

GOV. MSG. NO. 902

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR

June 6, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President and Members of the Senate Twenty-Fourth State Legislature State Capitol, Room 409 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

This is to inform you that on June 6, 2007, the following bill was signed into law:

SB914 SD2 HD1 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES OF COMMITTED PERSONS. (ACT 144)

Sincerely,

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LINDA LINGLE

Approved by the Governor on <u>JUN 6 2007</u>

THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007 STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 1 4 4 S.B. NO. 914 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES OF COMMITTED PERSONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that mental health 2 services at the Oahu community correctional center are 3 alarmingly inadequate and have been the subject of ongoing 4 federal investigation. These inadequacies have created 5 conditions that threaten the constitutional rights of the 6 committed persons detained therein. 7 The legislature further finds that up to forty per cent of 8 the committed persons in the State's correctional facilities are 9 mentally ill. Recent communications with experts retained by 10 the federal Department of Justice have noted many 11 insufficiencies, including: 12 (1)Inadequate staffing, including a lack of a director of mental health services and trained mental health 13 14 professionals; 15 (2) A lack of individualized treatment planning and

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(3) A confusing and inconsistent organizational structure;

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documentation;

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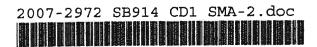
Outdated and unused policies and procedures; and 1 (4)Inadequate access to psychiatric hospitalization. (5) 2 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds to the 3 department of public safety to remedy the inadequacies of mental 4 health care services provided to persons committed to Hawaii 5 state correctional facilities, and to monitor the progress of 6 this remediation. 7 There is appropriated out of the general 8 SECTION 2. revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000, or so much 9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 for 10 improvements to the mental health care system of committed 11 persons in state-operated correctional facilities that will 12 address the concerns expressed by the experts retained by the 13 federal Department of Justice. 14

S.B. NO. ⁹¹⁴ S.D. 2

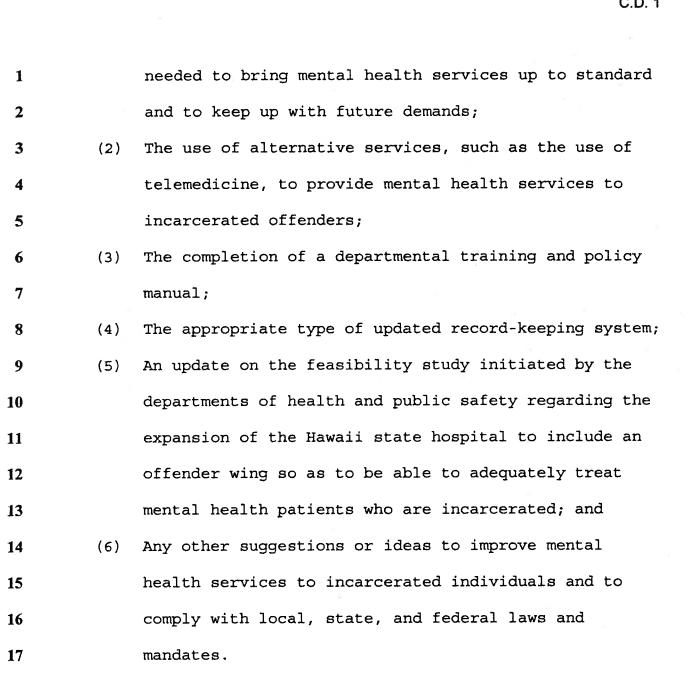
15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of 16 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. The department of public safety shall report to
the legislature by November 1, 2007, with a detailed mental
health plan that addresses the following:

20 (1) An assessment of the department's existing resources
21 and staffing, and of additional resources and staffing



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S.B. NO. ⁹¹⁴ S.D. 2

18 This written report shall be submitted in a form understandable
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19 by lay readers and made available to the public.

20 SECTION 4. The department of public safety shall report to
21 the legislature not later than twenty days prior to the
22 commencement of the 2008 regular session, and every session

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1 thereafter, with its achievements, continuing improvements, and 2 ongoing problems in providing the appropriate mental health care 3 to committed persons under its jurisdiction.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII Approved this day: _______JUN 6 2007

