
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR SCHOOL-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TREATMENT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that abuse of illicit
2 substances is a serious health and safety issue facing the youth
3 of Hawaii. In 2003, the department of health released the
4 findings of a study documenting adolescent drug use trends in
5 Hawaii over the last fifteen years, entitled "Hawaii Student
6 Alcohol, Tobacco, And Other Drug Use Study (1987-2003): Hawaii
7 Adolescent Prevention And Treatment Needs Assessment" (DOH
8 Study). The DOH study found that seven per cent, or more than
9 6,500 public school students between grades six and twelve,
10 require treatment for substance abuse.

11 The DOH study surveyed grades six through twelve on the use
12 of six substances: alcohol, marijuana, stimulants, depressants,
13 hallucinogens, and club drugs. It states that, "because of the
14 high likelihood that substance abuse by adolescents will turn
15 into a dependency problem, students are considered needing
16 treatment, or at least screening for treatment, if they meet
17 either a dependence or abuse diagnosis for any of the six



1 substance classifications. Dependence is the most severe
2 diagnosis and includes physiological symptoms, such as tolerance
3 and withdrawal, and behavioral symptoms, such as impaired
4 control over the use of a substance. Abuse is a residual
5 category for those . . . who use substances in dangerous
6 situations or who use substances despite having problems related
7 to their substance use."

8 According to the DOH study, in 2003, one per cent of sixth
9 graders and three per cent of eighth graders met the criteria
10 for needing substance abuse treatment. It found that
11 approximately half of the students who need treatment require
12 help for both alcohol and drug abuse. Further, estimated
13 statewide treatment needs for public school students in grades
14 six through twelve are: 2,067 students (two per cent) for
15 alcohol abuse only; 1,753 students (two per cent) for drug abuse
16 only; 2,713 students (three per cent) for both alcohol and drug
17 abuse; and 6,525 students (seven per cent) for any substance
18 abuse. Across all grade levels, incidence of alcohol use is
19 higher, and onset is earlier, than for all other substances.

20 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support
21 increased school-based department of health substance abuse
22 treatment programs for middle schools.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to
 4 support increased statewide school-based substance abuse
 5 treatment programs for middle schools.

6 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
 7 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

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

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HB 2002

Report Title:

Appropriation; School-Based Substance Abuse Treatment for Middle Schools

Description:

Appropriates funds to DOH to support increased school-based substance abuse treatment programs for middle schools.

