
SENATE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE TO STUDY WHETHER
HAWAII SHOULD PROVIDE A CONTINUUM OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR
INCARCERATED PERSONS.

1 WHEREAS, chapter 334, part VIII, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
2 relating to involuntary outpatient mental health treatment,
3 provides procedures and criteria for the involuntary outpatient
4 treatment for persons in need of mental health services; and
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6 WHEREAS, the existing law on involuntary outpatient mental
7 health treatment was originally enacted by Act 251, Session Laws
8 of Hawaii 1984, and remains today in substantially the same
9 language; and
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11 WHEREAS, the involuntary outpatient treatment law provides
12 for a maximum outpatient treatment period of not more than one
13 hundred eighty days or six months; and
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15 WHEREAS, existing law does not provide for follow-up mental
16 health treatment after the expiration of six months, which in
17 many instances is sorely needed for the benefit of the patient
18 and the safety of society; and
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20 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, a white paper submitted to the 2002
21 National Conference on Mental Health Statistics, by a professor
22 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Psychology,
23 and the Adult Mental Health Division of the Hawaii Department of
24 Health, estimates that the population with severe and persistent
25 mental illness is 2.6 per cent of adults, or approximately
26 24,000 people; and
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28 WHEREAS, the white paper found that 4,500 adults were
29 served by the Adult Mental Health Division, leaving a
30 discrepancy of nearly 20,000 adults who may not have received
31 needed mental health services, correcting for such variables as
32 insurance coverage and Medicaid; and
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34 WHEREAS, persons who have been discharged from further
35 treatment after a maximum period of six months have a high



1 probability of needing continuous mental health care, but in all
2 likelihood do not receive such care because of a lack of further
3 professional attention and care; and

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5 WHEREAS, discharged persons may go on to become involved in
6 the criminal justice system; and

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8 WHEREAS, *The Honolulu Advertiser*, on January 14, 2007,
9 reported on its investigation that found that the care of
10 mentally ill inmates in Hawaii's prison system is so deficient
11 that many fail to get treatment and are subjected to conditions
12 considered harmful and likely to worsen their symptoms; and

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14 WHEREAS, the prison mental health services are one
15 component of the total mental health care system in Hawaii in
16 which the entry point for mental health services is assisted
17 outpatient treatment; and

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19 WHEREAS, a special mental health task force would be able
20 to expertly assess whether Hawaii should provide some form of
21 post-involuntary outpatient mental health care, and assess the
22 quality and effectiveness of mental health services provided to
23 incarcerated persons; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
27 that the Department of Health is requested to establish a
28 special mental health task force and provide administrative
29 support thereto; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special mental health task
32 force be chaired by the Director of Health, or designee; the
33 Chief of the Adult Mental Health Division, or designee, of the
34 Department of Health; the Chief of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse
35 Division, or designee, of the Department of Health; the Chief
36 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, or designee; the Director
37 of Public Safety, or representative; a representative of the
38 Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, selected by
39 the corporation; the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County
40 of Honolulu, or designee; the Public Defender or designee; a
41 representative of the Mental Health Association in Hawaii, to be
42 selected by that organization; a representative of the Hawaii
43 Medical Psychiatric Association, to be selected by that
44 organization; a representative of the Hawaii Psychological



1 Association, to be selected by that organization; a
2 representative of the Community Alliance on Prisons, to be
3 selected by that organization; a representative of the American
4 Civil Liberties Union, to be selected by that organization; and
5 the Legal Aid Society, to be selected by that organization; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special mental health task
8 force select a chair; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special mental health task
11 force is requested to conduct a study to assess whether Hawaii
12 should provide some form of post-involuntary outpatient mental
13 health care, and assess the quality and effectiveness of mental
14 health services provided to incarcerated persons; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the special mental health task
17 force is requested to report its findings and recommendations,
18 including proposed legislation, to this body no later than
19 thirty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
20 2008; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health the Chief of
24 the Adult Mental Health Division, the Chief of the Alcohol and
25 Drug Abuse Division, the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme
26 Court, the Director of Public Safety, the Executive Director of
27 the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, the
28 Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, the
29 Public Defender, the Mental Health Association in Hawaii, the
30 Hawaii Medical Psychiatric Association, the Hawaii Psychological
31 Association, the Community Alliance on Prisons, the American
32 Civil Liberties Union, and the Legal Aid Society.
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OFFERED BY: _____


By Request

