

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2950

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2026

RE: S.B. No. 709
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 709, S.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to improve and clarify the State's response to individuals experiencing mental health crises.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Requires the Department of Health to track and periodically report data relating to mental health crises and responses;
- (2) Requires the Department of Health to dispatch staff to assist a person with a severe mental illness following a report that the person requires assistance;
- (3) Establishes that a court's denial of a petition for involuntary commitment serves as notification to the Department of Health that the individual should be evaluated for assisted community treatment and further provides for the completion of an evaluation and the filing of a petition for an assisted community treatment order; and



- (4) Appropriates funds for information technology upgrades and personnel to support these efforts.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and one individual.

Your Committee finds that Act 219, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, strengthened the statutory framework for serving individuals suffering from mental illnesses or substance abuse. Your Committee believes that this measure refines the State's methods to address serious mental health crises by promoting better coordination between state entities that assist these persons.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting provisions requiring the Department of Health to track and report data;
- (2) Requiring the Director of Law Enforcement to adopt rules for statewide training and certification standards and procedures for crisis intervention officers;
- (3) Clarifying the scope of treatment and services that may be ordered under assisted community treatment, including medication, blood tests, urinalysis, and residential services;
- (4) Requiring the Department of the Attorney General to assist with the preparation, filing, and presentation of requests for court or administrative authorization to provide treatment over a patient's objection, while allowing private requestors to decline assistance;
- (5) Clarifying the term "crisis intervention officer"; and
- (6) Deleting the appropriations.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B.



No. 709, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass
Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 709, S.D. 2.

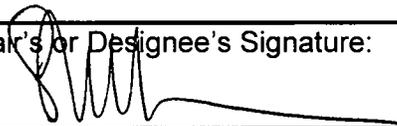
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 709, SDI	HHS/JDC, WAM	3/3/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt				X
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes