

**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

March 28, 2025

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair; and
Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor
Josh Green MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: HB1462 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES

Position: SUPPORT

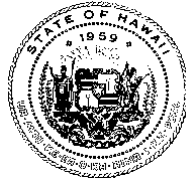
Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports this bill to expand the Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program for DOH by two additional sites on O`ahu to address the growing problem of homelessness associated with mental health and/or substance abuse issues here, and which represents a blight to our affected communities, and often a dangerous circumstance affecting public safety. The consequences of these behavioral health crisis issues is also a major preventable cause of expensive emergency department and hospital costs which can largely be prevented with appropriate and available treatment and triage options for the tragically affected individuals.

We defer to the DOH on specifics of staffing and funding. However, the need is obvious and urgent.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1462 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date and Time: March 31, 2025, 10:02 a.m. Location: Room 211 and Video

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) respectfully requests an
2 appropriation in this bill to fund a second Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Setting provided
3 that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in our Executive
4 Budget.

5 **Department Position:** The Department supports the intent of this bill.

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

8 The Department supports the intent of this measure that seeks to expand Crisis Settings
9 on the island of Oahu.

10 Behavioral Crisis Stabilization Settings expediently address mental health or substance
11 use disorder crisis in a most trauma-informed way. If implemented while considering factors
12 such as geography, population, culture, community need, and workforce limitations, cost
13 effectiveness can also be optimized. The first Crisis Stabilization Setting that the Department
14 has opened is the Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) in Iwilei, which is a High-Intensity
15 Behavioral Health Emergency Center and Extended Stabilization Center.

1 To determine best utilization and cost effectiveness of creating a second Behavioral
2 Health Crisis Stabilization Setting, the Department has engaged with a consultant to assess the
3 current state and provide recommendations for a future setting. This includes potential
4 locations and type of Setting (e.g. High- or Medium-Intensity Behavioral Health Emergency
5 Center, High- or Medium-Intensity-Behavioral Health Extended Stabilization Centers, or possibly
6 even Stabilization Chairs added to an Emergency Room). Our consultant, Recovery Innovations,
7 is a national leader in this field and has done work in numerous states, including Alaska, where
8 there are numerous rural and remote areas with geographic challenges. They also helped to
9 author the 2025 National Guidelines for a Behavioral Health Coordinated System of Crisis Care.

10 The Department is appreciative of the Legislature’s support of the Crisis Continuum and
11 looks forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to expand services to communities
12 that would benefit from these services.

13 **Offered Amendments:** The Department appreciates the inclusion of an appropriation in this bill
14 and respectfully requests an appropriation amount of \$4,288,000 to support the opening of the
15 second site. The current Iwilei site has a budgeted cost of \$4,288,000 for Fiscal Year 2025 for
16 operations (not inclusive of startup costs) and the Department anticipates an increase in
17 operating costs for Fiscal Year 2026. The Department notes, however, that this site does not
18 include any rental of space costs. Additionally, the configuration of the second site based on
19 location and community need may not be the same as the Iwilei site, and therefore cost may
20 vary significantly.

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

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KATHERINE AUMER, PhD
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
LUNA HO'OMALU O KA PAPA

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH**
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256
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**STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
In Support of HB1462 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES
March 31, 2025 10:02 a.m., Room 211 and Video**

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Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i law, HRS §334-10, established the State Council on Mental Health as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with mental illness or emotional problems, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Members are residents from diverse backgrounds representing mental health service providers and recipients, students and youth, parents, and family members. Members include representatives of state agencies on mental health, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid/MedQUEST, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and education. Members include representatives from the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances and county service area boards on mental health and substance abuse.

Most members of the State Council on Mental Health support the intent of this measure, recognizing its potential to significantly impact the direction of individuals experiencing behavioral health crises toward the appropriate care they may require. The measure aims to establish at least two crisis intervention diversion service sites on the island of O'ahu. The original version of the bill specifically called for one site to be in West O'ahu. The Council points to the importance of gathering sufficient data, including information from the existing Behavioral Health Crisis Center in Iwilei, to guide the selection of future sites and to identify the best practices for crisis care that should be funded.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HB1462 HD1 SD1 Crisis Services Expansion

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Monday Mar 31, 2025, 10:02 Room 211

ALOHA CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, 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 and prevention agencies and recovery-oriented services.

HSAC Supports HB1462 HD1 SD1

HSAC agrees that many people who suffer from drugs, alcohol or mental illness and are unstable need **crisis services for stabilization and then, if amendable, refer to treatment** such as “co-occurring” substance abuse and mental health treatment so they can recover from their illness.

HSAC applauds that DOH start more behavioral crisis centers on Oahu for stabilization and case management. HSAC supports that adequate resources be funded to cover both operational costs and any rental/remodeling costs.

1. **Stabilization is a good first step to then refer to housing with “support services” and/or an evidence-based treatment program.**
2. To screen, assess, admit for stabilization, and redirect a person to the most appropriate and least restrictive setting available regardless of the person’s ability to pay.
3. Meet all the criteria for a crisis drop off center.

This idea has strong evidential support across the nation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Monday, March 31, 2025

Room 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

10:02 AM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1462 HD1, SD1 - CRISIS SERVICES

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,767 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as of March 24, 2025. We are always mindful that 936 persons - 49.5% - of Hawai'i's male prison population (1,890) are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our strong support for HB 1462 HD1, SD1 that behavioral health issues is one of the pathways to incarceration for many of the State's residents. Recognizing the need for crisis intervention and diversion of individuals to a program where their needs can be properly addressed is a great step forward.

It is obvious from the rash of suicides and deaths, that incarcerating individuals with a myriad of behavioral challenges is NOT the answer. It presents problems with facility management and protection of those in custody. People with mental health issues become prey in such a closed and restrictive environment.

Diverting people with mental health issues from jail to appropriate treatment in the community is a more successful strategy than incarceration where their mental health issues often worsen. This is also in concert with our communities' values to care for and about each other.

Community Alliance on Prisons thanks the committee for hearing this bill and we hope that you will pass it to stem the flow of people with a myriad of challenges into Hawai'i's carceral system that is not equipped to handle mental health issues .

Mahalo nui!

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, March 24, 2025

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2025-03-24.pdf>