

**ACT 37**

H.B. NO. 2537

A Bill for an Act Making an Emergency Appropriation for the Adult Mental Health Division.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

SECTION 2. Although funds were appropriated to the department of health for the adult mental health division for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1999 and ending June 30, 2000, a critical funding emergency now exists. The program will expend all appropriated funds before the end of the current fiscal year, and the department will be unable to meet its fiscal obligation to provide services to certain adults with serious mental illness. The primary reason for this financial situation is the need to implement additional services and activities to reach compliance with the requirements of the settlement agreement and subsequent orders in *United States v. State of Hawaii*, Civil Number 91-00137 (DAE).

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate or authorize moneys to prevent the reduction or discontinuance of services to patients at Hawaii State Hospital and to develop and provide necessary community-based services for discharged patients of the Hawaii State Hospital.

**SECTION 3.** There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$14,039,984, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1999-2000, to be used for services and activities to improve services to patients and former patients of Hawaii State Hospital, and persons committed to the custody of the director of health in penal and civil commitment processes.

**SECTION 4.** The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

**SECTION 5.** From this amount, \$250,000 shall be set aside for process and outcome evaluations of new initiatives or programs in HTH 420 and HTH 430 to be conducted by any agency or agencies external to the department of health. The evaluations shall be submitted to the 2001 regular session of the legislature at least twenty days prior to its convening. The auditor shall assist the legislature in assessing the evaluation reports as well as in overseeing the effectiveness and efficiency for the adult mental health programs. The auditor may request progress reports from the department of health from time to time.

**SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 24, 2000.)