

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is facing
2 a severe shortage of resources to effectively address the needs
3 of individuals committed to the custody of the director of
4 health or the director of public safety who may require strict
5 security and intensive inpatient mental health treatment. Over
6 the last twenty years, the Hawaii state hospital in Kaneohe has
7 come to serve a forensic population, as virtually every patient
8 admitted comes to the hospital by court order. Forensic
9 patients are patients who have been charged with a crime, and
10 most have been diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental
11 illness, substance addiction, or both. Many of the inmates and
12 detainees in jails and prisons have a history of violence and
13 have significant needs for psychiatric care, including inpatient
14 hospitalization.

15 The legislature further finds that admissions to Hawaii
16 state hospital have increased by over fifty per cent in the past
17 two years. The growing need to address this forensic
18 psychiatric population has created a strain on the staff and



1 programs. For example, the buildings currently in use at the
2 Hawaii state hospital were designed to serve a population of
3 individuals very different from those who are there at present.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to address
5 identified gaps in facilities and services by developing a
6 suitable inpatient psychiatric facility in which services can be
7 provided for the mentally ill who need stricter security and for
8 inmates and detainees who need a higher level of mental health
9 care.

10 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
11 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
13 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2014-2015
14 for the development of a secure inpatient psychiatric facility
15 to serve the mentally ill who need stricter security, and
16 inmates and detainees who need a higher level of mental health
17 care.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 health for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. The appropriation made for the capital
21 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
22 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is



1 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
2 unencumbered as of June 30, 2016, shall lapse as of that date.

3 SECTION 4. The department of health shall submit plans to
4 build a secure inpatient psychiatric facility, as described in
5 this Act, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
6 the convening of the regular session of 2015. The department
7 shall commence building a secure inpatient psychiatric facility
8 no later than January 1, 2016.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

10

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Report Title:

Hawaii State Hospital; Inpatient Psychiatric Facility;
Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds for the department of health to develop a secure inpatient psychiatric facility to serve the mentally ill who need stricter security, and inmates and detainees who need a higher level of mental health care.

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