

JAN 25 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to require the
2 department of health to establish or contract with behavioral
3 health crisis centers to provide intervention and stabilization
4 services in each county for persons experiencing mental health
5 or substance use disorder crises.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§334- Behavioral health crisis centers. (a) Pursuant
10 to the authority and functions established under
11 sections 334-2.5(a)(3)(B) and 334-3(a)(5), the director shall
12 establish or contract with behavioral crisis centers in each
13 county to provide care, diagnoses, and treatment for persons
14 experiencing mental health or substance use disorder crises.

15 (b) Each behavioral health crisis center established or
16 contracted with pursuant to this section shall:

17 (1) Be equipped to:



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- 1 (A) Address mental health and substance use disorder
2 crises;
- 3 (B) Screen, assess, admit for stabilization, and
4 redirect a client to ongoing care in the most
5 appropriate and least restrictive community
6 setting available, consistent with the client's
7 needs; and
- 8 (C) Assess a client's physical health needs and
9 deliver care for most minor physical health
10 challenges;
- 11 (2) Provide services at all times, day or night;
- 12 (3) Accept and provide services to all walk-in clients and
13 referral clients regardless of the client's ability to
14 pay, subject to subsection (c);
- 15 (4) Offer a dedicated drop-off area for use by first
16 responders;
- 17 (5) Provide assessment and support for a client's mental
18 stability while at the crisis center without requiring
19 medical clearance prior to admission;



1 (6) Assess all clients for their risk of suicide or
2 violence, with more comprehensive risk assessments and
3 planning when clinically indicated; and

4 (7) Be staffed at all times with a multidisciplinary team
5 who are capable of meeting the needs of clients
6 experiencing a range of mental health or substance use
7 disorder crises, including:

8 (A) Psychiatrists or psychiatric nurse practitioners;

9 (B) Nurses;

10 (C) Licensed or credentialed clinicians, capable of
11 completing client assessments; and

12 (D) Staff with lived experience similar to the lived
13 experience of some clients.

14 (c) No person shall be denied services or receive delayed
15 care at a behavioral health crisis center operating under this
16 section based on the person's inability to pay; provided that,
17 subject to section 334-6, the crisis center shall make every
18 reasonable effort to collect appropriate reimbursement for the
19 cost of the provided services from any person able to pay,
20 including insurance companies or third-party payers.



1 (d) The director shall adopt rules pursuant to
2 section 334-9 to implement this section, including rules
3 specifying:

- 4 (1) Eligibility standards for contracted behavioral health
- 5 crisis centers;
- 6 (2) Clinical procedures;
- 7 (3) Staffing requirements; and
- 8 (4) Operational, administrative, and financial
- 9 requirements."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2024-2025 for the director of health to establish or contract
15 with behavioral health crisis centers pursuant to this Act.

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

18 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____



S.B. NO. 1245

Report Title:

DOH; Behavioral Health Crisis Centers; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to establish or contract with behavioral health crisis centers to provide intervention and stabilization services in each county for persons experiencing mental health or substance use disorder crises. Appropriates moneys.

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