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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department  
2 of health a working group to evaluate current behavioral health  
3 care and related systems and identify steps that may be taken to  
4 promote effective integration to more effectively respond to and  
5 coordinate care for persons experiencing substance abuse, mental  
6 health conditions, and homelessness.

7           (b) The working group shall consist of the following  
8 members:

9           (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,  
10 who shall serve as chair;

11           (2) One representative from the behavioral health services  
12 administration of the department of health;

13           (3) One representative of the department of public safety;

14           (4) One representative from the med-QUEST division of the  
15 department of human services;

16           (5) One representative of the judiciary;

17           (6) One representative from the insurance division of the  
18 department of commerce and consumer affairs;



- 1 (7) One or more representatives of the Hawaii Opioid
- 2 Initiative executive steering committee;
- 3 (8) One representative from each entity operating a health
- 4 plan in the State, who the director of health shall
- 5 invite to participate on the working group;
- 6 (9) One or more members of the Hawaii Substance Abuse
- 7 Coalition, who the director of health shall invite to
- 8 participate on the working group;
- 9 (10) One representative of the Hawaii interagency council
- 10 on homelessness;
- 11 (11) One clinical social worker licensed under chapter
- 12 467E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- 13 (12) Others as recommended by the working group.
- 14 (c) The working group shall evaluate:
- 15 (1) Inventory of funding streams and their metrics;
- 16 (2) Currently existing barriers to treatment access;
- 17 (3) Policies and practices that perpetuate or
- 18 substantially contribute to access barriers;
- 19 (4) Practices that would improve care coordination and
- 20 increase access to care;



1 (5) Policies or legislative actions that are recommended  
2 to effectuate coordinated entry and coordinated  
3 systems of behavioral health care; and

4 (6) Defined roles and responsibilities recommended of  
5 state, county, and community entities.

6 (d) Members of the working group shall serve without  
7 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses  
8 necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel  
9 expenses. No member of the working group shall be subject to  
10 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the  
11 member's participation in the working group.

12 (e) Two or more members of the working group, but less  
13 than the number of members which would constitute a quorum for  
14 the working group, may discuss between themselves matters  
15 relating to official business of the working group to enable  
16 them to faithfully perform their duties to the working group and  
17 the organizations they represent, as long as no commitment to  
18 vote is made or sought. Such discussions shall be a permitted  
19 interaction under section 92-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

20 (f) The working group shall submit a report of its  
21 findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

3 (g) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2021.

4 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.



**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Working Group; Behavioral Health Care

**Description:**

Establishes a working group within the department of health to evaluate current behavioral health care and related systems and identify steps to promote effective integration to respond to and coordinate care for persons experiencing substance abuse, mental health conditions, and homelessness. (CD1)

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

