

March 12, 2024

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services & Public Safey and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Hearing Time: 3:00 PM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 225

Re: SB1831 HD1, RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION

Aloha e Chair Wakai and San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Elefante and Aquino, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi hui, we are writing in **strong support** of HB1831 HD1, relating to crisis intervention. Establishes the behavioral health crisis center pilot program. Authorizes the Department of Health to establish or contract with behavioral health crisis centers in each county and appropriates funds for the pilot program.

Establishing behavioral health crisis centers in every county of Hawaii can properly direct those suffering from mental health issues to the proper services, streamline the care these individuals may need, and provide a safe and supportive network. This, in turn, will benefit the individual and the state by allowing the individual to avoid a detrimental bench warrant and the state to avoid expending resources on pursuing the individual.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support HB1831 HD1.**

1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530 | Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 | (808) 447-1840

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