
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FORENSIC HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has a
2 severe shortage of board certified forensic psychiatrists and
3 psychologists. This shortage results in inappropriate and
4 inadequate care for mentally ill patients involved with the
5 criminal justice system, and puts the individual and greater
6 community at risk.

7 The University of Hawaii once offered a forensic psychiatry
8 fellowship that trained two physicians per year, but this ended
9 due to lack of funds, among other issues. The purpose of this
10 Act is to meet the State's need for forensic health care
11 professionals in a more cost-effective and robust manner by
12 authorizing the director of health to recruit board-certified
13 forensic health care professionals, including those from other
14 states.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 323, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
17 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§323- Hospital personnel recruitment and retention.

2 (a) The director of health shall have the following powers
3 relating to personnel recruitment and retention, for purposes of
4 filling existing forensic psychiatry and psychology vacancies
5 and the retention of such personnel in the department:

6 (1) To provide monetary incentives, provided that:

7 (A) The monetary incentive may be paid in monthly
8 installments over an agreed period of time;

9 (B) If the employment is terminated prior to an
10 agreed-upon period, the unpaid balance of the
11 amount in subparagraph (1) shall be forfeited;

12 and

13 (C) The monetary incentive shall not be used in the
14 computation of payment for overtime work;

15 (2) To pay one-way travel and moving expenses to fill
16 shortage categories; and

17 (3) To provide other financial and other incentives for
18 recruitment including, but not limited to, tuition
19 reimbursement and reciprocity of licensure."



1 SECTION 3. The director of health shall adopt rules,
2 pursuant to chapter 91, necessary for the purposes of this
3 chapter.

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2017-2018 for the implementation and administration of this
9 Act.

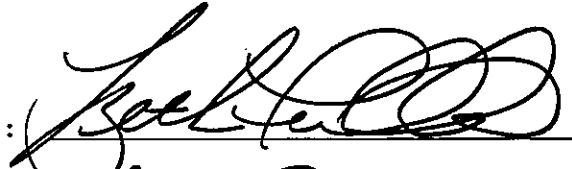
10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
11 of health for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:


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H.B. NO. 1929

Report Title:

Department of Health; Hawaii State Hospital; Forensic Psychiatrist; Forensic Psychologist; Appropriation.

Description:

Authorizes the director of health to recruit board-certified forensic health care professionals, including those from other states. Appropriates funds.

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