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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is facing a  
2 severe shortage of resources to effectively address the needs of  
3 individuals committed to the custody of the director of health or  
4 the director of public safety who may require strict security and  
5 intensive inpatient mental health treatment. Over the last  
6 twenty years, the Hawaii state hospital in Kaneohe has come to  
7 serve a forensic population, as virtually every patient admitted  
8 comes to the hospital by court order. Forensic patients are  
9 patients who have been charged with a crime, and most have been  
10 diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness, substance  
11 addiction, or both. Many of the inmates and detainees in jails  
12 and prisons have a history of violence and have significant needs  
13 for psychiatric care, including inpatient hospitalization.

14           The legislature further finds that admissions to the Hawaii  
15 state hospital have increased by over fifty per cent in the past  
16 two years. The growing need to address this forensic psychiatric  
17 population has created a strain on the staff and programs. For  
18 example, the buildings currently in use at the Hawaii state



1 hospital were designed to serve a population of individuals very  
2 different from those who are there at present.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 4 (1) Establish a task force to study the needs of the  
5 populations to be served by the new inpatient  
6 psychiatric facility and develop a coordinated  
7 interagency action plan to implement the needed  
8 services; and
- 9 (2) Appropriate funds to address identified gaps in  
10 facilities and services by developing a suitable  
11 inpatient psychiatric facility in which services can be  
12 provided for the mentally ill who need stricter  
13 security and for inmates and detainees who need a  
14 higher level of mental health care.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall convene a  
16 task force that includes representation from the department of  
17 health, judiciary, department of the attorney general, department  
18 of public safety, state procurement office, department of  
19 accounting and general services, and other relevant legal, law  
20 enforcement, and mental health organizations.

21 (b) The task force shall study the needs of the populations  
22 to be served by the new inpatient psychiatric facility described



1 in subsection (c). The task force shall develop a coordinated  
2 interagency action plan to implement services at the new  
3 inpatient psychiatric facility.

4 (c) The department of health shall submit the interagency  
5 action plan and plans to build a secure inpatient psychiatric  
6 facility to the legislature, no later than twenty days prior to  
7 the convening of the regular session of 2015.

8 (d) The department of health shall commence building a  
9 secure inpatient psychiatric facility no later than January 1,  
10 2016.

11 SECTION 3. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
12 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
14 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2014-2015 for  
15 the planning, design, and construction of a secure inpatient  
16 psychiatric facility to serve the mentally ill who need stricter  
17 security and inmates and detainees who need a higher level of  
18 mental health care.

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

21 SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital  
22 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at the



1 end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made;  
2 provided that all moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as  
3 of June 30, 2016, shall lapse as of that date.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Hospital; Inpatient Psychiatric Facility; Task Force; Appropriation

**Description:**

Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds for the department of health to develop a secure inpatient psychiatric facility to serve the mentally ill who need stricter security and inmates and detainees who need a higher level of mental health care. Requires the department of health to establish a task force to study the needs of the populations served by the psychiatric facility and develop a coordinated interagency action plan to implement services at the new inpatient psychiatric facility. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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