
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



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. The department of health shall pursue all non-
7 state funding sources, including federal or private grants, to
8 fund any drug treatment programs prior to expending any general
9 revenues appropriated pursuant to this Act. The department
10 shall pursue all public and private insurance options for
11 coverage of drug treatment for each individual served by
12 programs or services funded by this Act before expending any
13 funds appropriated by this Act for services provided to any
14 individual. Any funds appropriated by this Act shall be used by
15 the department as the payor of last resort.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
20 2020-2021 for the department of health to contract pursuant to
21 chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with outside vendors,



1 contractors, and healthcare providers to provide drug treatment
2 to high-risk communities, including treatment for polydrug
3 abuse, or the abuse of more than one drug.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
5 of health for the purposes of this Act, subject to section 2 of
6 this Act.

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



Report Title:

Drug Treatment Programs; Appropriation; DOH

Description:

Appropriates funding for drug treatment in Hawaii. Requires the DOH to pursue non-state funding sources for drug treatment programs prior to expending general revenue funds appropriated. Requires DOH to exhaust all public and private insurance options for reimbursement for individual treatment provided before expending appropriated funds. (HB235 HD1)

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