

JAN 17 2020

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# 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. Additionally, methamphetamine use has been a  
7 long-standing issue for state health officials, often  
8 contributing to the readmission of some patients to the Hawaii  
9 state hospital. According to data from the department of  
10 health, sixty-three per cent of Hawaii state hospital patients  
11 have a history of methamphetamine use, with the median length of  
12 stay for these patients being two hundred twenty-one days, or  
13 sixty days longer than the median hospitalization period for  
14 patients with no history of methamphetamine use.

15           The legislature also finds that opioid addiction continues  
16 to be a major concern both nationally and locally. According to  
17 data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and



1 Prevention, drug overdose deaths in Hawaii have increased by  
2 eighty-three per cent from 2006 to 2014, a growth rate more than  
3 double the national average. A majority of those deaths are a  
4 result of prescription opioids and heroin.

5 Drug treatment has been found to be a cost-effective way to  
6 reduce drug abuse. Money spent on drug treatment saves on the  
7 cost of law enforcement, incarceration, medical treatment, and  
8 homeless and social services. Drug treatment is more cost  
9 effective than law enforcement, interdiction, and source  
10 control, due to lower costs per offender and lowered recidivism  
11 rates.

12 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funding for drug  
13 and mental health treatment programs for the continuum of care  
14 coordination across Hawaii's health care system.

15 SECTION 2. The department of health shall pursue all  
16 funding sources known to the State, including federal or private  
17 grants, to fund any drug treatment programs prior to expending  
18 any general revenues appropriated pursuant to this Act. The  
19 department shall pursue all public and private insurance options  
20 for coverage of drug treatment for each individual served by  
21 programs or services funded by this Act before expending any



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1 funds appropriated by this Act for services provided to any  
 2 individual. Any funds appropriated by this Act shall be used by  
 3 the department as the payor of last resort.


4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so  
 6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
 7 the department of health to implement and development its Hawaii  
 8 coordinated access recovery entry system to increase access to  
 9 treatment for all individuals who suffer any form of substance  
 10 abuse and mental illness.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 12 health for the purposes of this Act, subject to section 2 of  
 13 this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Neil Riviere

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S.B. NO. 2592

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# S.B. NO. 2592

**Report Title:**

Drug Treatment and Mental Health Programs; Department of Health; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funding for the implementation and development of the Hawaii coordinated access recovery entry system to increase access to treatment for all individuals who suffer any form of substance abuse and mental illness. Requires the DOH to pursue all known 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.

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