

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the intersection  
2 between opioid and other substance abuse, mental health, and  
3 homelessness is inarguable, and that the State's overall mental  
4 health system of care needs to improve. Effective integration  
5 of the behavioral health system is essential to ensuring that  
6 individuals experiencing chronic substance abuse, mental health  
7 conditions, homelessness, and other chronic conditions are  
8 afforded a continuum of care that promotes community  
9 stabilization and health while decreasing overutilization of  
10 high cost acute care services.

11           The legislature also finds that coordinated entry systems  
12 have been successful in several counties and states on the  
13 mainland in ensuring that access to behavioral health and  
14 substance abuse services are more readily available and more  
15 effectively coordinated. Therefore, the legislature concludes  
16 that coordinated entry systems and coordinated policy frameworks  
17 for evaluation and implementation of behavioral health and



1 integrated health systems are necessary to effectively decrease  
2 and address the negative impacts of substance abuse, mental  
3 health conditions, and homelessness.

4 The purpose of this Act is to establish a working group to  
5 evaluate current system gaps and determine steps that may be  
6 taken by the State to promote effective integration of  
7 behavioral health care and related systems to address the  
8 negative impacts of substance abuse, mental health conditions,  
9 and homelessness.

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

16 (b) The working group shall consist of the following  
17 members:

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

20 (2) One representative from the behavioral health services  
21 administration of the department of health;



- 1 (3) One representative of the department of public safety;
- 2 (4) One representative from the med-QUEST division of the
- 3 department of human services;
- 4 (5) One representative of the judiciary;
- 5 (6) One representative from the insurance division of the
- 6 department of commerce and consumer affairs;
- 7 (7) One or more representatives of the Hawaii Opioid
- 8 Initiative executive steering committee;
- 9 (8) One representative from each entity operating a health
- 10 plan in the State;
- 11 (9) One or more members of the Hawaii Substance Abuse
- 12 Coalition;
- 13 (10) One representative of the Hawaii interagency council
- 14 on homelessness;
- 15 (11) One clinical social worker licensed under chapter
- 16 467E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- 17 (12) Others as recommended by the working group.
- 18 (c) The working group shall evaluate:
- 19 (1) Inventory of funding streams and their metrics;
- 20 (2) Currently existing barriers to treatment access;



- 1           (3) Policies and practices that perpetuate or  
2                   substantially contribute to access barriers;
- 3           (4) Practices that would improve care coordination and  
4                   increase access to care;
- 5           (5) Policies or legislative actions that are recommended  
6                   to effectuate coordinated entry and coordinated  
7                   systems of behavioral health care; and
- 8           (6) Defined roles and responsibilities recommended of  
9                   state, county, and community entities.
- 10          (d) Members of the working group shall serve without  
11            compensation, but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses  
12            necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel  
13            expenses. No member of the working group shall be subject to  
14            chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the  
15            member's participation in the working group.
- 16          (e) The working group shall be exempt from Section 92-7,  
17            Hawaii Revised Statutes.
- 18          (f) The working group shall submit a report of its  
19            findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
20            legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
21            to the convening of the regular session of 2020.



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

2 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
3 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
4 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and  
5 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
6 year 2020-2021 for the purposes of this Act.

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

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

10



**Report Title:**

Behavioral Health Care; Continuum of Care; Substance Abuse;  
Mental Health; Homelessness; Working Group; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a working group to evaluate current behavioral health care and related systems to promote effective integration of services and improve response and coordination of care for persons experiencing substance abuse, mental health conditions, and homelessness. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

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

