminal juvenile justice system. And, more importantly, the SIM helps communities identify resources and gaps in services at each intercept and develop local strategic action plans. The SIM mapping process brings together leaders and different agencies and systems to work together to identify strategies to divert at-risk youth and young adults with mental and substance use disorders away from the Juvenile and Adult justice systems into treatment.

Of the current youth population committed to HYCF over 90% have dual mental health diagnosis. These youth are being committed due to lack of services in the community for higher level of mental health care. There is also a need for transitional mental health services for this age group

Senate Concurrent Resolution 135, Urging the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System to Define Their Role and to Provide an Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress the State Has Made Towards Jail Diversion
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 25, 2024, 10:30am

as they are also being documented in the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Centers homeless shelters for 18-24 year old.

OYS is mandated to formulate policies and procedures to prevent, program and transition at risk youth in the state of Hawaii. OYS mission aligns closely with this resolution's objectives as the OYS believes the SIM is essential for continuing and sustaining the current diversion efforts in the Criminal Juvenile Justice Reform.

It is OYS hope that the required annual report to the Legislature of the identified programs, their capacities, and detailed reasons for the high failure rate and unmet needs also be made public to ensure greater transparency and accountability of the State's efforts towards continued reform. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Mark Patterson
Administrator, HYCF



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

**Senate Committees on Health and Human Services
and Judiciary**

Monday, March 25, 2024
10:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016, and Videoconference

Comments

**S.C.R. No. 135, URGING THE GOVERNOR'S SENIOR ADVISOR FOR MENTAL HEALTH
AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO DEFINE THEIR ROLE AND TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROGRESS THE STATE HAS MADE TOWARDS
JAIL DIVERSION**

Chairs San Buenaventura and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Aquino and Gabbard, and members of the Committees:

The Office of the Governor and Dr. Michael Champion, Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System, are spearheading a critical initiative in partnership with departments in the Executive Branch, the Judiciary, the counties, and community stakeholders. This initiative aims to assess and drive implementation of a targeted approach to improve Hawaii's statewide implementation of the Sequential Intercept Model and related continuum to provide off-ramps from the criminal justice pathway into services through upstream deflection/diversion, enhance services in jails/prisons, and support robust re-entry services. As the transition from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation unfolds, it is imperative that we support transformative needs for policy, projects, programs, and personnel.

Governor Green's policy priorities, which include affordable housing, homelessness reduction, and improved healthcare access, align closely with the goals of this initiative. The high prevalence of trauma and justice involvement among individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges necessitates a sustained commitment to redesigning our State's mental health and justice systems and where they intersect.

Governor Green is deeply committed to redesigning the continuum, which is why he has enlisted the expertise of Dr. Michael Champion to drive forward the necessary systems change. We are poised to take assertive action at a pivotal moment when the Governor's priorities on mental health, substance use disorders, homelessness, public health, and the justice system are aligned. The recent challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and Maui wildfires have

further underscored the urgent need to address fragmented crisis care. It is evident that focused and strategic efforts are required to improve the system's responsiveness, improve access, and reduce disparities.

The Governor's Office recognizes the interconnected nature of these challenges and the need to develop a continuum, a comprehensive integrated system that spans all levels of intensity of care. To develop and implement solutions, Governor Green has assembled a team to collaboratively work with all branches of government and the community. This team includes the Office of the Governor's Homeless Coordinator, the Governor's Office of Wellness and Resilience, and the Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System. Our collaboration reflects a unique and significant opportunity for Hawai'i to implement effective trauma-informed solutions and foster transformative change within our systems now and in the years ahead.

SAMHSA's Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) serves as a guide for the Governor's plan for transformative change and a broader continuum. Our office will continue to work with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, and the Judiciary to leverage data that resides within the respective departments. The Governor's Office, in summary, is working across all three branches of government to build a framework and establish a comprehensive trauma informed statewide approach to the interface of the mental health and justice systems.

Comprehensive system redesign and developing a comprehensive continuum that addresses the needs of a diverse community takes time. We have solutions now and emerging solutions as a direct result of ongoing collaboration with our partners. With the Legislature's input, we will continue to formulate and strengthen locally tailored solutions informed by proven national models. With County/City and State alignment on federally recommended frameworks, such as SIM and Housing First, the State of Hawai'i will achieve sustainable progress to serve those who are suffering and need our help most.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalua Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Pamela J. Sturz
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 135
SENATE RESOLUTION 122
URGING THE GOVERNOR'S SENIOR ADVISOR FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND THE
JUSTICE SYSTEM TO DEFINE THEIR ROLE AND TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROGRESS THE STATE HAS MADE TOWARDS JAIL
DIVERSION.

By
Tommy Johnson, Director
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

AND

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

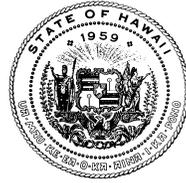
Monday, March 25, 2024; 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Via Video Conference

Chairs San Buenaventura, Rhoads, Vice Chairs Aquino, Gabbard, and members of both
Committees:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) provides comments on
Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 135 / Senate Resolution 122, which urges the
Governor's senior advisor for mental health and the justice system to define their role and to
provide an annual report to the legislature on the progress the State has made towards jail
diversion.

The DCR appreciates the legislature's interest in this important matter and is committed
to working with the Governor's senior advisor for mental health and all other stakeholders to
implement effective strategies to divert appropriate offenders from jail incarceration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SCR 135 / SR 122.



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
KE KE'ENA KŪPA'A MAULI OLA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
415 S. BERETANIA ST. #415
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Testimony of Tia L.R. Hartsock
Director, Office of Wellness and Resilience**

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and Committee on Judiciary
Monday, March 25, 2024, 10:30 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**S.R. No. 135, Urging The Governor's Senior Advisor For Mental Health And The Justice System
To Define Their Role And To Provide An Annual Report To The Legislature On The Progress The
State Has Made Towards Jail Diversion
Comments**

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Rhodes, Vice Chairs Aquino and Gabbard and members of the Committees:

As a close partner to the Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System (Senior Advisor) in the Office of the Governor, the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR) recognizes the crucial role the Senior Advisor plays in improving Hawai'i's statewide implementation of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) and offers comments.

Hawai'i currently finds itself at a crucial time where there are significant opportunities to improve coordination among our health service providers and justice partners. OWR understands that the Senior Advisor sits in a unique position that allows him to reach across different divisions, service providers, and systems to assist in driving implementation of the SIM in a collaborative manner.

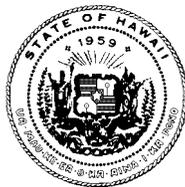
Our office has experienced the importance of collaboration with the Senior Advisor as he participated in the Breakthrough Therapies working group. This working group which included the behavioral health and the justice systems, also engaged partnerships amongst different State departments, community partners, and mental health professionals. Having the Senior Advisor participate and provide content area expertise on current best practices and support OWR in the direction and conceptualization of outcomes proved to be quite beneficial.

The OWR recognizes the importance of improving diversion from the justice systems and expand more appropriate community settings. We strongly believe a successful SIM implementation is a trauma-informed approach. Our office also recognizes that collaboration amongst systems does not happen overnight and assisting to identify areas to break down barriers takes time and effort.

Creating a coordinated system for SIM implementation is a vital part in making Hawai'i a truly trauma-informed state and OWR will continue to work closely and offer our assistance to the Senior Advisor.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 24, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 135/SR122 – URGING THE GOVERNOR'S SENIOR ADVISOR FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO DEFINE THEIR ROLE AND TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROGRESS THE STATE HAS MADE TOWARDS JAIL DIVERSION.**

Hearing: March 25, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides comments and defers to the Office of the Governor.

In July and August of 2023, DHS staff participated in two Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping workshops. The SIM workshops provide a framework for community providers and stakeholders to identify the intersections between behavioral health and criminal justice, assess available resources, identify gaps in services, and support strategic planning. The six intercepts which are numbered and described as follows:

- 0 = Community Services
- 1= Law Enforcement
- 2 = Initial detention/initial court hearings
- 3= Jail and Courts
- 4 = ReEntry

5= Community Corrections.

The first mapping session was for the community at large; the 2nd mapping session addressed the specific needs of the justice-involved women. Families involved in the justice system often rely upon benefits and services provided by DHS in nearly every intercept. Improving accessibility and navigation for families involved in the justice system are strategic items that DHS is working on with the Judiciary, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Governor's Office.

Also, with community partners, DCR, and the Department of Education (DOE), DHS efforts include strengthening community- and school-based family resource centers, including the visitation and resource center at Waiawa Correctional Center. Child Welfare Services and the Office of Youth Services are also working with the DOH to improve access to services for youth involved in child welfare or the juvenile justice system.

DHS Med-QUEST division recently submitted its 1115 Waiver to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that proposes to expand, amongst other things, certain Medicaid services to individuals involved in the justice system. DHS Med-QUEST already works with the Judiciary and DCR to enroll or reenroll eligible individuals in the Medicaid program so they can access prescription services and other health care needs when returning to or reentering the community.

Unfortunately, the August 8, 2023, wildfires redirected DHS staff and resources, delaying momentum with some of the tasks identified during the SIMs.

Having executive leadership at the highest level is needed to envision the broader system, guide cross-sector stakeholders, and assist with identifying and advocating for resources. Executive leadership is needed to clear the pathways to strengthen and create ways to coordinate a robust continuum of service delivery that preferably prevents or intercepts individuals and families earlier in their encounters with the mental health or justice systems. High-level leadership is needed to align the SIM process with broader goals and priorities of the mental health and health care systems.

Additionally, the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System participates along with the Office of Wellness and Resilience, DHS, DOE, DOH, the Executive

March 24, 2024

Page 3

Office on Early Learning, the Office of Youth Services, and community providers in Hawaii's National Governor's Association Youth Mental Health technical assistance cohort. The cohort is similarly working to align and prioritize the youth mental health needs, especially for vulnerable youth engaged in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Strengthening the youth mental health system and providing services early to youth and their families, especially youth at risk of becoming involved in the justice system, may prevent further involvement with the justice system as an adult.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this resolution.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Second State Legislature 2024 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Monday, March 25, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

by:

Brandon M. Kimura

Policy and Planning Department Director

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Concurrent Resolution 135, Relating to the Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System; Jail Diversion; Report; Senate Resolution 122, Relating to the Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System; Jail Diversion; Report

Purpose: Urging the Governor’s Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System to Define Their Role and to Provide an Annual Report to the Legislature on the Progress the State Has Made Towards Jail Diversion.

Judiciary’s Position:

The Judiciary provides comments on this measure to share positive experiences with Dr. Michael Champion in his current role and his prior role as Medical Director at the Department of Health’s (DOH) Adult Mental Health Division.



Senate Concurrent Resolution 135 / Senate Resolution 122
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Monday, March 25, 2024
Page 2

Since as early as mid-2019, Dr. Michael Champion's expertise has been invaluable to conversations on how to improve the State's response to those in the criminal justice system who are suffering from serious mental illness.

More specifically, the following is a non-exhaustive list of several key areas of Dr. Champion's integral involvement:

- In the Fall 2019, a statewide mental health summit was held pertaining to those suffering from serious mental illness in the criminal justice system. This was co-convened by Chief Justice Recktenwald and then-Governor Ige, and led by the Judiciary and DOH. Attendees from across the state included DOH and other Executive Branch administrators and staff, legislators, judges, police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, healthcare providers, services providers, and other interested stakeholders. At the time Dr. Champion was the Medical Director with DOH's AMHD. The feedback received during this Summit was considered by the Hawaii Mental Health Core Steering Committee, and helped to inform the recommendations made in their resulting report.
- Dr. Champion was a member of the Judiciary and DOH-led Hawaii Mental Health Core Steering Committee, which published a joint report in January 2020. This report provide a summary of efforts undertaken in other jurisdictions to improve government and community response to those justice-engaged individuals who suffer from mental illness. The report recommended legislative changes to strengthen the HRS Chapter 704 fitness and restoration process.
- In Fall 2022, mini-mental health summits were held in Honolulu, Lihue, Kahului, Kona, and Hilo, co-convened by the Judiciary and DOH, to allow for more location-specific conversations about governmental responses to those with mental illness. These mini-summits featured a national expert in this area, Miami-Dade County Judge Steven Leifman, to speak about post-booking jail diversion, and a broad cross-section of interested stakeholders in each location. These mini-summits resulted in interest from stakeholders to launch post-booking jail diversion programs, similar to what was established in Miami-Dade. Participants also gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for how having programs and resources available across the sequential intercept model aides in overall governmental response to those with mental illness. In this way, individuals with mental illness are provided opportunities to be steered away from the criminal justice system and connected with treatment options at varying intercept points (i.e., community, pre-booking, post-booking, etc.).
- In Spring 2023, a Hawaii delegation, comprised of stakeholders from the First Circuit, traveled to Miami-Dade County for a site-visit and deep discussions on the Miami



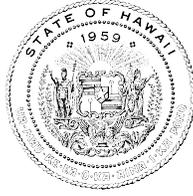
Senate Concurrent Resolution 135 / Senate Resolution 122
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Monday, March 25, 2024
Page 3

model of post-booking jail diversion for those with serious mental illness. This contingent included prosecutors, deputy public defenders, lead judges, and DOH. With Dr. Champion's leadership and guidance, this site visit resulted in three collaborative agreements to begin a renewed post-booking jail diversion program in the First Circuit's district and circuit courts, and to increase understanding of high utilizers with great needs. The First Circuit Post-Booking Jail Diversion Program was launched in Spring 2023. Through partnership with the Honolulu Prosecutors, Office of Public Defender, DOH, DCR, and the Judiciary, the Post-Booking Jail Diversion programs continue and are being refined to maximize success and account for the needs of the various partners. The district court program has had a "pause" on accepting new admittees from July 2023 until April 2024, when the ORAS-CST assessment tool becomes available and when the prosecutors will resume their consideration of new participants to the program. Notwithstanding the pause on new admittees, the district court program's current participants continue to receive treatment and supervision and, since January 2024, three participants have successfully graduated from the program.

- More recently in 2024, taking lessons learned from the First Circuit's Post-Booking Jail Diversion Program and accounting for local resource needs, Dr. Champion has been in discussion with the Judiciary and other stakeholders about a possible expansion of the diversion program to other counties that have expressed an interest in such a program.

Dr. Champion's expertise, commitment, and efforts over the years has contributed significantly to State leaders' highly-nuanced understanding of pertinent mental health and justice issues, and the current broad lens through which we view the issues and their potential causes. The Judiciary continues to collaborate and partner with Dr. Champion, and would be pleased to provide any pertinent data that resides with the Judiciary when available.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
E KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Comments of **John Mizuno**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness
Before the
**Senate Committees on Health and Human Services
and Judiciary**
Monday, March 25, 2024
10:30 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In Consideration of

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 135 and
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122**

**URGING THE GOVERNOR'S SENIOR ADVISOR FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND THE
JUSTICE SYSTEM TO DEFINE THEIR ROLE AND TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROGRESS THE STATE HAS MADE TOWARDS JAIL
DIVERSION**

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Aquino and Gabbard, and members of the Committees:

I am writing to provide comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 135 and Senate Resolution No. 122, urging the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System to define their roles and to provide an annual report to the legislature on the progress the State has made towards jail diversion.

Governor Green has assembled a team to collaboratively work with all branches of government, the counties, and the community. This team includes the Office of the Governor's Homeless Coordinator, the Governor's Office of Wellness and Resilience, and the Governor's Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System. Our collaboration reflects a unique and significant opportunity for Hawaii to implement effective trauma-informed solutions and foster transformative change within our systems now and in the years ahead.

The Office of Homelessness and Housing Solutions is already working with the Governor's Senior Advisor (GSA) for Mental Health and Justice System as we have collaborated on potential kauhale on the Big Island to be crafted using innovative models as a blueprint for high quality diversion from the justice pathway and re-entry from corrections. We believe this project could serve hundreds of people coming out of our jails and prison system.

Comments of John Mizuno
S.C.R. No. 135 / S.R. No. 122
March 25, 2024
Page 2

Our Office has worked with the GSA on the contract for a re-entry program through Fernhurst YWCA to provide housing and job placement for women coming out of the corrections system.

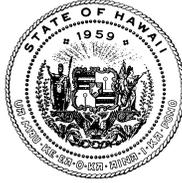
The GSA is also working with our office on potential “medical respite” kauhale on Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island and crisis centers. Finally, the GSA is currently assisting our office with protocol for a youth kauhale, focused on improved support services for homeless youth suffering from mental health issues and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

We at the Governor’s Office truly work as a team as the nature of these challenges are so interconnected and there is a great need to develop a comprehensive integrated system that reaches all levels of care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 135 and Senate Resolution No. 122.

Mahalo,

John M. Mizuno
Governor’s Coordinator on Homelessness



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

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SCR135

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

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Monday, March 25, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Room 016

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) opposes this measure because it is
2 unnecessary.

3 Both the Governor's senior advisor for mental health and the justice system and DOH
4 have participated in legislative informational briefings. Information could continue to be
5 provided and requested informally and/or through informational briefings. We believe it is
6 important to share information with the legislature, and for any priority area, including mental
7 health and homelessness, we value collaboration to effectively resource and advance policy.

8 The current Governor's senior advisor for mental health and the justice system has a
9 decade of experience in DOH's adult mental health division including as its chief medical
10 officer. The Governor hand picked him to provide innovation and new ideas for solving an old
11 problem of mental health and homelessness following the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
12 Services Administration's endorsed intercept model.

1 The senior advisor for mental health and the justice system and DOH are both part of the
2 Governor's team working to the best of their abilities to advance the Governor's vision. In
3 support of this, DOH provides a psychiatrist position and salary for the senior advisor for mental
4 health and the justice system who is detailed to the Governor's office.

5 Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



SCR135 SR122

Senior Adviser for Mental Health and Jail Diversion Defines Role

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Monday Mar 25, 2024, 10:30 Room 016

HSAC Strongly Supports SCR135 & SR122

ALOHA 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 for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment, prevention agencies and recovery-oriented services.

For the first time in a very long time, the Governor's administration is researching and creating a comprehensive well-rounded strategic plan for homeless, with substance abuse, mental illness as well as reentry for the justice involved that will actually improve outcomes and eventually, after an initial investment, curtail costs as well as have a working framework in place to carry us forward for many years.

We can begin immediately but it will take time for us to develop our own version of these Federal models to take root in a new stronger foundation given the major hurdles in place. Other states are encountering the same strategic changes, though several are farther along than Hawai'i, which can be advantageous templates for us to follow for re-designing our integrated, collaborative plan for implementation.

We finally have the right group of people in leadership positions starting with Senior Advisor, Dr. Champion, a respected planner with vast knowledge about the various mental health and justice processes. Moreover, we have the right people in the Dept. of Health, the Behavioral Health Administrator, the Dept of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Adult Client Services, the Governor's Homeless Coordinator, and the Office of Wellness and Resilience. Already, we can see a synergy developing to transcend our silos to build collaborative networks.

These hurdles are many and for the first time in decades, we are breaking apart the entrenched stigmas, discriminations, and NIMBY that have been the core cause of segregated silos, underfunding, undervaluing, and misinformation that has led to competitive battles over not enough resources rather than collaborations that could unite us to create better solutions for what is a growing into larger and larger problems in behavioral health, homelessness and criminal justice systems.

We need comprehensive recovery-oriented resources to support our evidenced-based recovery treatments.

1. When we listen to the homeless and those who are severely traumatized with substance abuse, mental health, and untreated physical illnesses, they want immediate housing, medical care, and then they will choose recovery substance abuse and mental health treatment so that they can achieve purpose in their lives.
2. Far too long people with substance use disorders have been barred from HUD housing funds, Housing First access, and more. We need housing that doesn't discriminate such as Supportive Housing that has case management.
3. We need crisis beds. It is not treatment, but it provides essential services such as evaluation, stabilization, and most importantly referral to housing and then substance abuse and mental health treatment.
4. While police can bring crisis patients to the crisis beds, let's open it up to families, churches, and hospitals so their loved ones can get evaluated, stabilized, and referred to behavioral treatments.
5. We need criminal justice to divert non-violent justice-involved people into community-based co-occurring disorder (substance abuse and mental health) treatment as well as housing and vocational counseling.
6. We need firm recovery processes for justice-involved persons for reentry into communities out of criminal justice systems.
7. Services for the severely mentally ill need to be re-designed to better collaborate with Judges, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Probation/Parole, and Community Mental Health clinics. Co-occurring treatment involving substance abuse and mental health programs is key to transitioning people into recovery and back to their community housing.
8. We need harm reduction and preventive treatment for those with moderate behavioral problems and also harm reduction for the most chronic who refuse substance abuse and mental health treatments for recovery.
9. For too long Medicaid has not been effective for the most chronic patients as they need extensive treatment. Only the few community health clinics help because they receive federal funds to supplement Medicaid. Without help, emergency care becomes their preference, so we want to change that culture.
10. Primary care struggles with Medicaid people with low payments, 50% no shows, and very long appointments to attend to chronic issues for substance abuse and mental health problems from which they don't have the necessary training.
11. Medications are available for some behavioral diagnosis but are often not readily available enough and those patients with the most chronic conditions, medication is definitely not enough – a referral to treatment and counseling is needed.
12. Most important. There is not enough substance abuse and co-occurring disorder treatment beds – residential treatment for the most chronic and also outpatient the moderate chronic. The states further along from us have stated that the missing part of all these wonderful recovery-oriented systems of care is that there are not enough treatment beds. These services have many billions of dollars invested into the science of addictive treatment with outstanding outcomes (for a chronic disease) and yet are too few in numbers. Underfunded. Rates too low for anyone to start programs except those very dedicated to endure the challenges. All due to stigma. We can change that.

Today, we are fortunate to finally have the right plans, the right leadership, and the right investments to make the long-term changes that are desperately needed for us to finally have a workable big picture view, from which we can begin investing smartly into the best incremental steps for us to achieve lasting improved outcomes and cost containments for those suffering the most from long chronic conditions.

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

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i

March 25, 2024

Committees: Senate Health and Human Services and Judiciary
Time: 10:30 AM
Location: State Capitol Conference Room 16
Re: SCR 135

LATE

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Aquino and Gabbard, and members of the Committees:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i hui, we are writing to comment on SCR 135 urging the Governor's senior advisor for mental health and the justice system to define their role and to provide an annual report to the legislature on the progress the state has made towards jail diversion.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth homelessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

We have been encouraged by the establishment of a position to advise the Governor on mental health and the justice system and appreciative of the work being performed to date. We have had preliminary communication with the Governor's senior advisor and exchanged information and ideas to promote Native Hawaiian equity in the justice system, reduce homelessness, and address the mental health needs in our community. We came away with solid suggestions for progress that have already benefited our work.

We look forward to serving as a resource to legislators and policy makers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on SCR 135.