

JAN 23 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AN INTENSIVE MOBILE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM FOR HOUSELESS  
INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDERS.

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

1       SECTION 1. (a) There is established an intensive mobile  
2 team pilot program within the adult mental health division of  
3 the department of health to provide intensive mobile team  
4 services, e.g., "street psychiatry," to chronically houseless  
5 people suffering from serious brain disorders, including but not  
6 limited to schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

7       (b) The pilot program shall establish one intensive mobile  
8 team in the community mental health center system.

9       (c) The intensive mobile team established for the purposes  
10 of the pilot program shall:

11       (1) Establish criteria for pilot program participation,  
12 which shall include being houseless and suffering from  
13 a serious brain disorder, prioritizing individuals  
14 with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder;

15       (2) Manage no more than forty participants who shall be  
16 vetted and enrolled by the intensive mobile team;

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- 1           (3) Offer after-hours availability for existing
- 2           participants to:
- 3           (A) Respond to crisis;
- 4           (B) Visit emergency rooms; and
- 5           (C) If and when they are arrested, meet with law
- 6           enforcement and participants at the receiving
- 7           desk or similar place where the participant is
- 8           being held in custody to share information on
- 9           their participation in the pilot program;
- 10          (4) Determine, in collaboration with area hospitals and
- 11          the behavioral health crisis center, appropriate
- 12          hospitalizations and behavioral health crisis center
- 13          admissions;
- 14          (5) Prioritize housing placements for participants;
- 15          (6) Begin participant treatment on psychiatric medications
- 16          when appropriate;
- 17          (7) Actively pursue assisted community treatment orders
- 18          when appropriate;
- 19          (8) Continue services if a participant is admitted to the
- 20          Hawaii state hospital;

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(9) Engage social work interns and advanced practice registered nurse students to expand service capacity for the target population;

(10) Bill third-party payors, medicare, or medicaid, as appropriate for services; and

(11) Be staffed as follows:

(A) 1.0 FTE human services professional V who shall serve as the clinical supervisor;

(B) 0.5 FTE psychiatrist;

(C) 5.0 FTE human services professionals or social workers;

(D) 0.5 FTE registered nurse;

(E) 0.1 FTE epidemiologist, epidemiology specialist, or research statistician; and

(F) 1.0 FTE program specialist.

(d) The department of health shall collaborate with law enforcement agencies, courts, hospitals, providers who serve houseless individuals, mental health providers, and community stakeholders for the implementation of the pilot program.

(e) The adult mental health division of the department of health shall submit a report on the intensive mobile team pilot program to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to

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the convening of the regular sessions of 2026 and 2027. Each report shall include any proposed legislation and progress updates on the aggregate:

(1) Number of participant arrests;

(2) Number of participants requiring an emergency examination and hospitalization;

(3) Number of participants placed into housing;

(4) Number of participants started on medications;

(5) Number of participants hospitalized at the Hawaii state hospital;

(6) Number of participants reconnected with family; and

(7) Number of assisted community treatment orders pursued and granted.

(f) The intensive mobile team pilot program shall be dissolved on June 30, 2028.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the sum of \$1,300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for eight and one-tenth full-time equivalent (8.1 FTE) positions, who shall be exempt from chapter

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1 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, operating costs, and equipment,  
2 pursuant to this Act.

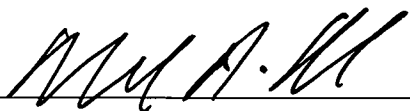
3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect  
6 on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. A. H.", is written over a horizontal line.

9

BY REQUEST

# S.B. NO. 1450

**Report Title:**

DOH; Intensive Mobile Team Pilot Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establish a pilot program in the Department of Health to provide intensive mobile treatment-type services, e.g., "street psychiatry," to chronically houseless people suffering from serious brain disorders like schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

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

## JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Health

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AN INTENSIVE MOBILE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM FOR HOUSELESS INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDERS.

PURPOSE: To establish an intensive mobile team pilot program within the Adult Mental Health Division of the Department to provide intensive mobile team services for chronically houseless individuals suffering from serious brain disorders such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

MEANS: Establish a pilot program in session law.

JUSTIFICATION: Houseless persons with serious brain disorders, such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, may resist services due to co-morbid medical conditions or a lack of trust in those seeking to assist them.

Street psychiatry is an evolving field in which outreach service providers attempt to reach service-resistant patients where they are and build engagement, rapport, and trust using highly specialized skills and training. If successful, the patient will accept services, become more stabilized, and experience improved health outcomes. In addition, total cost of care for the patient will likely decline as mental health and physical care are delivered more consistently, decreasing the need for more costly care, such as avoidable emergency department use or hospitalization.

This bill is needed to authorize resources for the Department to implement a street psychiatry-based intensive mobile team pilot program.

Impact on the public: More intensive services for chronically houseless individuals with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. These individuals will be better served with better guidance and care across the Department and other agencies.

Impact on the department and other agencies: Authorization and resources to implement the IMT pilot project and improve care delivery to treatment-resistant persons.

GENERAL FUND: \$1,300,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026.  
\$1,300,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: HTH 420.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: County Police Departments, Department of Law Enforcement, Judiciary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025.