



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the House Committee on Health

Representative John. M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

and

House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 8:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

by

Rodney A. Maile
Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 1494, S. D. 2, Relating to Health.

Purpose: Establishes a working group to evaluate current behavioral health care and related systems to promote effective integration of services and improve response and coordination of care for persons experiencing substance abuse, mental health conditions, and homelessness. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports Senate Bill No. 1494, S. D. 2, and is willing to participate as a member of the working group.

The Judiciary is invested in addressing the issues of substance abuse, mental health, and homelessness. The impact of these issues affect the clients that are served by the Judiciary. Evaluating and addressing system gaps and determining steps for effective behavioral health care would be beneficial in working with clients to effectuate change and lead prosocial lives.



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The Judiciary has been involved in collaborative working relationships with some of our partner agencies to address these issues, however, the scope and scale of this working group would allow a wider perspective of making the system more cohesive and effective for the sake of those that are impacted by substance abuse, mental health and homelessness issues in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.