

**To:** Honorable Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair  
Honorable Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Honorable Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Honorable Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Health

**From:** Katie Ann Smith

**Re:** HCR 102, HD1 / HR 94, HD1

**Date:** Tuesday, April 7, 2026  
11:15am Conference Room 329

Aloha Chairs Marten and Takayama, Vice Chairs Olds and Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Health

My name is Katie A. Smith, and I am writing to strong **support** of HCR102, HD1. As a social worker in my last semester of my MSW, I believe that getting mental health services into the hands of our youth is imperative. Per HCR 102, HD1 peer counselors and peer-support models have been proven to reduce stigma associated with seeking mental health support, encourage a sense of belonging, and improve the school climate when implemented appropriately and with the correct training and supports. This bill will provide a vital lifeline for our most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide testimony and for considering this important legislation.

I urge the committee to pass HCR102, HD1.

Respectfully,

Katie A. Smith  
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