



GOV. MSG. NO. 1340

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

July 13, 2015

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

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

This is to inform you that on July 13, 2015, the following bill was signed into law:

SB961 SD2 HD3

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT  
**ACT 231 (15)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUL 13 2015

THE SENATE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015  
STATE OF HAWAII

**ACT 231**  
**S.B. NO.**

961  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 3

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 334-123, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§334-123 Initiation of proceeding for assisted community**  
4 **treatment.** (a) Any interested party may file a petition with  
5 the family court alleging that another person meets the criteria  
6 for assisted community treatment. The petition shall state:

7 (1) Each of the criteria numbered (1) through (7) for  
8 assisted community treatment, as set out in section  
9 334-121;

10 (2) Petitioner's good faith belief that the subject of the  
11 petition meets each of the criteria numbered (1)  
12 through (7) set forth in section 334-121;

13 (3) Facts which support petitioner's good faith belief  
14 that the subject of the petition meets each of the  
15 criteria numbered (1) through (7) set forth in section  
16 334-121; and



1 (4) [~~+~~]That[~~+~~] the subject of the petition is present  
2 within the county where the petition is filed.

3 The hearing on the petition need not be limited to the  
4 facts stated in the petition. The petition shall be executed  
5 subject to the penalties of perjury.

6 (b) The petition may be accompanied by a certificate of a  
7 licensed psychiatrist who has examined the subject of the  
8 petition [~~at any time~~] within twenty calendar days prior to the  
9 [~~submission~~] filing of the petition. For purposes of the  
10 petition, an examination shall be considered valid so long as  
11 the licensed psychiatrist has obtained enough information from  
12 the subject of the petition to reach a diagnosis of the subject  
13 of the petition, and to express a professional opinion  
14 concerning the same, even if the subject of the petition is not  
15 fully cooperative.

16 [~~(c) If the subject of the petition has refused to submit~~  
17 ~~to examination by a licensed psychiatrist, the fact of the~~  
18 ~~refusal shall be alleged in the petition.] "~~

19 SECTION 2. Section 334-124, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended to read as follows:



1           **"§334-124 Hearing date.** The family court shall set a  
2 hearing date on a petition as soon as possible [~~7, but within ten~~  
3 ~~days after filing of the petition~~]."

4           SECTION 3. Section 334-125, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6           **"§334-125 Notice.** (a) Notice of the hearing shall be:

7           (1) Served personally on the subject of the petition  
8           pursuant to family court rules; [~~and~~]

9           (2) Served personally or by certified or registered mail,  
10           return receipt requested, deliverable to the addressee  
11           only, to as many as are known to the petitioner of the  
12           subject's spouse or reciprocal beneficiary, legal  
13           parents, adult children, and legal guardian, if one  
14           has been appointed;

15           (3) Served on the public defender, attorney for the  
16           subject of the petition, or other court-appointed  
17           attorney as applicable; and

18           (4) Given to such other persons as the court may  
19           designate.

20           (b) The notice shall include the following:



- 1 (1) The date, time, place of hearing, a clear statement of  
2 the purpose of the proceedings and possible  
3 consequences to the subject, and a statement of the  
4 legal standard upon which assisted community treatment  
5 is being considered;
- 6 (2) A copy of the petition;
- 7 (3) Notice that the subject of the petition is entitled to  
8 the assistance of an attorney, and that the public  
9 defender has been notified of these proceedings; and
- 10 (4) Notice that if the subject does not want to be  
11 represented by the public defender, the subject may  
12 contact the subject's own attorney.

13 (c) Notice of all subsequent hearings shall be served in  
14 accordance with subsections (a) and (b), and in accordance with  
15 all applicable family court rules relating to service of notice,  
16 including that service need not be made on parties in default  
17 for failure to appear."

18 SECTION 4. Section 334-126, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:



1           **"§334-126 Hearing on petition.** (a) The court may adjourn  
2 or continue a hearing for failure to timely notify a person  
3 entitled to be notified.

4           (b) The time and form of the procedure incident to hearing  
5 the issues in the petition shall be provided by family court  
6 rule and consistent with this part.

7           (c) Hearings may be held at any convenient place within  
8 the circuit. The subject of the petition, any interested party,  
9 or the family court upon its own motion may request a hearing in  
10 another court because of inconvenience to the parties,  
11 witnesses, or the family court or because of the subject's  
12 physical or mental condition.

13           (d) The hearing shall be closed to the public, unless the  
14 subject of the petition requests otherwise.

15           (e) The subject of the petition shall be present at the  
16 hearing. However, if the subject has been served with the  
17 petition and does not appear at the hearing, the court[, ~~in its~~  
18 ~~discretion, may go forward with the hearing.~~] may appoint a  
19 guardian ad litem to represent the best interests of the subject  
20 through the proceedings.



1 (f) [~~The subject of the petition need not, but may, be~~  
2 ~~represented by an attorney. If the subject desires an attorney~~  
3 ~~and is indigent, or if the family court determines that the~~  
4 ~~legal or factual issues raised are of such complexity that the~~  
5 ~~assistance of an attorney is necessary for an adequate~~  
6 ~~presentation of the merits or that the subject of the petition~~  
7 ~~is unable to speak for the subject's self, the family court~~  
8 ~~shall order the appointment of a public defender or other~~  
9 ~~attorney to represent the subject and continue the hearing for~~  
10 ~~not more than seven days.] Notwithstanding chapter 802 to the  
11 contrary, the public defender or other court-appointed counsel  
12 shall represent the subject upon filing of the petition. A copy  
13 of the petition shall be served upon the public defender by the  
14 petitioner. The public defender or the court-appointed counsel  
15 may withdraw upon a showing that the subject is not indigent.  
16 If the subject does not desire representation, the court may  
17 discharge the attorney after finding that the subject  
18 understands the proceedings and the relief prayed for in the  
19 petition. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to:~~



1        (1) Require the subject of the petition to accept legal  
2        representation by the public defender or other court-  
3        appointed counsel; or

4        (2) Prevent the subject of the petition from obtaining  
5        their own legal counsel to represent them in any  
6        proceeding.

7        (g) If the subject of the petition is represented by an  
8 attorney, the attorney shall be allowed adequate time for  
9 investigation of the matters at issue and for preparation, and  
10 shall be permitted to present the evidence that the attorney  
11 believes necessary for a proper disposition of the proceeding.

12        (h) No subject of the petition shall be ordered to receive  
13 assisted community treatment unless at least one psychiatrist  
14 testifies in person at the hearing who has personally assessed  
15 the subject [~~within the time period commencing ten calendar days~~  
16 ~~before the filing of the petition and ending at the time of the~~  
17 ~~psychiatrist's testimony.~~], within a reasonable time before the  
18 filing of the petition up to the time when the psychiatrist  
19 provides oral testimony at court. The psychiatrist's testimony  
20 shall state the facts which support the allegation that the  
21 subject meets all the criteria for assisted community treatment,



1 provide a written treatment plan, which shall include non-mental  
2 health treatment if appropriate, provide the rationale for the  
3 recommended treatment, and identify the designated mental health  
4 program responsible for the coordination of care.

5 If the recommended assisted community treatment includes  
6 medication, the psychiatrist's testimony shall describe the  
7 types or classes of medication which should be authorized, and  
8 describe the physical and mental beneficial and detrimental  
9 effects of such medication.

10 ~~[If the subject of the petition has refused to be examined~~  
11 ~~by a licensed psychiatrist, the family court may request the~~  
12 ~~subject to consent to examination by a psychiatrist appointed by~~  
13 ~~the court or employed at a community mental health center. If~~  
14 ~~the subject of the petition does not consent and the family~~  
15 ~~court finds sufficient evidence to believe that the allegations~~  
16 ~~in the petition are true, the family court may order the~~  
17 ~~commitment of the subject to a psychiatric facility for~~  
18 ~~examination. The commitment shall not be for more than forty-~~  
19 ~~eight hours. The examining psychiatrist shall submit the~~  
20 ~~findings and recommendations to the family court in the form of~~  
21 ~~a written treatment plan.~~



1 ~~The subject of the petition's refusal to submit voluntarily~~  
2 ~~to examination shall be treated as a denial that the subject is~~  
3 ~~mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse, and a denial~~  
4 ~~that the subject otherwise fits within the criteria for a court~~  
5 ~~order of assisted community treatment.~~

6 ~~Nothing herein shall be construed in a way that limits the~~  
7 ~~subject of the petition's privilege against self incrimination.]~~

8 (i) The subject of the petition may secure a psychiatric  
9 examination and present the findings as evidence at the hearing.  
10 The subject shall be entitled to a psychiatric examination at a  
11 community mental health center if the subject so desires, and if  
12 an examination has not already been conducted at a community  
13 mental health center which will lead to psychiatric testimony at  
14 the hearing."

15 SECTION 5. Section 802-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "**§802-1 Right to representation by public defender or**  
18 **other appointed counsel.** (a) Any indigent person who is:†

19 (1) Arrested for, charged with, or convicted of an offense  
20 or offenses punishable by confinement in jail or





1 chairperson of the Hawaii paroling authority or the  
2 administrative head of the body or agency involved."

3 SECTION 6. Section 802-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) [~~When~~] Except as provided in section 334-126(f), when  
6 it shall appear to a judge that a person requesting the  
7 appointment of counsel satisfies the requirements of this  
8 chapter, the judge shall appoint counsel to represent the person  
9 at all stages of the proceedings, including appeal, if any. If  
10 conflicting interests exist, or if the interests of justice  
11 require, the court may appoint private counsel, who shall  
12 receive reasonable compensation for necessary expenses,  
13 including travel, the amount of which shall be determined by the  
14 court, and reasonable fees pursuant to subsection (b). All  
15 expenses and fees shall be ordered by the court. Duly ordered  
16 payment shall be made upon vouchers approved by the director of  
17 finance and warrants drawn by the comptroller."

18 SECTION 7. Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, is  
19 amended by amending section 21 to read as follows:



1 "SECTION 21. (a) Any treating provider wishing to file a  
2 petition pursuant to section 334-123, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
3 for assisted community treatment shall:

4 (1) Obtain historical information related to MH-1s and  
5 hospitalization of persons who are under an order to  
6 treat; and

7 (2) Track further episodes of MH-1s and hospitalization  
8 while the persons are under the order.

9 (b) An entity designated by the department of health shall  
10 gather information from treating providers related to MH-1s and  
11 hospitalization of persons who are under an order to treat  
12 [and]. Treating providers shall provide the information  
13 specified in subsection (a)(1) and (2) to the department of  
14 health, or its designee, by September 30 of each year for the  
15 purposes of compiling the written report. The department of  
16 health shall submit an annual report of its findings and  
17 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days  
18 prior to the convening of every regular session beginning with  
19 the regular session of 2015."

20 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
2 provided that the amendments made to sections 334-123, 334-125,  
3 and 334-126, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by this Act shall not be  
4 repealed when those sections are reenacted on July 1, 2020,  
5 pursuant to section 24, Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013.

APPROVED this 13 day of JUL, 2015



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII