
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the timely treatment
2 of chronic substance abusers significantly reduces emergency and
3 medical costs, as well as homelessness and arrest rates. In the
4 three-years following state funding cutbacks in substance abuse
5 and mental health services in 2009, emergency room charges for
6 persons with severe mental illness and substance abuse increased
7 forty-six per cent to nearly \$31,700,000 and inpatient charges
8 for the same population rose nearly 22.6 per cent to nearly
9 \$66,700,000.

10 During fiscal year 2013-2014, state drug and alcohol
11 treatment funding was further reduced by \$404,000 as a result of
12 federal sequester cuts. This resulted in the loss of treatment
13 services for more than one hundred individuals with substance
14 abuse disorders. This loss of services will cost Hawaii
15 millions of dollars during the next three years in terms of
16 increased costs associated with the inappropriate use of
17 emergency and hospital services, increased incarceration rates,
18 and adverse impacts on tourism and local businesses.



1 The legislature further finds that the number of homeless
2 persons in Hawaii who suffer from substance abuse and mental
3 illness has increased during the past several years. The 2013
4 Point in Time Count, which measures the State's homeless
5 population on a specific day, showed an 11.9 per cent year-over-
6 year rise in severely mentally ill homeless persons and a one
7 hundred twenty-six per cent increase in homeless persons with
8 chronic substance abuse problems, even though several thousand
9 homeless substance abusers were excluded from this study because
10 they were enrolled in residential substance abuse treatment
11 programs or were residing in temporary housing situations.

12 Recent data from the Honolulu police department emergency
13 psychological service and jail diversion program indicate that
14 between 2010 and 2012, arrests of homeless persons tripled
15 overall, while arrests of homeless people with substance abuse
16 and mental illness quadrupled. In 2012, forty-four per cent of
17 arrestees on Oahu suffered from severe substance abuse, severe
18 mental illness, or both.

19 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for a
20 statewide pilot program to treat chronic, substance-dependent
21 adults.



1 SECTION 2. The department of health shall establish a
2 statewide pilot program to provide treatment services, including
3 individual, group, and family counseling; intensive care
4 management and referral; medication management; cognitive-
5 behavioral skill training; daily living skills; and supportive
6 services, including housing assistance, employment training, job
7 placement, and continuing care support, to chronic, substance-
8 dependent adults.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
12 pilot program described in section 2 of this Act.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2150.



Report Title:

Drug and Alcohol Treatment; Substance Abuse; Pilot Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for a pilot program to provide treatment and
supportive services to chronic, substance-dependent adults.
Effective July 1, 2150. (SB2349 HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

