

March 27, 2024

House Committee on Finance

Hearing Time: 2:00 PM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 308

Re: SB2345 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO CRISIS INTERVENTION

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi hui, we are writing in **strong support** of SB2345 SD2 HD1, relating to crisis intervention. This bill Requires the Department of Law Enforcement to coordinate crisis intervention training for state and county law enforcement agencies and crisis intervention officers.

Crisis intervention tactics within communities are a proven resource that reduces recidivism and provides proper treatment for individuals suffering from mental health emergencies. It is a step forward to consult with nationally reputable organizations that have developed successful crisis intervention programs in the past and can provide guidance for our state’s law enforcement. Additionally, authorizing a crisis intervention officer to respond in tandem with law enforcement offers the opportunity for on-site care and assessment of the situation before escalation and should remain paramount in the response to a crisis.

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 SB2345 SD2 HD1.**

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