
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DRUG TREATMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that methamphetamine
2 abuse and addiction rates are increasing in Hawaii. According
3 to the United States Sentencing Commission, methamphetamine
4 plays a role in almost ninety per cent of federally-sentenced
5 drug convictions in the Hawaiian islands, nearly triple the
6 national average.

7 The legislature also finds that opioid addiction is a
8 growing problem in Hawaii. According to data from the federal
9 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose deaths
10 in Hawaii have increased by eighty-three per cent from 2006 to
11 2014, a growth rate more than double the national average. A
12 majority of those deaths are a result of prescription opioids
13 and heroin.

14 Drug treatment has been found to be a cost-effective way to
15 reduce drug abuse. Money spent on drug treatment saves on the
16 cost of law enforcement, incarceration, medical treatment, and
17 homeless and social services. Drug treatment is more cost



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1 effective than law enforcement, interdiction, and source
2 control, due to lower costs per offender and lowered recidivism
3 rates.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funding for drug
5 treatment programs.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
10 2020-2021 for the department of health to contract pursuant to
11 chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with outside vendors,
12 contractors, and healthcare providers to provide drug treatment
13 to high-risk communities, including treatment for polydrug
14 abuse, or the abuse of more than one drug, to be allocated as
15 follows:

- 16 (1) \$400,000 to treat prescription opioid abuse;
- 17 (2) \$300,000 to treat methamphetamine abuse;
- 18 (3) \$150,000 to treat heroin abuse; and
- 19 (4) \$150,000 to treat abuse of other substances.

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



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1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 18 2019



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Report Title:

Drug Treatment Programs; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates additional funding for drug treatment in Hawaii.

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