A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIAL FUND.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that subacute residential stabilization services, otherwise known as crisis stabilization beds, will bridge the gap for individuals in crisis for whom acute inpatient hospitalization is unnecessary and lower level residential and community treatment modalities are insufficient. Additionally, transitional placement is needed in environments where individuals with severe and persistent mental illness are able to live semi-independently but can return quickly to higher levels of care when the individual starts to decompensate. These two service components are vital parts of a comprehensive continuum of care for behavioral health but are currently under-resourced.

The legislature further finds that individuals who will benefit from crisis stabilization beds enter and reenter the health care system through emergency departments, often under a designation for emergency examination pursuant to section 334-59, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or more commonly known
as "MH-1". Upon discharge but before long-term rehabilitation and treatment may continue, some patients will require several days or weeks to deescalate from the patient's crisis in a controlled environment. Similarly, if these patients are reintegrated into the community prematurely, the cycle of relapse and decompensation often continues. However, Hawaii's treatment resources do not currently include crisis stabilization beds or supported transition units.

The legislature also finds that the department of health proposes to invest in existing state facilities that have underutilized bed space to create an inventory of crisis stabilization beds and supported transition units.

Additionally, due to focused efforts over the last several years to maximize billing and reimbursement, the mental health and substance abuse special fund can sustain both expanded program operations and new capital improvements related to crisis stabilization beds.

The purpose of this Act is to:

(1) Authorize the mental health and substance abuse special fund to be used for capital improvements; and
(2) Require the department of health to identify, among
other things, capital improvement projects that should
be made with moneys from the mental health and
substance abuse special fund to improve the continuum
of care for behavioral health and submit a report to
the legislature.

SECTION 2. Section 334-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) There is established a special fund to be known as
the mental health and substance abuse special fund into which
shall be deposited all revenues and other moneys collected from
certification programs and treatment services rendered by the
mental health and substance abuse programs operated by the
State. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the
department is authorized to establish separate accounts within
the special fund for depositing moneys received from
certification programs and from each mental health and substance
abuse program. Moneys deposited into the respective accounts of
each program shall be used for the payment of the operating
expenses of or capital improvements for the respective program.

As used in this section, "capital improvements" means the
acquisition of real property, improvements to expand capacity
and serviceability of existing public facilities, and the
development of new public facilities."

SECTION 3. (a) The department of health shall identify
the following:

(1) Capital improvement projects that should be funded by
moneys from the mental health and substance abuse
special fund to improve the continuum of care for
behavioral health;

(2) The amounts required for the identified capital
improvement projects; and

(3) Plans investigating whether: private nonprofit
organizations could operate state facilities that have
underutilized bed space; state funding could be
supplemented with proceeds from fundraising to remodel
these facilities; and non-state funds could be used to
support operations.

(b) The department of health shall submit a report of its
findings and recommendations, including any proposed
legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
to the convening of the regular session of 2021.
SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050; provided that on June 30, 2025, this Act shall be repealed and section 334-15(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted in the form in which it read on the day prior to the effective date of this Act.
Report Title:
DOH; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Special Fund; Capital Improvement Projects; Study

Description:
Authorizes the mental health and substance abuse special fund to be used for certain capital improvements. Requires the Department of Health to identify, among other things, capital improvement projects that should be made with moneys from the mental health and substance abuse special fund to improve the continuum of care for behavioral health and submit a report to the Legislature. Repeals on 6/30/2025. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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