
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS TREATMENT COURT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds
2 to support the veterans treatment court, which is intended and
3 designed to recognize the unique needs of veterans entering the
4 criminal justice system with mental illness and substance abuse
5 issues arising from their service to our country.

6 After September 11, 2001, members of the United States
7 armed forces and reserves and the Hawaii national guard engaged
8 in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq in unprecedented numbers.
9 Recent research confirms a significant number of soldiers--by
10 some estimates, one in five--return home from war with combat-
11 related mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress
12 disorder, traumatic brain injury, sexual trauma, substance
13 abuse, or other mental and emotional health conditions.

14 The first veterans court was established in 2008 in
15 Buffalo, New York. Similar models have subsequently emerged
16 across the country. The goal of these courts is to enhance the
17 effectiveness of the criminal justice system through:

18 (1) Early intervention and diversion from incarceration;



- 1 (2) Individualized assessment of problems, including
- 2 those related to substance abuse;
- 3 (3) Judicial tracking and increased judicial involvement
- 4 in monitoring treatment participation using
- 5 incentives for compliance and graduated sanctions
- 6 for noncompliance;
- 7 (4) Encouragement of veterans to accept responsibility
- 8 for their conduct;
- 9 (5) Provision of a mentor to assist with reintegration;
- 10 and
- 11 (6) Rehabilitation of veterans and their successful
- 12 reintegration into society.

13 Successful intervention by the veterans treatment court is

14 expected to have a long-term impact upon prison overcrowding,

15 the costs of high rates of incarceration, public safety,

16 probation and parole workloads, and case flow through the

17 judicial system.

18 The judiciary is seeking to establish a veterans treatment

19 court in the first circuit, which will require additional

20 personnel to provide case management services as well as defense

21 and prosecutorial legal services. Accordingly, this measure

22 authorizes additional positions and appropriates funding for the



1 judiciary and public defender's office, and appropriates
2 grant-in-aid funds to the Honolulu prosecutor's office.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The judiciary may establish one full-time
4 equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent social worker IV position to
5 provide support to the veterans treatment court in the first
6 circuit.

7 (b) There is appropriated out of the general revenues of
8 the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as
9 may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or
10 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to
11 fund the position authorized in subsection (a).

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary
13 for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. (a) The department of budget and finance may
15 establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent deputy
16 public defender position in the office of the public defender to
17 provide support to the veterans treatment court in the first
18 circuit.

19 (b) There is appropriated out of the general revenues of
20 the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as
21 may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the sum of
22 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2014-2015 to fund the position authorized in subsection (a).
2 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of
3 budget and finance for the purposes of this Act.

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for a
7 grant-in-aid to the department of the prosecuting attorney of
8 the city and county of Honolulu to fund two full-time equivalent
9 (2.0 FTE) temporary deputy prosecuting attorney positions, to
10 provide support to the veterans treatment court in the first
11 circuit.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 the prosecuting attorney of the city and county of Honolulu for
14 the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Judiciary Package; Veterans Treatment Court; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for positions to support a veterans treatment court in the first circuit. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB196 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

