
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TELEPSYCHIATRY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that lack of access to
2 specialty medical care is a major problem in part of the island
3 of Oahu and on all the neighbor islands. Telehealth has
4 steadily played a larger role in health care in recent years.
5 Treatment of depression via telepsychiatry compares well with
6 in-person treatment in terms of outcomes, patient adherence,
7 patient satisfaction, and costs. Psychiatric assessments via
8 telepsychiatry are reliable and, in fact, based on feedback of
9 child telepsychiatry services provided in Molokai by Dr. Daniel
10 Alicata, patients actually preferred the interactions over the
11 video-link versus on-site visits. Patients also have difficulty
12 in accessing psychiatric services for other reasons such as:

- 13 (1) The refusal of private psychiatrists to accept
14 medicaid or QUEST patients;
- 15 (2) The lack of adequate insurance (not qualifying for or
16 temporarily losing insurance or having medicare
17 insurance only);



- 1 (3) The lack of psychiatrists in the service area
2 (Molokai);
- 3 (4) The inadequate number of psychiatrists in the service
4 area (Kauai, Big Island); and
- 5 (5) Patient ineligibility for adult mental health
6 services, including the vast majority of patients with
7 psychiatric or substance abuse problems.

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish a one-year pilot
9 telepsychiatry project to demonstrate the efficacy of
10 telepsychiatry. The project shall involve faculty from the
11 University of Hawaii's department of psychiatry supervising
12 advanced graduate psychiatric residents in telepsychiatry
13 services that will serve residents, especially the uninsured and
14 the poor, on the neighbor islands.

15 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the University
16 of Hawaii a temporary one-year pilot telepsychiatry project that
17 shall be sited at the following locations:

- 18 (1) Bay Clinic of Hilo;
- 19 (2) West Hawaii community health center;
- 20 (3) Community clinic of Maui;
- 21 (4) Molokai General Hospital; and
- 22 (5) Ho'ola Lahui Health Center, Kauai.



1 (b) Telepsychiatry services shall be provided by advanced
2 graduate psychiatry residents supervised by faculty of the
3 department of psychiatry of the University of Hawaii. On-site
4 visits shall also be provided interspersed among off-site
5 telepsychiatry encounters. Telepsychiatry encounters shall be
6 transmitted between the receiving site in subsection (a) and the
7 department of psychiatry of the University of Hawaii using video
8 teleconferencing equipment and ISDN lines.

9 (c) The temporary one-year pilot project shall begin on
10 July 1, 2006, and terminate on June 30, 2007.

11 (d) The University of Hawaii shall submit to the
12 legislature a written report evaluating the success or failure
13 of the project using measurable criteria no later than thirty
14 days after the termination of the project.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
17 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a temporary
18 one-year pilot telepsychiatry project at the University of
19 Hawaii pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
21 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

22 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



HB 1993 HD 1

Report Title:

UH Telepsychiatry Pilot Project

Description:

Establishes temporary 1-year University of Hawaii telepsychiatry pilot project serving the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, and Kauai. Requires evaluation report to legislature. Appropriates funds to UH for FY 2006-2007. (HB1993 HD1)

HB1993 HD1 HMS 2006-1672

