

JAN 28 2015

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 senate special
2 investigative committee on the Hawaii state hospital (special
3 investigative committee) was established pursuant to S.R. No. 3
4 (Regular Session of 2014). The purpose of the special
5 investigative committee was to investigate the workplace safety
6 of all Hawaii state hospital psychiatric workers and alleged
7 improprieties concerning administrative and employment matters
8 at the Hawaii state hospital, and submit its written findings
9 and recommendations to the legislature.

10 As a result of its investigation, the special investigative
11 committee found that the Hawaii state hospital faces three main
12 interrelated challenges:

- 13 (1) Maintaining a safe work environment for Hawaii state
14 hospital staff;
- 15 (2) Meeting the current needs of Hawaii state hospital
16 patients and staff due to inefficient use of
17 facilities and patient and staff safety practices; and



1 (3) Providing efficient and effective human resources
2 practices.

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

6 The purpose of this Act is to:

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

10 (2) Require the department of health and Hawaii state
11 hospital to submit a written report to the legislature
12 of its status of implementing certain recommendations
13 prior to the regular sessions of 2016 and 2017; and

14 (3) Appropriate funds to the department of health for the
15 planning and design of a new state forensic mental
16 health hospital.

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

21 (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 pervasive 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 Unit H of the
15 Hawaii state hospital solely for the purpose of
16 admitting patients;
- 17 (C) Obtain a forensic care designation or
18 accreditation for the Hawaii state hospital;
- 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 that 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) Explore and develop long-term strategies for the
9 design and construction of a new facility for the
10 Hawaii state hospital;
- 11 (G) Construct a fence around the perimeter of the
12 Hawaii state hospital campus to ensure safety for
13 the surrounding community and assist in
14 preventing patient elopements; and
- 15 (H) Develop procedures to alert the community when a
16 patient elopement occurs; and
- 17 (3) With regard to providing efficient and effective human
18 resources practices:
- 19 (A) Collaborate with the department of health to
20 streamline internal recruitment and hiring



1 processes to expedite the filling of position
2 vacancies at the Hawaii state hospital;

3 (B) Develop policies and procedures regarding the
4 recruitment of temporary agency workers;

5 (C) Develop and implement procedures for the
6 assignment of overtime of Hawaii state hospital
7 staff;

8 (D) Control the opportunities for Hawaii state
9 hospital employees to abuse sick leave and
10 overtime benefits; and

11 (E) Strengthen and implement policies and procedures
12 regarding Hawaii state hospital complaints and
13 disciplinary actions.

14 (b) The department of health and Hawaii state hospital
15 shall submit a written status report, including any
16 recommendations and proposed legislation, to the legislature
17 regarding its efforts in implementing the recommendations under
18 subsection (a) no later than twenty days prior to the convening
19 of the regular session of 2016. The department of health and
20 Hawaii state hospital shall submit a written final report,
21 including any recommendations and proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature regarding its efforts in, completion of, and
 2 impediments to implementing the recommendations under subsection
 3 (a), no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
 4 regular session of 2017.

5 SECTION 3. The director of finance is authorized to issue
 6 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$15,000,000 or so much
 7 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
 8 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2015-2016
 9 for the planning and design of a state forensic mental health
 10 hospital.

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

13 SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital
 14 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
 15 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
 16 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
 17 unencumbered as of June 30, 2018, shall lapse as of that date.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

19

Handwritten signature

INTRODUCED BY:

Josh Breen MD

Mike Hubbard
SP Prince

James ...
Russell de Bak

Will Eyo

Mark ...
Rock E. Puder



S.B. NO. 1175

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 and submit a written report to the legislature of its status of implementing certain recommendations prior to the regular sessions of 2016 and 2017. Appropriates funds to the department of health for the planning and design of a new state forensic mental health hospital.

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

