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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to increase  
2 awareness of, promotion of education on, and knowledge of mental  
3 health problems by requiring law enforcement personnel,  
4 correctional officers, and other officials under the department  
5 of public safety to receive eight-hour training on mental health  
6 first aid triennially.

7           SECTION 2. Chapter 353C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
9 and to read as follows:

10           "§353C-           Mental health first aid training. (a) The  
11 department shall establish a mental health first aid training  
12 program for law enforcement, correctional officers, and other  
13 public safety officials under the department. The program shall  
14 include a mandatory eight-hour interactive training course  
15 triennially that teaches the skills necessary to assist a person  
16 who is developing or has developed a mental health disorder or



1 mental health crisis, and to de-escalate crisis situations as  
2 needed.

3 (b) The mandatory interactive training shall instruct  
4 officials to, at minimum:

5 (1) Identify signs of mental health crises, illness, and  
6 instability;

7 (2) Identify signs of behavioral and psychological  
8 patterns of mental health disorders;

9 (3) Provide initial assistance to persons with mental  
10 health disorders or mental health crises;

11 (4) Guide individuals requiring assistance toward  
12 appropriate professional help;

13 (5) Provide comfort to persons experiencing mental health  
14 disorders or mental health crises;

15 (6) Assist in preventing a mental health disorder from  
16 deteriorating into a more serious condition that may  
17 lead to more costly interventions and treatments;

18 (7) Provide information on and referral to outreach  
19 workers who are trained to assist persons with mental  
20 health disorders and mental health crises; and

21 (8) Promote healing, recovery, and good mental health."





1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
  
Gregory T. Ryan  
Agata A. Pelletti  
James J. King  
Gregory T. Ryan  
Linda Schinger  
Nadine K. Nelson  
Jane O'Connell  
John M. Pappas  
Patricia M. McCall  
Celine K. King

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# H.B. NO. 2524

**Report Title:**

PSD; Mental Health First Aid Training; Mental Health Disorders;  
Mental Health Crises

**Description:**

Requires PSD to establish a mental health first aid training program that provides mandatory eight-hour sessions triennially for law enforcement, correctional officers, and other public safety officials under PSD.

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