
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Centers for
2 Disease Control and Prevention defines "Health in All Policies"
3 as "a collaborative approach that integrates and articulates
4 health considerations into policymaking across sectors to
5 improve the health of all communities and people. [Health in
6 All Policies] recognizes that health is created by a multitude
7 of factors beyond healthcare and, in many cases, beyond the
8 scope of traditional public health activities". The Health in
9 All Policies approach was introduced by the federal government
10 with tools for states and territories to improve health outcomes
11 and is intended to be an effective way to identify gaps in
12 evidence and to achieve health equity.

13 The American Public Health Association states the goal of
14 Health in All Policies is to "ensure that decision-makers are
15 informed about the health, equity, and sustainability
16 consequences of various policy options during the policy



1 development process". The implementation of Health in All
2 Policies requires the following five key strategies:

- 3 (1) Engaging and visioning;
- 4 (2) Convening and collaborating;
- 5 (3) Developing a plan;
- 6 (4) Investing in change; and
- 7 (5) Tracking progress.

8 The legislature also finds that Act 155, Session Laws of
9 Hawaii 2014, added the "[e]limination of health disparities by
10 identifying and addressing social determinants of health" to the
11 State's objectives and policies for socio-cultural advancement-
12 health in section 226-20(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Act
13 157, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, amended section 321-1, Hawaii
14 Revised Statutes, by adding that the department of health "shall
15 pursue as a goal, the achievement of health equity. The
16 department shall consider social determinants of health in the
17 assessment of state needs for health". These additions are
18 consistent with Health in All Policies goals to achieve health
19 equity across communities and to do so by acknowledging and
20 working collaboratively with governmental and non-governmental
21 sectors.



1 However, the legislature finds that further updating the
2 statutory description of the department of health's powers and
3 duties, to describe population-based public health programs and
4 employ multi-sectoral strategies to improve health outcomes,
5 would enhance the department's goal of health equity. Thus, the
6 purpose of this Act is to require the department of health to
7 establish a working group to evaluate and advise on updating the
8 statutory description of the department of health's statutory
9 powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities, beginning with
10 section 321-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to align with
11 population-based approaches to public health and prevention that
12 incorporate Health in All Policies approaches and goals.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall establish a
14 working group to examine and develop recommendations to update
15 the statutory description of the department of health's powers,
16 duties, functions, and responsibilities including incorporating
17 into the statutory description population-based approaches to
18 public health and prevention that recognize that health is
19 affected by numerous factors besides health care and requires a
20 collaborative approach. The working group may evaluate the
21 health impact assessment tool for purposes of this Act,



1 including the development of scenarios and criteria for which
2 health impact assessments may be conducted for future policies
3 and projects unrelated to the department of health.

4 For the purposes of this Act, "health impact assessment"
5 means a systematic process that uses various data sources and
6 analytic methods and considers input from stakeholders to
7 determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan,
8 program, or project on the health of a population and the
9 distribution of those effects within the population.

10 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
11 members:

- 12 (1) The director of health, who shall serve as
13 chairperson;
- 14 (2) The vice president for research and innovation of the
15 University of Hawaii system, or the vice president's
16 designee;
- 17 (3) The dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa John A.
18 Burns school of medicine, or the dean's designee;
- 19 (4) The state sustainability coordinator, or the
20 coordinator's designee;



- 1 (5) A representative with expertise in health law policy,
- 2 to be invited by the director of health;
- 3 (6) A representative with expertise in environmental
- 4 health law policy, to be invited by the director of
- 5 health;
- 6 (7) A representative with expertise in transportation
- 7 policy, to be invited by the director of
- 8 transportation;
- 9 (8) A representative with expertise in agriculture policy,
- 10 to be invited by the chairperson of the board of
- 11 agriculture; and
- 12 (9) A representative from the planning department of each
- 13 county, to be appointed by the mayor of the respective
- 14 county.

15 (c) The working group shall submit a report of its
 16 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 17 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days before
 18 the convening of the regular session of 2020.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 to



1 support the activities of the working group established pursuant
2 to this Act.

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

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



Report Title:

DOH; Working Group; Health in All Policies; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to establish a working group to examine and advise on amendments that can be made to the statutory description of the Department's powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities. Authorizes the working group to evaluate the health impact assessment tool. Appropriates funds to support the activities of the working group. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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