
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) The legislature finds that poor mental
2 health is a growing national concern for college students.
3 College counseling centers are increasingly understaffed.
4 According to a 2011 Government Relations Update by the American
5 Psychological Association:

6 (1) Since the mid-1990's, there has been a noticeable
7 increase in the number of students seeking help for
8 serious mental health problems;

9 (2) Based on a 2010 survey by the American College Health
10 Association, over forty-five per cent of students
11 reported feeling hopeless, and over thirty per cent of
12 students reported feeling so depressed that it was
13 difficult to function;

14 (3) Depression and anxiety are consistently the most
15 common mental health disorders treated at college
16 counseling centers;



- 1 (4) The numbers of students struggling with eating
2 disorders, substance abuse, and self-inflicted injury
3 have increased; and
- 4 (5) Because of the growing need for services, over
5 seventy-six per cent of college counseling directors
6 reported that they reduced the number of visits for
7 non-crisis patients to cope with the increasing
8 overall number of clients.
- 9 (b) The legislature further finds that at the University
10 of Hawaii at Manoa:
- 11 (1) College is a ripe environment for certain mental
12 health disorders to manifest;
- 13 (2) The average enrollment is twenty thousand students;
- 14 (3) There are only seven and one-half tenured track
15 psychologist positions (7.5 FTE), even though the
16 national guideline is one licensed psychologist for
17 every one thousand to one thousand five hundred
18 students;
- 19 (4) The non-urgent waitlist for individual psychotherapy
20 services at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's
21 counseling and student development center begins by



1 September of each year, and at peak times, a wait for
2 an initial intake appointment can range from five days
3 to two and a half weeks;

4 (5) The counseling and student development center is
5 losing staff as a result of uncompetitive pay, since
6 staff members are leaving to work in private practice;
7 and

8 (6) There is a need for a case manager to help with
9 consistent follow-ups for student mental health
10 clients.

11 (c) The purpose of this Act is to advance students' mental
12 health treatment at the University of Hawaii at Manoa by
13 appropriating moneys to:

14 (1) Establish three full-time psychologist positions (3.0
15 FTE); and

16 (2) Establish one full-time case manager position (1.0
17 FTE).

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
21 the University of Hawaii at Manoa to hire three full-time



1 equivalent psychologists (3.0 FTE) to provide student mental
2 health services.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
4 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
8 the University of Hawaii at Manoa to hire one full-time
9 equivalent case manager (1.0 FTE) to provide student mental
10 health services.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
12 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

14



Report Title:

University of Hawaii at Manoa; Students; Mental Health Services;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for the University of Hawaii at Manoa to
hire three psychologists and one case manager to provide student
mental health services. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

