

JAN 25 2017

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# 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.

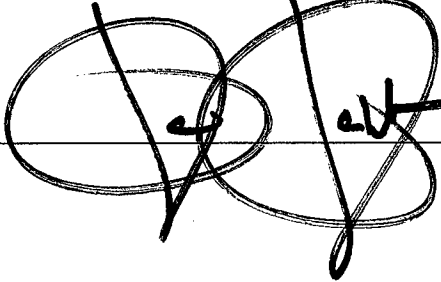


# S.B. NO. 1164

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

 (BR)



# S.B. NO. 1164

**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.

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