
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS STABILIZATION BEDS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are gaps in
2 the State's system to treat individuals with severe behavioral
3 health needs who may not require emergency room-level crisis
4 care. One such gap is the limited number of behavioral health
5 crisis stabilization beds that use intensive case management
6 services to help stabilize these individuals.

7 As noted in a 2018 Journal of Mental Health and Clinical
8 Psychology article entitled "Behavioral Health Crisis
9 Stabilization Centers: A New Normal", there has been a promising
10 shift in resources and funding from institutionalized care to
11 crisis stabilization centers. However, the crisis stabilization
12 center approach has been underfunded and often results in
13 individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis seeking
14 treatment at hospital emergency rooms and utilizing a great
15 amount of health care resources with short-term outcomes.
16 Studies have shown that the cost of crisis stabilization centers
17 is significantly less than emergency rooms and psychiatric



1 inpatient units. The legislature finds that the department of
2 health is currently exploring options to increase the number of
3 behavioral health crisis stabilization beds across the State and
4 estimates that the cost will be at least \$11,000,000.

5 The Legislature also notes that the Judiciary supports the
6 increase in the number of stabilization beds because they will
7 aid in fulfilling the requirements of Act 26 (2020) and other
8 requirements of Chapter 704 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes. In
9 addition, they would provide alternatives for patients while
10 their cases are pending, as well as upon final disposition of
11 their cases. It also has the potential to divert those suffering
12 mental health crises from the criminal justice system.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

14 (1) Appropriate funds to the adult mental health division
15 of the department of health to support increased behavioral
16 health crisis stabilization beds throughout the state.

17 (2) Create a working group with the counties to identify
18 sites for these new crisis stabilization beds to be located and
19 to study the possibility of turning the old Hawaii State
20 Hospital into a crisis stabilization bed facility.



H.B. NO. 1433

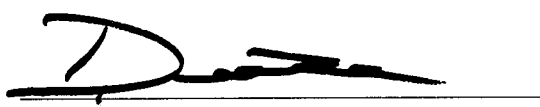
1 SECTION 2. The department of health adult mental health
 2 division shall establish a working group to include members of
 3 the county behavior crisis responders to identify locations and
 4 facilities that could be used, renovated, or built, to increase
 5 the number of stabilization beds in each county. The working
 6 group shall consider the option of using the old Hawaii State
 7 Hospital (Guensburg building) as a possible site.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
 11 behavioral health crisis stabilization beds.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 13 health adult mental health division for the purposes of this
 14 Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

16

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 25 2023



H.B. NO. 1433

Report Title:

Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Beds; Working Group;
Department of Health; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Adult Mental Health Division of the Department of Health to support increased behavioral health crisis stabilization beds. Creates a working group to get county input on possible sites for these crisis stabilization beds. Effective 7/1/2023.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

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