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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Providing  
2 Intervention for Substance Abuse Act".

3 **PART I**

4 SECTION 2. Medical personnel, particularly in the  
5 emergency room, regularly encounter patients who have sustained  
6 injuries, loss, or trauma that results from use of alcohol or  
7 illicit substances. This initial point of contact in a medical  
8 setting is a recognized window of opportunity where patients are  
9 most vulnerable and open to intervention and dialogue that  
10 addresses their underlying alcohol or substance abuse issues.  
11 It is at this "teachable moment" that individuals can benefit  
12 from an assessment, education, counseling, or, if necessary, a  
13 referral to treatment.

14 The "Screening, Briefing, Intervention, Referral, and  
15 Treatment" (SBIRT) program capitalizes on this "teachable  
16 moment" and is recognized as a best practices initiative by the  
17 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
18 (SAMHSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human



1 Services. The SBIRT program has been successfully implemented  
2 and is ongoing in several other states and continues to serve as  
3 a best practices and model program. This initiative recognizes  
4 that significant steps can be taken, within a medical setting,  
5 to address the problems of addiction. The Screening, Briefing,  
6 Intervention, Referral, and Treatment program makes the most of  
7 an individual's "teachable moment" by offering screening for  
8 alcohol or substance abuse, brief intervention, education, and,  
9 if necessary, referrals to appropriate care or treatment.

10 Current state law allows insurers to exclude coverage for  
11 injuries sustained by insured persons as a result of  
12 intoxication from alcohol or narcotics. This statutory  
13 exclusion was created under the original model Uniform Accident  
14 and Sickness Policy Provision law (UPPL), which was approved in  
15 1947 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners  
16 (NAIC), the organization of insurance regulators from the fifty  
17 states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. territories. At  
18 the time of origin, the UPPL model laws mirrored accepted  
19 attitudes toward alcohol and drug use. In 1955, Hawaii adopted  
20 the Uniform Accident and Sickness Policy Provision Law model  
21 language.



1           Significantly, in 2001, the National Association of  
2 Insurance Commissioners voted unanimously to repeal the  
3 provision of the Uniform Accident and Sickness Policy Provision  
4 Law relating to alcohol and narcotics. In its place, the  
5 National Association of Insurance Commissioners adopted a  
6 revised model law that prohibits health insurers from denying  
7 coverage on the basis of intoxication from alcohol or narcotics.  
8 The National Conference of Insurance Legislators, the American  
9 Medical Association, American Bar Association, Mothers Against  
10 Drunk Driving, and the Emergency Nurses Association have  
11 publicly supported this initiative. While many other states  
12 have adopted legislation that prohibits medical health insurers  
13 from denying coverage on the basis of intoxication from alcohol  
14 or narcotics, Hawaii law has remained unchanged, and continues  
15 to mirror the original Uniform Accident and Sickness Policy  
16 Provision Law language.

17           Accordingly, under current Hawaii law, health care  
18 professionals and substance abuse screeners may be hesitant to  
19 link alcohol or substance abuse to an injury, for fear of  
20 non-reimbursement for services rendered. In order to  
21 successfully implement the Screening, Briefing, Intervention,  
22 Referral, and Treatment program in Hawaii, current law must be



1 changed to remove barriers that impede these screeners from  
2 comprehensively assessing a patient's underlying alcohol or  
3 substance abuse issues. It is noted that this problem currently  
4 impedes the use of existing federal monies appropriated through  
5 the State of Hawaii's Department of Transportation for a similar  
6 screening pilot program.

7 The purpose of this Act is to: (1) prohibit medical health  
8 insurers from excluding coverage for injuries sustained by  
9 insured persons as a result of intoxication from alcohol or  
10 narcotics, and (2) appropriate funds to establish the SBIRT  
11 program in the state of Hawaii.

12 SECTION 3. Section 431:10A-106, Hawaii revised Statutes,  
13 is amended to read as follows:

14 "**§431:10A-106 Optional provisions.** Except as provided in  
15 section 431:10A-107, no policy of accident and health or  
16 sickness insurance delivered or issued for delivery to any  
17 person in this State shall contain the provisions set forth  
18 below unless the provisions are in the words in which they  
19 appear below; provided that the insurer may substitute  
20 corresponding provisions of different wording approved by the  
21 commissioner that are in each instance not less favorable in any  
22 respect to the insured or the beneficiary. Such provisions are



1 optional provisions. Any such provision contained in the policy  
2 shall be preceded individually by the specified caption or, at  
3 the option of the insurer, by such appropriate individual or  
4 group captions or subcaptions as the commissioner may approve.

5 The provisions are as follows:

6 (1) "Change of Occupation: If the insured is injured or  
7 contracts sickness after having changed occupations to one  
8 classified by the insurer as more hazardous than that stated in  
9 this policy or while doing for compensation anything pertaining  
10 to an occupation so classified, the insurer will pay only such  
11 portion of the indemnities provided in this policy as the  
12 premium paid would have purchased at the rates and within the  
13 limits fixed by the insurer for the more hazardous occupation.  
14 If the insured's occupation changes to one classified by the  
15 insurer as less hazardous than that stated in this policy, the  
16 insurer, upon receipt of proof of such change of occupation,  
17 will reduce the premium rate accordingly, and will return the  
18 excess pro rata unearned premium from the date of change of  
19 occupation or from the policy anniversary date immediately  
20 preceding receipt of such proof, whichever is the more recent.  
21 In applying this provision, the classification of occupational  
22 risk and the premium shall be such as have been last filed by



1 the insurer prior to the occurrence of the loss for which the  
2 insurer is liable or prior to date of proof of change in  
3 occupation with the state official having supervision of  
4 insurance in the state where the insured resided at the time  
5 this policy was issued; but if such filing was not required,  
6 then the classification of occupational risk and the premium  
7 rates shall be those last made effective by the insurer in such  
8 state prior to the occurrence of the loss or prior to the date  
9 of proof of change in occupation."

10 (2) "Misstatement of Age: If the age of the insured has  
11 been misstated, all amounts payable under this policy shall be  
12 such as the premium paid would have purchased at the correct  
13 age."

14 (3) Other insurance in this insurer shall be in one of the  
15 following forms:

16 (A) "Other Insurance in This Insurer: If an accident  
17 and health or sickness policy or policies  
18 previously issued by the insurer to the insured  
19 be in force concurrently herewith, making the  
20 aggregate indemnity for (insert type of coverage  
21 or coverages) in excess of \$ (insert maximum  
22 limit of indemnity or indemnities) the excess

1 insurance shall be void and all premiums paid for  
2 such excess shall be returned to the insured or  
3 to the insured's estate."; or

4 (B) "Other Insurance in This Insurer: Insurance  
5 effective at any one time on the insured under a  
6 like policy or policies in this insurer is  
7 limited to the one such policy elected by the  
8 insured, the insured's beneficiary, or the  
9 insured's estate, as the case may be, and the  
10 insurer will return all premiums paid for all  
11 other such policies."

12 (4) Insurance with other insurers. Either or both of the  
13 following forms shall be used:

14 (A) (i) "Insurance with Other Insurers: If there be  
15 other valid coverage, not with this insurer,  
16 providing benefits for the same loss on a  
17 provision of service basis or on an expense  
18 incurred basis and of which this insurer has  
19 not been given written notice prior to the  
20 occurrence or commencement of loss, the only  
21 liability under any expense incurred  
22 coverage of this policy shall be for such

1 proportion of the loss as the amount which  
2 would otherwise have been payable hereunder  
3 plus the total of the like amounts under all  
4 such other valid coverages for the same loss  
5 of which this insurer had notice bears to  
6 the total like amounts under all valid  
7 coverages for such loss, and for the return  
8 of such portion of the premiums paid as  
9 shall exceed the pro rata portion for the  
10 amount so determined. For the purpose of  
11 applying this provision when other coverage  
12 is on a provision of service basis, the like  
13 amount of such other coverage shall be taken  
14 as the amount which the services rendered  
15 would have cost in the absence of such  
16 coverage."

17 (ii) "Insurance with Other Insurers: If there be  
18 other valid coverage, not with this insurer,  
19 providing benefits for the same loss on  
20 other than an expense incurred basis and of  
21 which this insurer has not been given  
22 written notice prior to the occurrence or



1 commencement of loss, the only liability for  
2 such benefits under this policy shall be for  
3 such proportion of the indemnities otherwise  
4 provided hereunder for such loss as the like  
5 indemnities of which the insurer had notice  
6 (including the indemnities under this  
7 policy) bear to the total amount of all the  
8 indemnities for such loss, and for the  
9 return of such portion of the premium paid  
10 as shall exceed the pro rata portion for the  
11 indemnities thus determined."

12 (B) If the provision set forth in subparagraph (A) (i)  
13 is included in a policy that also contains the  
14 provision set forth in subparagraph (A) (ii),  
15 there shall be added to the caption of the  
16 subparagraph (A) (i) provision the phrase,  
17 "expense incurred benefits".

18 (C) The insurer may, at its option, include in the  
19 provision set forth in subparagraph (A) (i) a  
20 definition of other valid coverage, approved as  
21 to form by the commissioner, which definition  
22 shall be limited in subject matter to coverage

1 provided by organizations subject to regulation  
2 by insurance law or by insurance authorities of  
3 this State or any other state or territory of the  
4 United States or any province of Canada, and by  
5 hospital or medical service organizations, and to  
6 any other coverage the inclusion of which may be  
7 approved by the commissioner. In the absence of  
8 such definition the term shall not include group  
9 insurance, automobile medical payment insurance,  
10 or coverage provided by hospital or medical  
11 service organizations, union welfare plans, or  
12 employer or employee benefit organizations. For  
13 the purpose of applying the provision set forth  
14 in subparagraph (A)(i) with respect to any  
15 insured, any amount of benefit provided for such  
16 insured pursuant to any compulsory benefit  
17 statute (including any workers' compensation or  
18 employers' liability statute), whether provided  
19 by a governmental agency or otherwise, shall in  
20 all cases be deemed to be other valid coverage of  
21 which the insurer has had notice. In applying  
22 the provision set forth in subparagraph (A)(i),

1 no third party liability coverage shall be  
2 included as other valid coverage.

3 (D) If the provision set forth in subparagraph  
4 (A) (ii) is included in a policy that also  
5 contains the provision set forth in subparagraph  
6 (A) (i), there shall be added to the caption of  
7 the subparagraph (A) (ii) provision the phrase,  
8 "other benefits".

9 (E) The insurer may, at its option, include in the  
10 provision set forth in subparagraph (A) (ii) a  
11 definition of other valid coverage, approved as  
12 to form by the commissioner, which definition  
13 shall be limited in subject matter to coverage  
14 provided by organizations subject to regulation  
15 by insurance law or by insurance authorities of  
16 this State or any other state or territory of the  
17 United States or any province of Canada, and to  
18 any other coverage the inclusion of which may be  
19 approved by the commissioner. In the absence of  
20 such definition the term shall not include group  
21 insurance, or benefits provided by union welfare  
22 plans or employer or employee benefit

1 organizations. For the purpose of applying the  
2 provision set forth in subparagraph (A)(ii) with  
3 respect to any insured, any amount of benefit  
4 provided for such insured pursuant to any  
5 compulsory benefit statute (including any  
6 workers' compensation or employers' liability  
7 statute), whether provided by a governmental  
8 agency or otherwise, shall in all cases be deemed  
9 to be other valid coverage of which the insurer  
10 has had notice. In applying the provision set  
11 forth in subparagraph (A)(ii), no third party  
12 liability coverage shall be included as other  
13 valid coverage.

14 (5) (A) "Relation of Earnings to Insurance: If the total  
15 monthly amount of loss of time benefits promised  
16 for the same loss under all valid loss of time  
17 coverage upon the insured, whether payable on a  
18 weekly or monthly basis, shall exceed the monthly  
19 earnings of the insured at the time disability  
20 commenced or the insured's average monthly  
21 earnings for the period of two years immediately  
22 preceding a disability for which claim is made,

1           whichever is the greater, the insurer will be  
2           liable only for such proportionate amount of such  
3           benefits under this policy as the amount of such  
4           monthly earnings or such average monthly earnings  
5           of the insured bears to the total amount of  
6           monthly benefits for the same loss under all such  
7           coverage upon the insured at the time such  
8           disability commences and for the return of such  
9           part of the premiums paid during such two years  
10          as shall exceed the pro rata amount of the  
11          premiums for the benefits actually paid  
12          hereunder; but this shall not operate to reduce  
13          the total monthly amount of benefits payable  
14          under all such coverage upon the insured below  
15          the sum of \$200 or the sum of the monthly  
16          benefits specified in such coverages, whichever  
17          is the lesser, nor shall it operate to reduce  
18          benefits other than those payable for loss of  
19          time."

20          (B) The policy provision in subparagraph (A) may be  
21          inserted only in a policy which the insured has  
22          the right to continue in force, subject to its



1 terms by the timely payment of premiums until at  
2 least age fifty or, in the case of a policy  
3 issued after age forty-four, for at least five  
4 years from its date of issue.

5 (C) The insurer may, at its option, include in the  
6 provision set forth in subparagraph (A) a  
7 definition of valid loss of time coverage  
8 approved as to form by the commissioner, which  
9 definition shall be limited in subject matter to  
10 coverage provided by governmental agencies or by  
11 organizations subject to regulation by insurance  
12 law or by insurance authorities of this State or  
13 any state, district, or territory of the United  
14 States or any province of Canada, or to any other  
15 coverage the inclusion of which may be approved  
16 by the commissioner or any combination of such  
17 coverages. In the absence of such definition  
18 such terms shall not include any coverage  
19 provided for such insured pursuant to any  
20 compulsory benefit statute (including any  
21 workers' compensation or employers' liability  
22 statute), or benefits provided by union welfare

1 plans or by employer or employee benefit  
2 organizations.

3 (6) "Unpaid Premium: Upon the payment of a claim under  
4 this policy, any premium then due and unpaid or  
5 covered by any note or written order may be deducted  
6 therefrom."

7 (7) "Cancellation: The insurer may cancel this policy at  
8 any time by written notice delivered to the insured,  
9 or mailed to the insured's last address as shown by  
10 the records of the insurer, stating when, not less  
11 than five days thereafter, such cancellation shall be  
12 effective; and after the policy has been continued  
13 beyond its original term the insured may cancel this  
14 policy at any time by written notice delivered or  
15 mailed to the insurer, effective upon receipt or on  
16 such later date as may be specified in such notice.  
17 In the event of cancellation, the insurer will return  
18 promptly the unearned portion of any premium paid. If  
19 the insured cancels, the earned premium shall be  
20 computed by the use of the short-rate table last filed  
21 with the state official having supervision of  
22 insurance in the state where the insured resided when



1 the policy was issued. If the insurer cancels, the  
2 earned premium shall be computed pro rata.

3 Cancellation shall be without prejudice to any claim  
4 originating prior to the effective date of  
5 cancellation."

6 (8) "Conformity with State Statutes: Any provision of  
7 this policy which, on its effective date, is in  
8 conflict with the statutes of the state in which the  
9 insured resides on such date is hereby amended to  
10 conform to the minimum requirements of such statutes."

11 (9) "Illegal Occupation: The insurer shall not be liable  
12 for any loss to which a contributing cause was the  
13 insured's commission of or attempt to commit a felony  
14 or to which a contributing cause was the insured's  
15 being engaged in an illegal occupation."

16 [~~(10) "Intoxicants and Narcotics: The insurer shall not be~~  
17 ~~liable for any loss sustained or contracted in~~  
18 ~~consequence of the insured's being intoxicated or~~  
19 ~~under the influence of any narcotic unless~~  
20 ~~administered on the advice of a physician." ]"~~



**PART II**

SECTION 4. There is established a pilot program for screening, brief intervention, referral, and substance abuse treatment at hospital emergency rooms. This pilot program shall be sited at two separate medical centers. One pilot program site shall be located at a major urban trauma center in Honolulu. The second pilot program site shall be located at a neighbor island acute care hospital that:

- (1) Has a high volume of emergency department trauma traffic;
- (2) Has a high percentage of substance use co-morbidity in the emergency department population; and
- (3) Is in close proximity to medical or allied medical educational facilities at or above the community college level.

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,801,529, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-07 to implement the pilot program for screening, brief intervention, referral and substance abuse treatment at hospital emergency rooms.

1 SECTION 6. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
2 John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii for the  
3 purposes of this Act.

4 **PART III**

5 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken.

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



**Report Title:**

Substance Abuse; Injury Treatment

**Description:**

Repeal provision allowing health insurers the option to exclude coverage for injuries sustained by insured persons as a result of intoxication from alcohol or narcotics. Appropriates funds to establish the Screening, Briefing, Intervention, Referral, and Treatment program. (SD1)

