



GOV. MSG. NO. 1207

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 27, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

SB3279 SD1 HD2 CD1

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.
ACT 106

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on JUN 27 2024

THE SENATE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 3279
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that research on health
2 and safety reveals that mental illness is one of the most
3 pressing challenges humanity is facing today. The prevalence of
4 both acute and chronic mental illnesses has been on the rise in
5 the State and globally over the past two decades. Untreated
6 mental illness is one of the top predictors of suicide,
7 substance abuse, incarceration, and adult disability. This is
8 especially concerning for historically marginalized and
9 under-resourced communities, which are at significantly higher
10 risk of mental illness and also have more limited access to
11 mental health education, resources, and support. Mental illness
12 at the individual level compounds across communities and leads
13 to negative statewide outcomes, including increased joblessness,
14 homelessness, domestic violence, violent crime, and school
15 dropout rates.

16 The legislature further finds that research conducted over
17 the past fifty years in the fields of psychology, public health,
18 neuroscience, and organizational development demonstrate the



1 critical importance of a tiered approach to comprehensively
2 address statewide mental health concerns and provide every
3 individual with the skills and resources they need to take care
4 of themselves, their families, and their broader ecosystems.
5 Tier 1 mental health support services provide skills training,
6 curricula, and programming to all stakeholders of an
7 organization such as schools, community centers, police and fire
8 departments, medical institutions, and other first responder
9 facilities. Tier 1 mental health support services provide a
10 common vocabulary and set of wellness practices that members of
11 the organization collectively share to promote a safe and
12 healthy organizational culture for everyone. Tier 2 mental
13 health support services recognize that certain populations
14 within an organization may be at higher risk for certain mental
15 illnesses than others, and so these groups require specialized
16 training, support, and skill-building that is culturally
17 contextualized to best support the specific needs of the high-
18 risk group. Tier 2 mental health support services therefore
19 exist to provide additional specialized group support
20 interventions. Taken together, these tiers of mental health



1 support services cover the core mental health needs of
2 individuals, groups, organizations, and communities.

3 The legislature further finds that a comprehensive system
4 of mental health support services on a statewide level requires
5 the seamless integration of tier 1 and tier 2 mental health
6 support services. Tier 1 mental health support services benefit
7 public institutions through whole-organization tier 1 mental
8 health support training for students, school staff,
9 firefighters, police officers, medical staff, and other first
10 responder groups. Higher risk groups within each of these
11 organizations benefit from tier 2 mental health support services
12 that use culturally responsive approaches. Overall, mentally
13 well individuals create safe and healthy communities, which
14 further promote a safe and healthy state for all citizens.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 16 (1) Establish the state of well-being project and a
17 timeline for the project to:
- 18 (A) Assess current tiers of mental health support
19 services; and
- 20 (B) Enhance existing well-being programming and, when
21 non-existent, build out culturally grounded and



1 community-informed well-being programming to
2 establish mental health support services for key
3 stakeholder communities across the State; and

4 (2) Appropriate funds for mental health specialist
5 positions within the office of wellness and
6 resilience.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
8 by adding a new section to part IX to be appropriately
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§27- State of well-being project; established. (a)

11 There is established within the office the state of well-being
12 project to assess and enhance tier 1 and tier 2 mental health
13 support services for key stakeholder communities across the
14 State. The project shall:

15 (1) Assess and enhance existing tier 1 and tier 2 mental
16 health training and ongoing support services to public
17 schools, public community centers, first responder
18 groups, police departments, fire departments,
19 hospitals, and medical staff and, when non-existent,
20 build out culturally grounded and community-informed
21 well-being programming;



- 1 (2) Track and measure aggregate mental health trends
- 2 across all populations served by the project; and
- 3 (3) Hire and train mental health specialists and work with
- 4 approved partner organizations identified by the
- 5 office to lead project execution across tier 1 and
- 6 tier 2 mental health support services in each key
- 7 stakeholder community.

8 (b) The office shall administer the state of well-being
9 project in accordance with the following timeline:

- 10 (1) Beginning in 2024, initiate a landscape assessment of
- 11 existing tier 1 and tier 2 mental health support
- 12 services by December 31, 2025; and

- 13 (2) Beginning in 2025, initiate the enhancement of
- 14 existing tier 1 and tier 2 mental health support
- 15 services and, when non-existent, build out culturally
- 16 grounded and community-informed well-being
- 17 programming, with statewide implementation to be
- 18 achieved by December 31, 2027.

19 (c) For the purposes of this section:



1 "Tier 1 mental health support" means well-being service
2 provisions that are aimed at the entire system and population
3 within an organization.

4 "Tier 2 mental health support" means well-being service
5 provisions that are aimed at populations within an organization
6 that are at higher risk of mental health challenges."

7 SECTION 3. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to part XXI to be appropriately
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§346- State of well-being project; established. (a)

11 There is established within the office the state of well-being
12 project to assess and enhance tier 1 and tier 2 mental health
13 support services for key stakeholder communities across the
14 State. The project shall:

15 (1) Assess and enhance existing tier 1 and tier 2 mental
16 health support training and ongoing support services
17 to public schools, public community centers, first
18 responder groups, police departments, fire
19 departments, hospitals, and medical staff and, when
20 non-existent, build out culturally grounded and
21 community-informed well-being programming;



1 (2) Track and measure aggregate mental health trends
2 across all populations served by the project; and

3 (3) Hire and train mental health specialists and work with
4 approved partner organizations identified by the
5 office to lead project execution across tier 1 and
6 tier 2 mental health support services in each key
7 stakeholder community.

8 (b) The office shall administer the state of well-being
9 project in accordance with the following timeline:

10 (1) Beginning in 2024, initiate a landscape assessment of
11 existing tier 1 and tier 2 mental health support
12 services by December 31, 2025; and

13 (2) Beginning in 2025, initiate the enhancement of
14 existing tier 1 and tier 2 mental health support
15 services and, when non-existent, build out culturally
16 grounded and community-informed well-being
17 programming, with statewide implementation to be
18 achieved by December 31, 2027.

19 (c) For the purposes of this section:



1 "Tier 1 mental health support" means well-being service
2 provisions that are aimed at the entire system and population
3 within an organization.

4 "Tier 2 mental health support" means well-being service
5 provisions that are aimed at populations within an organization
6 that are at higher risk of mental health challenges."

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$876,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
10 establishment and implementation of the state of well-being
11 project, to be expended as follows:

12 (1) \$475,000 to establish six full-time equivalent (6.0
13 FTE) mental health specialist positions within the
14 office of wellness and resilience; and

15 (2) \$401,000 for the office of wellness and resilience to
16 implement this Act.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
18 wellness and resilience for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024;
21 provided that:



- 1 (1) Section 2 of this Act shall be repealed on June 30,
2 2025; and
3 (2) Section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
4 2025.



S.B. NO. 3279
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this **27th** day of **June**, 2024

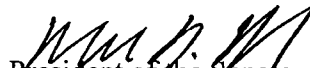


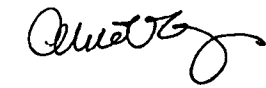
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 3279, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives