
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 \$800,676 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
6 substance abuse services for youth and adolescents. The amount
7 appropriated shall be apportioned as follows:

8	Oahu	\$ 100,000
9	Kauai	180,000
10	Maui	121,000
11	Hawaii	399,676

12 **PART II. THERAPEUTIC LIVING PROGRAMS**

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

18 Many newly recovering addicts are seeking services from
19 homeless service providers who are already strained and may not
20 be able to meet their needs. Providing therapeutic living
21 programs to newly recovering addicts assists them in becoming



1 contributing members of the community and helps to minimize the
2 cost of caring for them at a later time.

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

19 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to
20 establish additional therapeutic living programs to increase
21 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 for the
4 establishment of therapeutic living programs. The amount
5 appropriated shall be apportioned as follows:

6	Oahu	\$ 438,000
7	Kauai	438,000
8	Maui	300,000

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

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



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. (SD1)

