

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2992 SD2
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Friday, March 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., Room 329/Video

1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal implications for this measure.

2 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure.

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

5 The Department supports the intent of SB2992 SD2.

6 The Legislature rightly recognizes that the chapters relating to mental health have been
7 amended in a piecemeal manner over the past several decades, leading to some lack of clarity
8 and inconsistencies. Establishing a regular and systematic review, as proposed in this bill, is
9 essential to maintaining the coherence and effectiveness of mental health laws.

10 The bill takes inspiration from the comprehensive reviews conducted every decade for
11 the Hawaii Penal Code since its enactment in 1972. This reflects a commitment to best practices
12 in legal governance and underscores the importance of periodic assessments for ensuring the
13 relevance and efficacy of mental health laws.

14 The Department is committed to working together with the Department of the Attorney
15 General to complete a comprehensive review of Chapter 334, prioritizing revisions as necessary
16 and submitting proposed amendments to the legislature each legislative session.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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March 15, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Senate Bill 2992 SD2 – Relating to Mental Health

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2992 SD2 – Relating to Mental Health.

Beginning 7/1/2025, and every ten years thereafter, requires the Department of Health to convene an Advisory Committee on Mental Health Code Review.

Federal and state court cases and constitutional, statutory, and rule changes necessitate periodic amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes that relate to mental health and involuntary transport, examination, hospitalization, and treatment, including assisted community treatment. DCAB notes that the Department of Health (DOH) should have the ability to convene an immediate review before the ten year interval should DOH determine it is warranted.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: March 15, 2024

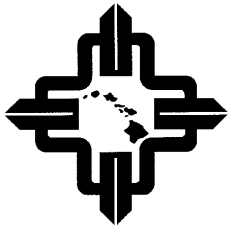
Re: Comments on SB2992 SD2 – Relating to Mental Health

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit 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, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff 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 comments on SB2992 SD2, requiring the Department of Health to convene an advisory committee of on mental health code review every ten years. As the largest healthcare system in the state offering comprehensive adult and adolescent psychiatric care (both hospital and community-based programs and services) we appreciate and support the amendments made by the previous Committee to include a representative from the private acute care hospitals who offer psych/mental health services.

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

The mission of The Queen's Health System 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.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice-Chair

March 15, 2024
9:00 AM
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 329 & Via Videoconference

**Testimony in Support of SB 2992, SD2, with a Request for an Amendment
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

Beginning 7/1/2025, and every ten years thereafter, requires the Department of Health to convene an Advisory Committee on Mental Health Code Review.
Requires a report to the Legislature.

Edward N. Chu
President & Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in support of SB 2992, SD2, Relating to Mental Health, with a request for an amendment.**

HHSC provides psychiatric care in its hospitals on the islands of Hawaii and Kauai. As such, the mental health code has an impact on HHSC facilities. We appreciate that the Senate included HHSC as a member so that the interests of the neighbor island hospital facilities may be represented as part of these discussions. However, HHSC is statutorily a separate jurisdiction from the Governor. As such, we respectfully request that the language be amended to specifically identify the HHSC President and CEO or a designee as the representative, so that HHSC may determine its own appropriate representation for this important work

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 329
Friday, March 15, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Health & Homelessness

SUPPORTING SB2992 SD2 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB2992 SD2.**

The Chamber agrees with the legislature that the chapters of the Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to mental health and involuntary transport, examination, hospitalization, and treatment have been amended in a piecemeal manner over the past several decades. This has led to some lack in clarity and inconsistencies. It is imperative that such an important part of state law receives full and deliberate attention from time to time to ensure the law's continued force and effectiveness.

We also note that a comprehensive review of the Hawaii Penal Code has been conducted every decade since the Code's enactment in 1972. We firmly believe that periodically reviewing Hawaii's mental health laws would also be helpful to advance the overall goal of improving mental health in the State, especially for those unable to help themselves.

This measure assures we have regular intensive reviews of how we are responding to mental health needs in our state, so we can bring the most modern modalities and processes to bear on these formidable challenges.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB2992 SD2** and request it be passed.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

SB-2992-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 12:38:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/15/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Chakos	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

When I was roughly 10 years old my mother went back to school. She then graduated four years later as a marriage and family therapist. During those four years I gathered alot of what she had learned as she would come home and discuss it with my brother and I. As I got older I realised more and more of the instances she had explained in theory or study in society. Its' a beautiful and yet scary thing because it really opens you mind to how many different people are struggling with their own issues on a day to day basis. This is why I stand before you today. I think that not enough people understand how important mental health checkups are. This is why I am in strong support of this bill as the creation of this comittee can help open a necessary conversation about educating the people on this complex and ever evolving issue. NAMI or the National Institute on Mental Illness estimates that 1 in 5 people live with a mental health condition of some sort. That is 20% of Americans. Roughly 68 million Americans struggle with a mental illness of some sort. This isnt a theory, it is a fact. And we must act now. I strongly support SB 2992. Thank you!

Source: <https://www.nami.org/nami/media/nami-media/infographics/generalmhfacts.pdf>