
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii state
2 mental hospital is inadequate for the needs of the State and
3 that workplace safety violations and improprieties concerning
4 administrative and employment matters continue to exist.

5 As a result of its investigation, the Senate special
6 investigative committee established pursuant to the regular
7 session of 2014 found that the Hawaii state hospital faces three
8 main interrelated challenges:

9 (1) Maintaining a safe work environment for Hawaii state
10 hospital staff;

11 (2) Meeting the current needs of Hawaii state hospital
12 patients and staff due to inefficient use of
13 facilities and patient and staff safety practices; and

14 (3) Providing efficient and effective human resources
15 practices.



1 The special investigative committee submitted a written report
2 of its findings and recommendations to the legislature on
3 October 23, 2014.

4 The purpose of this Act is to:

5 (1) Require the department of health and Hawaii state
6 hospital to implement certain recommendations made by
7 the special investigative committee;

8 (2) Require the department of health and Hawaii state
9 hospital to submit a written report to the legislature
10 of its status of implementing certain recommendations
11 prior to the regular sessions of 2017 and 2018; and

12 (3) Appropriate funds to the department of health for the
13 demolition and construction of a new state forensic
14 mental health hospital.

15 SECTION 2. (a) Pursuant to the final report of the senate
16 special investigative committee on the Hawaii state hospital,
17 the department of health and Hawaii state hospital shall carry
18 out the following recommendations:

19 (1) With regard to maintaining a safe work environment:



- 1 (A) Develop standardized recording procedures to
- 2 accurately report assaults occurring at the
- 3 Hawaii state hospital;
- 4 (B) Educate and train all employees on workplace
- 5 violence; and
- 6 (C) Develop and implement a universal and appropriate
- 7 training program for employees to handle forensic
- 8 mental health patients;
- 9 (2) With regard to using facilities and exercising work
- 10 place safety practices efficiently:
 - 11 (A) Develop and implement a patient classification
 - 12 system that is based on patient need and violence
 - 13 potential;
 - 14 (B) Consider options in designating a unit of the
 - 15 Hawaii state hospital solely for the purpose of
 - 16 admitting patients;
 - 17 (C) Designate a portion of the Hawaii state hospital
 - 18 system for forensic care;
 - 19 (D) Facilitate the transfer of high risk patients to
 - 20 out-of-state mental health facilities contracted
 - 21 with the State by selecting patients who may



1 qualify and benefit from being transferred
2 pursuant to the Hawaii state hospital's adopted
3 policies and procedures and determine whether
4 such patients should be transferred;

5 (E) Explore and develop short-term strategies for the
6 physical improvement and renovation of the
7 existing Hawaii state hospital facility;

8 (F) Demolish the Goddard building and begin
9 construction of a new forensic mental facility
10 for the Hawaii state hospital;

11 (G) Create appropriate security measures to ensure
12 safety for the surrounding community and assist
13 in preventing patient elopements, that may
14 include but is not limited to construction of a
15 fence around the perimeter of the Hawaii state
16 hospital campus, or other security measures; and

17 (H) Develop procedures to alert the community when a
18 patient elopement occurs; and

19 (3) With regard to providing efficient and effective human
20 resources practices:



- 1 (A) Collaborate with the department of health to
2 streamline internal recruitment and hiring
3 processes to expedite the filling of position
4 vacancies at the Hawaii state hospital;
- 5 (B) Develop policies and procedures regarding the
6 recruitment of temporary agency workers;
- 7 (C) Develop and implement procedures for the
8 assignment of overtime of Hawaii state hospital
9 staff;
- 10 (D) Control the opportunities for Hawaii state
11 hospital employees to abuse sick leave and
12 overtime benefits; and
- 13 (E) Strengthen and implement policies and procedures
14 regarding Hawaii state hospital complaints and
15 disciplinary actions.

16 (b) The department of health and Hawaii state hospital
17 shall submit a written status report, including any
18 recommendations and proposed legislation, to the legislature
19 regarding its efforts in implementing the recommendations under
20 subsection (a) no later than twenty days prior to the convening
21 of the regular session of 2017. The department of health and



1 Hawaii state hospital shall submit a written final report,
2 including any recommendations and proposed legislation, to the
3 legislature regarding its efforts in, completion of, and
4 impediments to implementing the recommendations under subsection
5 (a), no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
6 regular session of 2018.

7 SECTION 3. The director of finance is authorized to issue
8 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much thereof
9 as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof as may
10 be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
11 demolition of the vacant Goddard building on the Kaneohe state
12 mental health hospital site and for the construction of a new
13 mental health facility.

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

16 SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital
17 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
18 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
19 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
20 unencumbered as of June 30, 2019, shall lapse as of that date.

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H.B. NO. 1928

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:



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JAN 22 2016



H.B. NO. 1928

Report Title:

Hawaii State Hospital; Department of Health; Appropriation.

Description:

Requires the department of health and Hawaii state hospital to implement certain recommendations made by the Senate special investigative committee on the Hawaii state hospital. Requires reports to the legislature. Makes appropriation for the demolition and construction of a new mental health hospital.

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