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# 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 consider 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          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  
20          consider 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.

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**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Hospital; Department of Health; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of health and Hawaii state hospital to consider 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. (SD1)

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

