
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that poor mental health
2 is a growing national concern for college students. College
3 counseling centers are increasingly understaffed. According to
4 a 2011 Government Relations Update by the American Psychological
5 Association:

6 (1) Since the mid-1990s, there has been a noticeable
7 increase in the number of students seeking help for
8 serious mental health problems;

9 (2) Depression and anxiety are consistently the most
10 common mental health disorders treated at college
11 counseling centers;

12 (3) The numbers of students struggling with eating
13 disorders, substance abuse, and self-injury have
14 increased; and

15 (4) Because of the growing need for services, over
16 seventy-six per cent of college counseling directors
17 reported that they reduced the number of visits for



1 non-crisis patients to cope with the increasing
2 overall number of clients.

3 In addition, a 2016 survey by American College Health
4 Association reported that over a twelve-month period:

- 5 (1) Nearly fifty per cent of college students reported
6 feeling hopeless;
- 7 (2) Over thirty-six per cent of college students reported
8 feeling so depressed that it was difficult to
9 function; and
- 10 (3) Almost ten per cent of college students seriously
11 considered suicide.

12 The legislature further finds that at the University of
13 Hawaii at Manoa:

- 14 (1) College is a ripe environment for certain disorders to
15 manifest;
- 16 (2) The average enrollment is twenty thousand students;
- 17 (3) There are only seven and one-half tenured track
18 psychologist positions (7.5 FTE), even though the
19 national guideline is one licensed psychologist for
20 every one thousand to one thousand five hundred
21 students;



1 (4) The non-urgent waitlist for individual psychotherapy
2 services at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's
3 counseling and student development center begins by
4 September of each year, and at peak times, a wait for
5 an initial intake appointment can range from five days
6 to two and a half weeks;

7 (5) The counseling and student development center is
8 losing staff as a result of uncompetitive pay, since
9 staff members are leaving to work in private practice;
10 and

11 (6) There is a need for a case manager to help with
12 consistent follow-ups for student mental health
13 clients.

14 The purpose of this Act is to advance students' mental
15 health treatment by appropriating moneys to:

16 (1) Establish and fund three full-time psychologist
17 positions (3.0 FTE); and

18 (2) Establish and fund one full-time case manager position
19 (1.0 FTE),

20 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
 4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 5 2018-2019 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa to hire three
 6 full-time equivalent psychologists (3.0 FTE) to provide student
 7 mental health services.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
 9 of Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
 13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 14 2018-2019 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa to hire one
 15 full-time equivalent case manager (1.0 FTE) to provide student
 16 mental health services.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
 18 of Hawaii at Manoa for the purposes of this Act.

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



Report Title:

University of Hawaii at Manoa; Students; Mental Health Services;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii to hire three
psychologists and one case manager to provide student mental
health services. (HB967 HD1)

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