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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. The legislature finds that Act 90, Session Laws  
2 of Hawaii 2019, established the involuntary hospitalization task  
3 force and Act 263, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, established a  
4 working group to evaluate current behavioral health care and  
5 related systems, including existing resources, systems gaps, and  
6 identification of action steps that could be taken to improve  
7 the overall system of care. The findings from these initiatives  
8 highlight the need in Hawaii for a coordinated network of  
9 stabilization beds that will allow triage, clinical assessment,  
10 and recommendation for the next level of care for those  
11 struggling with substance use, mental health conditions, and  
12 homelessness.

13           The National Coalition for the Homeless has found that  
14 sixty-four per cent of homeless individuals are dependent on  
15 alcohol or other substances. In Hawaii, the Oahu homeless point  
16 in time count reported that 36.4 per cent of homeless single  
17 adults suffer from some type of mental illness. The



1 intersection of homelessness and behavioral health conditions  
2 are a crisis in Hawaii, which contributes to Hawaii having the  
3 second highest rate of homelessness in the nation.

4 Unfortunately, there is currently no coordinated system of  
5 stabilization from the streets that assesses for and links to  
6 the next level of clinical care.

7 The legislature additionally finds that the current options  
8 for those needing stabilization from substance use, mental  
9 health, and homelessness are stretched and emergency facilities  
10 throughout the State have experienced substantial increases in  
11 psychiatric emergency admissions, which has resulted in  
12 overcrowding and unsafe environments for patients and medical  
13 staff.

14 The legislature also finds that comprehensive crisis  
15 response and stabilization services are crucial elements of the  
16 continuum of care. Reducing unnecessary transportation to  
17 emergency departments and appropriately placing clients in more  
18 suitable levels of care will improve outcomes for consumers,  
19 reduce inpatient hospital stays, and facilitate access to other  
20 behavioral health services.



1           The Hawaii coordinated access resource entry system  
2 provides access to substance use treatment and behavioral health  
3 services. The goal of the system is to implement a synchronized  
4 system of care rather than an assortment of independent  
5 services. Additionally, the Hawaii coordinated access resource  
6 entry system has identified that the lack of stabilization beds  
7 is a significant gap in services during its first three months  
8 of operation.

9           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

10           (1) Require the department of health to establish  
11                 short-term residential beds for the purpose of  
12                 stabilization from mental health and substance use and  
13                 to assess patients and triage to clinically  
14                 appropriate level of care through the Hawaii  
15                 coordinated access resource entry system; and

16           (2) Appropriate funds.

17           SECTION 2. The department of health shall establish a  
18 continuum of stabilization beds statewide for non-forensic  
19 patients with substance abuse or mental health disorders, or  
20 both, by repurposing unused state facilities.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
4 the department of health to establish a continuum of  
5 stabilization beds statewide for non-forensic patients with  
6 substance abuse or mental health disorders, or both, by  
7 repurposing unused state facilities.

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

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Stabilization Beds; Substance Abuse and  
Mental Health Disorders; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Health to  
establish a continuum of stabilization beds statewide for non-  
forensic patients with substance abuse or mental health  
disorders, or both, by repurposing unused state facilities.  
(SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

