

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2372
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 Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 2372
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ASSISTED COMMUNITY TREATMENT,"
begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize registered nurses
and licensed paramedics who are operating as part of a county
program to administer prescription medication prescribed as part
of an assisted community treatment order treatment plan in
settings other than a hospital, psychiatric facility, or other
designated facility.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Community Services of the City and County
of Honolulu; Honolulu Emergency Services Department of the City
and County of Honolulu; CARES; and one individual. Your Committee
received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii
Disability Rights Center; The Institute for Human Services, Inc.;
and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this
measure from the Department of the Attorney General and Department
of Health.

Your Committee finds that subjects of assisted community
treatment orders must be taken to an emergency room or admitted to
a hospital and be attended by a psychiatrist or advanced practice



registered nurse to receive court-ordered treatment. However, mentally ill individuals who are subject to these orders and refuse to be moved, and whose actions do not rise to the level of necessitating the initiation of emergency transportation to a psychiatric or other designated facility, cannot access the treatment they desperately need. Your Committee further finds that state licensed registered nurses and other state licensed health care professionals who are participating in a community paramedicine program that has been approved by the Department of Health are able to develop ongoing relationships with the clients they serve and can carry out assisted community treatment orders by administering treatment ordered by a qualified psychiatric examiner.

Your Committee notes the concerns raised in testimony by the Department of the Attorney General and Department of Health that this measure may unintentionally be interpreted to authorize the administration of treatment without the consent of the subject of an assisted community treatment order. Your Committee recognizes that the current process of requiring that the administration of treatment over the objection of the subject occur in a hospital setting is necessary to protect the safety of the subject and the health care provider administering the medication. Your Committee further notes the Department of Health's concerns that while paramedics are authorized to administer medication, this authorization is limited to medication that is included in the Emergency Medical Services Department of Health Standing Orders and that administration of medication not included in those orders could result in a paramedic operating outside of the scope of their practice.

Your Committee notes the testimony of the Emergency Services Department and Department of Community Services of the City and County of Honolulu that the current method of administering medication to subjects of an assisted community treatment order often requires significant law enforcement and hospital resources as these individuals may need to be detained by police officers, transported to an appropriate hospital facility, held for evaluation of the subject by a qualified psychiatric examiner, or monitored until medication has been administered. Your Committee recognizes that limiting administration of medication to the subject of an order in a non-hospital setting to situations where the subject consents to the administration may not address the concerns raised by the City and County of Honolulu. Accordingly,



your Committee respectfully requests that your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider the necessity of limiting the types of situations in which medication may be administered.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Authorizing qualified state-licensed health care professionals who are participating in a community paramedicine program that has been approved by the Department of Health, rather than licensed paramedics, to administer medication pursuant to an assisted community treatment order;
- (2) Requiring the subject of an assisted community treatment order to consent to the administration of medicine before a registered nurse or state-licensed health care professional may administer the medication;
- (3) Clarifying that a registered nurse or state-licensed health care professional may administer treatment if the treatment is provided through a community paramedicine program in addition to a county community outreach program;
- (4) Clarifying that the location where medication may be administered must be designed specifically to administer community paramedicine care in addition to prehospital care;
- (5) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (6) 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 that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2372, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2372, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



GREG TARAYAMA, Chair



