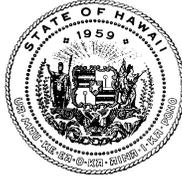


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A, M.P.H  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1131 HD1  
RELATING TO AN INTENSIVE MOBILE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM FOR HOUSELESS INDIVIDUALS  
SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDERS**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TODD, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date and Time: February 26, 2026, 2:00 p.m. Location: Room 308 and Video

1 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments.

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

4 The Department appreciates the intent of this measure to provide high-intensity case  
5 management services to the recalcitrant, chronically homeless with severe mental illness such  
6 as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. Although this was an administration package bill  
7 last year, given the financial state of the State, we are unable to support should this have a  
8 negative impact on the Governor's budget. Caring for unsheltered individuals with a serious  
9 mental illness is a priority for the department, and we will prioritize use of available funding for  
10 this purpose.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 26, 2026

**H.B.1131 H.D.1 – RELATING TO AN INTENSIVE MOBILE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM FOR HOUSELESS INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDERS**

The **Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO** offers **comment on H.B.1131 H.D.1**, which is to exempt positions in the Adult Mental Health Division of the Department of Health from the civil service.

While we have no objections to the establishment of the office, we have concerns about the creation of positions within this office that will be exempt from civil service. Exempt employees do not have the same rights compared to civil service employees as they are considered “at-will” by the employer. We have consistently opposed the creation of more exempt positions in government, and more recently, we have advocated that exempt employees that are included within a collective bargaining unit receive *just-cause* protections, just like civil service employees.

This proposal is part of a larger issue, which is that the civil service system and SOH HR must become more flexible, competitive, and adaptive to the current job market and public demands. There are methods the SOH can implement to streamline its hiring and recruiting while keeping employees within the civil service. Among other things, the SOH should look to adequately price these civil service positions to appropriately reflect a competitive salary, comparable to similar positions within the public and private sector, and in general, the market rate. The SOH should also look to reform its civil service hiring processes to create a more efficient and effective system, so that prospective employees are not waiting to hear back from a job that they applied to months ago. The solution to streamline hiring and recruiting is not to exempt positions which would be at the expense of an employee’s job-security; rather, the solution is to re-think the way we recruit, hire, and compensate civil service positions.

Likewise, exempting positions may hinder the SOH’s ability to recruit and retain employees because the stability and benefits that come with civil service positions are arguably the most persuasive incentives for a prospective employee to seek employment within local government.

Accordingly, while we recognize that this is a pilot program, if the program and its employees become permanent, we suggest that they, and any additional employees that are added to the program, be designated civil service employees.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments regarding H.B.1131 H.D.1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Perreira', written over the typed name below.

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director