

March 12, 2024

House Committee on Finance

Hearing Time: 2:15 PM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 308

Re: SB3139 SD2 HD2, RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES

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 SB3139 SD2 HD2, relating to crisis intervention. This bill establishes a Crisis Intervention and Diversion Services Program within the Department of Health to expand existing services to divert those with mental health issues to appropriate health care services.

The creation of a crisis intervention and diversion services program within the Department of Health is important to ensure that individuals struggling with mental health or substance abuse disorders receive prompt and effective care. This program will provide resources and support to those in need, helping to direct them to appropriate treatment and services without delay. By establishing proper connections with corresponding crisis centers, an efficient system of care can be guaranteed.

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 SB3139 SD2.**

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