

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 06**, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1913  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Public Safety, to which was referred H.B.  
No. 1913 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish within the Office  
of Veterans' Services one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Mental  
Health Coordinator position at the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans  
Home on the island of Oahu.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Oahu Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation and  
four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition  
to this measure from the Hawaii Government Employees Association,  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO. Your Committee received comments on  
this measure from the Office of Veterans' Services and one  
individual.

Your Committee finds that veterans in Hawaii face significant  
mental health challenges, including trauma, stress, and adjustment  
disorders, and this measure supports their needs.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:



- (1) Establishing the Mental Health Coordinator position at Tripler Army Medical Center rather than at the Daniel K. Akaka Veterans Home to coordinate mental and behavioral health services for veterans statewide;
- (2) Removing the exemption of the Mental Health Coordinator position from civil service requirements of chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (3) Changing its effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Health, should it deliberate on this measure, to work with the Office of Veterans' Services to determine an appropriate appropriation amount to establish the Mental Health Coordinator position.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1913, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1913, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Health.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Public Safety,

***Della A Belatti***

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DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-third Legislature

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Public Safety

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1913		Committee Referral: PBS, HLT, FIA		Date: 2/4/2026
<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)				
PBS Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	✓			
2. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco (VC)	✓			
3. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda				✓
5. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
6. POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
7. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
8. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
9. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (9)	8			1
The recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: [Signature]				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				