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 the neighbor islands

2   and parts of Oahu lack access to specialty medical care. In

3   particular, patients have difficulty accessing psychiatric

4   services for various reasons, including the lack of providers

5   willing to accept medicaid or QUEST patients, lack of adequate

6   insurance coverage, ineligibility for patient services under the

7   department of health's mental health division, and the lack of

8   psychiatry employment positions in rural areas. As a result,

9   telehealth has played a more significant role in the delivery of

10   health care in recent years.

11   Psychiatric assessments via telepsychiatry are reliable

12   and, based on feedback regarding telepsychiatry services

13   provided in Molokai by Dr. Daniel Alicata and Dr. Chad Koyanagi,

14   patients actually preferred the interactions over video-link to

15   on-site visits. Also, the use of telepsychiatry in the

16   treatment of depression compares well with the outcomes, patient

1 adherence, patient satisfaction, and costs of in-patient

2 treatment.

3   The department of psychiatry at the University of Hawaii

4 currently has a telepsychiatry project underway on Molokai and

5 Maui. Other underserved areas are requesting similar

6 telepsychiatry services in their communities. An important

7 component of the project is the learning segment. Participating

8 residents will work within the modality for a period of one to

9 two years. The goal is to eventually increase the number of

10 telepsychiatry providers in the private sector and to broaden

11 the use of telepsychiatry, generally, to better serve patients

12 statewide.

13   The purpose of this Act is to expand the telepsychiatry

14 project to other underserved areas, involve advanced graduate

15 psychiatric residents in the provision of the expanded

16 telepsychiatry services, and appropriate funds for this purpose.

17   SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii shall expand its

18 existing telepsychiatry project, which is currently sited at the

19 community clinic of Maui and Molokai general hospital, to:

20   (1) Include other underserved areas, including rural

21   Kauai, Hawaii, and rural Oahu; and

1   (2)   Enable advanced graduate psychiatry residents to

2   provide telepsychiatry services under the supervision

3   of faculty of the department of psychiatry.

4   (b)   In addition, the University of Hawaii shall:

5   (1)   Intersperse on-site visits with the provision of the

6   telepsychiatry services; and

7   (2)   Transmit the telepsychiatry services between the

8   receiving sites and the department of psychiatry using

9   video teleconferencing equipment and ISDN lines.

10   (c)   The University of Hawaii shall submit an interim

11   report evaluating the expanded telepsychiatry project using

12   measurable criteria to the legislature no later than twenty days

13   prior to the convening of the 2008 regular session, and shall

14   submit a final report evaluating the expanded telepsychiatry

15   project using measurable criteria, including any proposed

16   legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior

17   to the convening of the 2009 regular session.

18   SECTION 3.   There is appropriated out of the general

19   revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $, or so

20   much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and

21   the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal

S.B. NO. 231

1 year 2008-2009, for the University of Hawaii to expand its

2 existing telepsychiatry project.

3 　　　The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University

4 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

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

6 shall be repealed on June 30, 2009.

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　　　　　　　INTRODUCED BY: _Suzanne Chun Oakland_

Report Title:
Health; Telepsychiatry

Description:
Appropriates funds to expand the telepsychiatry project at the
University of Hawaii; appropriates funds for that purpose.