

JAN 18 2008

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

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

1           **PART I. SCHOOL-BASED SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS**

2           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that substance abuse  
3 continues to be a particularly pernicious problem among youth  
4 and adolescents in Hawaii that has an especially adverse impact  
5 upon families and communities. Providing substance abuse  
6 treatment services to youths and adolescents as soon as possible  
7 is necessary to avoid increased costs to the State at a later  
8 time.

9           According to the department of health in its report, "The  
10 2000 Hawaii Student Alcohol and Drug Abuse Use Study (1987-  
11 2000), Hawaii Adolescent Prevention and Treatment Needs  
12 Assessment" (department of health report), experts in the field  
13 have linked substance abuse to other societal problems,  
14 including family dysfunction, juvenile delinquency, poor  
15 academic achievement, impaired emotional functioning, and  
16 lowered social competence. Furthermore, the economic costs of



1 substance abuse to society are often astronomical, with much of  
2 the burden falling on persons who are not substance abusers.

3 Nearly half of all twelfth graders, approximately one-  
4 fourth of tenth and eighth graders, and nearly one-tenth of  
5 sixth graders have tried at least one drug, with the most  
6 prevalent being marijuana, followed by inhalants, hallucinogens,  
7 and ecstasy. The report found that the upsurge in illicit drug  
8 use during the last two decades is generally considered a youth  
9 phenomenon, given that onset is most likely to occur during  
10 adolescence. Most experts agree that the key to reduction in  
11 the State's substance abuse problem lies in preventive efforts  
12 and early treatment programs aimed at reaching the State's  
13 youth.

14 The department of health report found that substance abuse  
15 treatment is needed statewide for two per cent of sixth graders,  
16 eight per cent of eighth graders, eighteen per cent of tenth  
17 graders, and twenty-seven per cent of twelfth graders. Twelve  
18 thousand public school students in grades six through twelve  
19 (approximately fourteen per cent) are estimated to need  
20 treatment for drug or alcohol abuse. Statewide treatment needs  
21 for combined public and private school population in grades six  
22 through twelve are estimated to be 14,175 (thirteen per cent).



1 Further according to the department of health report,  
2 substance abuse among youth and adolescents is fueled in  
3 significant part by normative social pressure (peer pressure),  
4 or the exposure to substance abuse of others. If a person's  
5 friends or family use illicit drugs, that person learns  
6 erroneously what society views as acceptable or popular  
7 behavior. Normative pressure exerts a powerful influence on  
8 adolescents because group acceptance is often directly related  
9 to an adolescent's feelings of self-worth.

10 The legislature finds that there is a critical need for  
11 substance abuse treatment, therapy, counseling, and intervention  
12 services targeting youth and adolescents. The overall goal of  
13 this treatment is to reduce or eliminate the use of drugs as a  
14 contributing factor to physical, psychological, and social  
15 dysfunction, and to arrest, retard, or reverse the progress of  
16 secondary problems.

17 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to combat  
18 substance abuse among youth and adolescents using school-based  
19 treatment programs. Specifically, it is intended that the funds  
20 appropriated in this part be used to increase funding for  
21 school-based treatment programs in schools that are at less than



1 full funding necessary for such treatment programs and to reduce  
2 existing waitlists for these treatment programs.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$940,062 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, and the  
6 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2009-2010, for substance abuse services for youth and  
8 adolescents. The amount appropriated shall be apportioned as  
9 follows:

|    |        |            |
|----|--------|------------|
| 10 | Oahu   | \$ 100,000 |
| 11 | Kauai  | 180,000    |
| 12 | Maui   | 80,000     |
| 13 | Hawaii | 580,062    |

14 **PART II. THERAPEUTIC LIVING PROGRAMS**

15 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that there is a shortage  
16 of safe affordable housing for adults who are newly recovering  
17 from alcohol or drug addiction. Being unemployed and lacking  
18 income are obstacles to many of these people's recovery.  
19 Lacking a place to live is also an obstacle to recovery.

20 Many newly recovering addicts are seeking services from  
21 homeless service providers who are already strained and may not  
22 be able to meet their needs. Providing therapeutic living



1 programs to newly recovering addicts assists them in becoming  
2 contributing members of the community and helps to minimize the  
3 cost of caring for them at a later time.

4 Therapeutic living programs provide a supportive living  
5 community for newly recovering addicts. These programs serve  
6 newly recovering addicts who require a residential setting but  
7 do not need the structure of a special treatment program, or who  
8 are transitioning from a more restrictive setting towards  
9 independent living. Therapeutic living programs are designed to  
10 aid residents in meeting basic needs by providing supportive  
11 services through an individualized recovery and discharge plan.  
12 All residents are expected to take an active interest in  
13 safeguarding and promoting an abstinent and recovery-focused  
14 environment. These programs are required to be in compliance  
15 with the administrative rules of the department of health.  
16 There are currently a limited number of therapeutic living  
17 programs operating in the State, but the number of newly  
18 recovering addicts far exceeds the number that these few  
19 programs can accommodate.

20 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to  
21 establish additional therapeutic living programs to increase  
22 their availability to newly recovering addicts.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,176,000 or so much  
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, and the  
 4 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 5 2009-2010, for the establishment of therapeutic living programs.  
 6 The amount appropriated shall be apportioned as follows:

|   |       |            |
|---|-------|------------|
| 7 | Oahu  | \$ 438,000 |
| 8 | Kauai | 438,000    |
| 9 | Maui  | 300,000    |

10 SECTION 5. The sums appropriated in sections 2 and 4 of  
 11 this Act shall be expended by the alcohol and drug abuse  
 12 division of the department of health for the purposes of this  
 13 Act.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY: Ray L. A...  
S.S.L.L.  
Amil J...

**Report Title:**

School-Based Substance Abuse Programs; Therapeutic Living Programs; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for school-based substance abuse programs and for therapeutic living programs.

