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# 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 can significantly reduce emergency  
3 and medical costs, as well as homelessness and arrest rates.  
4 Following state cutbacks in community health services in 2009,  
5 which included funding reductions for substance abuse and mental  
6 health services, emergency room charges for those with severe  
7 mental illness and substance abuse increased forty-six per cent  
8 in a three-year period to nearly \$31,700,000. Similarly,  
9 inpatient charges for the same population during the same period  
10 rose nearly 22.6 per cent to nearly \$66,700,000.

11           During fiscal year 2013-2014, state drug and alcohol  
12 treatment efforts were further reduced by \$404,000 as a result  
13 of federal sequester cuts. The impact of this federal fund  
14 reduction can be measured by the loss of treatment services for  
15 more than one hundred individuals with substance abuse  
16 disorders. Failure to provide treatment for one hundred  
17 individuals with substance abuse disorders will cost Hawaii many  
18 millions of dollars during the next three years, as measured in



1 increased costs associated with the inappropriate utilization of  
2 emergency and hospital services, incarceration, and adverse  
3 impacts on tourism and local businesses.

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

15       Moreover, Hawaii has experienced an increase in arrests of  
16 homeless persons with substance abuse and mental health  
17 problems. Recent data from the Honolulu police department  
18 emergency psychological service and jail diversion program  
19 indicate that between 2010 and 2012, arrests of homeless persons  
20 tripled overall, while arrests of homeless people with substance  
21 abuse and mental illness quadrupled. In 2012, forty-four per



1 cent of everyone arrested on Oahu suffered from severe substance  
2 abuse, severe mental illness, or both.

3 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for a  
4 statewide pilot program to treat chronic, substance-dependent  
5 adults.

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

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

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

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for a pilot program to provide treatment  
and supportive services to chronic, substance-dependent adults.  
Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

