

SB2355

Measure Title:
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

Report Title:
Mental Health Services

Description:
Mandates agencies and government entities that require or deliver mental health services to create and implement a unified system of delivery of care and services.

Introducer(s):
CHUN OAKLAND

Current Referral:
HTH, WAM



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

S.B. 2355, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 11, 2008, 1:15 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports the intent of this measure, but feels it is unnecessary
2 at this time.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** No general fund expenditure.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** In late 2006, Hawaii was fortunate to receive a 5-year federal Mental
5 Health Transformation State Incentive Grant (MHTSIG) to bring together an even broader group of
6 stakeholders than currently identified in this measure, including consumers and families, to improve the
7 way mental health services are delivered throughout the state.

8 Dr. Rupert Goetz and Sharlene Chun-Lum are the co-leaders selected to head the MHTSIG,
9 which began last July 2007 with a kick off in the State Capitol. In August 2007, town meetings were
10 been held in 14 communities statewide to invite members of these communities along with providers,
11 administrators, public and private entities to join working groups to develop recommendations leading to
12 a Comprehensive Mental Health Plan that will be accessible both geographically and culturally. Since
13 September 2007, more than 150 individuals have met monthly to develop the recommendations for
14 seven major themes. A substantial Needs Assessment/Resource Inventory is also being compiled by the
15 University of Hawaii-Mental Health Services Research Evaluation and Training Program to inform the
16 process and recommendations.

1 A 58-member Transformation Working Group (TWG) made up of leaders from State and
2 County, Public and Private providers, and consumers review these recommendations and discuss how
3 the recommendations may be implemented. Key Health Committee legislators are also members of the
4 TWG.

5 The MHTSIG team recently took these recommendations back to the communities they first
6 addressed in August 2007 to get their feedback and input prior to completing the first version of the
7 Comprehensive Mental Health Plan which will be submitted to the grantors at the end of March 2008.

8 We thank the legislature for introducing this bill; however, we believe that the process currently
9 underway will achieve the intent of this bill while building significant community capacity and
10 sustainability. We will be happy to brief legislators on the Comprehensive Mental Health Plan for their
11 input in this process.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2008

Committee: Senate Health/Judiciary and Labor

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 2355, RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Purpose: Mandates agencies and government entities that require or deliver mental health services to create and implement a unified system of delivery of care and services

Department's Position: While the Department of Education (DOE) supports Mental Health services, we do not support S.B. 2355 at this time due to Hawaii's impending fiscal austerity and priority for the current Board of Education's budget requests. The Department, along with its agency partners, organizations and general public, are currently engaged in developing a comprehensive plan for the implementation and delivery of mental health services, through a Mental Health Transformation State Improvement Grant (SIG). By March 2008, the primary workgroup and its various subcommittees will have the basic framework of the plan in a recommendation to the Governor. While there is much work to be done to improve the delivery of mental health services for both children and adults, our collective work on this grant makes this bill duplicative. The Department remains committed to working with any and all agency partners to ensure that children and adults have access to the appropriate mental health services.