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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that healthcare costs are  
3 skyrocketing. The legislature specifically finds that studies  
4 indicate that a small percentage of patients consume a  
5 disproportionate amount of healthcare resources. Many of these  
6 patients suffer from multiple chronic conditions, including  
7 substance use, mental illness, and homelessness. Chronic  
8 conditions that go untreated worsen with age. Further, the more  
9 chronic conditions an individual has, the greater the risks that  
10 individual faces for mortality, poor functional status,  
11 unnecessary hospitalizations, adverse drug events, duplicative  
12 tests, and conflicting medical advice. Approximately sixty-six  
13 per cent of total health care spending is directed toward the  
14 approximately twenty-seven per cent of Americans with multiple  
15 chronic conditions.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
17 treatment of people with multiple chronic conditions, including



1 but not limited to mental health disorders, substance use  
2 disorders, and homelessness.

3 PART II

4 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that current guidelines  
5 on chronic conditions fail to account for complications posed by  
6 additional chronic conditions. Specifically, guidelines for  
7 people with mental illness and substance use problems rarely  
8 address co-occurrence of other chronic conditions. Developing  
9 targeted interventions designed for multiple chronic conditions  
10 will help improve access to health care, public health, and  
11 other services. Effective treatment of patients with multiple  
12 chronic conditions requires heightened coordination of complex  
13 medical and psychosocial care, development of accompanying  
14 quality metrics, increased involvement of the public health  
15 system, strengthening of public-private partnerships, and an  
16 increase in qualified staff.

17 Therefore, the purpose of this part is to require the  
18 department of health to establish a comprehensive and  
19 coordinated continuum of treatment services for sufferers of  
20 substance use disorders who have other chronic conditions.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
4 treatment of patients with multiple chronic conditions,  
5 including substance use disorders, and the creation of a modern,  
6 comprehensive, and coordinated continuum of treatment services  
7 that includes defined goals and benefits.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
9 health for the purposes of this part.

10 PART III

11 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that the department of  
12 health has started a pilot program for training primary  
13 caregivers to address mild to moderate substance use disorders,  
14 by providing screening, brief intervention, and referral to  
15 treatment. This primary care strategy provides for early  
16 intervention with at-risk substance users before more serious  
17 consequences occur.

18 The legislature also finds that ninety per cent of people  
19 with substance use disorders do not receive treatment; of those  
20 who do not receive treatment, ninety-five per cent are unaware  
21 that they have a problem. Improving primary care can identify



1 substance use disorders early, and reduce healthcare costs, the  
2 severity of drug and alcohol use, and risk of trauma.

3 The legislature also finds that a centralized referral and  
4 treatment process is a key component of substance use treatment.  
5 The referral and treatment process includes assisting a patient  
6 access specialized treatment, select facilities, and navigate  
7 barriers such as cost and transportation, and following up with  
8 a patient as needed.

9 Therefore, the purpose of this part is to appropriate funds  
10 for the department of health to establish a pilot project for a  
11 comprehensive and coordinated centralized referral system in  
12 each county.

13 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
16 department of health to establish a pilot project for a  
17 permanent centralized referral center in the city and county of  
18 Honolulu, then expand and develop the program to address the  
19 needs of other counties.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
21 health for the purposes of this part.



## 1 PART IV

2 SECTION 6. The legislature finds people with mental health  
3 disorders or substance use disorders can be particularly  
4 vulnerable to becoming homeless or being precariously housed.  
5 The legislature further finds that although the chronically  
6 homeless represent approximately sixteen per cent of the overall  
7 homeless population, they consume more than half of services.  
8 Approximately two-thirds of the chronically homeless have a  
9 substance use disorder or other chronic condition.

10 The legislature further finds that case managers with the  
11 expertise to address substance use disorders and other chronic  
12 conditions could better address the chronically homeless who  
13 have difficulty accessing housing. These skills include  
14 knowledge of theories of addiction, models of recovery, and  
15 practices of continuing care; ability to recognize the  
16 importance of family and social networks in the treatment  
17 process; and understanding of interdisciplinary and  
18 multicultural approaches to treatment, among others. Properly  
19 trained case managers can deal with special needs, such as HIV  
20 infection, poverty, childcare responsibilities, and physical or



1 developmental disabilities. Case managers can also ensure  
2 smooth transitions in care and avoid gaps in service.

3 The legislature also finds that, although case management  
4 programs have been recently created, they lack vital funding and  
5 resources.

6 The purpose of this part is to provide funding for case  
7 management programs to help those with substance use disorders.

8 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
11 funding of case management programs to help those with substance  
12 use disorders throughout the State.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 health for the purposes of this part.

15 PART V

16 SECTION 8. The legislature finds that peer mentors and  
17 coaches assist their peers with setting recovery goals, finding  
18 sober housing, making new friends, finding new uses of spare  
19 time, and improving job skills. They also provide assistance  
20 with other collateral issues. Peer mentors and coaches provide



1 valuable experience to the peers they serve as they have  
2 experienced similar recovery paths.

3 The legislature further finds that peer mentoring and  
4 coaching reduce health care costs, facilitate recovery, and  
5 promote a sense of community. Peer mentors and coaches model  
6 recovery behaviors and connect the person treated with valuable  
7 services and resources.

8 The legislature further finds that many peer mentors and  
9 coaches serve as volunteers. As such, they tend to have shorter  
10 tenures than paid staff, and require constant supervision,  
11 recruitment, and training. Stipends and other compensation are  
12 sometimes provided to peer mentors and coaches.

13 Therefore, the purpose of this part is to appropriate funds  
14 to service providers to hire supervisors to supervise and train  
15 volunteer peer mentors and coaches, and to develop incentive and  
16 stipend programs for volunteer peer mentors and coaches.

17 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to fund  
20 service providers to hire supervisors to supervise and train  
21 volunteer peer mentors and coaches to help those with substance



1 use disorders, and to develop incentive or stipend programs for  
2 volunteer peer mentors and coaches.

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

5 PART VI

6 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Substance Use; Chronic Conditions; Homelessness; Peer Mentors;  
Case Managers; Referral; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for programs and other efforts to help persons suffering from multiple chronic conditions, including coordinated treatment, centralized referral, case managers, and peer mentors. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

