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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A TWO-YEAR HEPATITIS C DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has the  
2 highest rate of liver cancer in the United States due to the  
3 high rate of chronic viral hepatitis in our state. There are  
4 over fifteen thousand people who have tested positive for  
5 hepatitis C in Hawaii.

6           Each year, approximately ten thousand to twelve thousand  
7 people in the United States die from hepatitis C. It is  
8 estimated that by the end of this decade, deaths from hepatitis  
9 C will increase by sixty to two hundred per cent.

10           Hepatitis C is also the leading cause of liver transplants  
11 in the United States. Many people who are infected with this  
12 silent epidemic wait until they feel ill before being tested-  
13 when it can be more difficult, extremely expensive, or even too  
14 late to be treated.

15           The legislature further finds that testing, early medical  
16 follow-up, and treatment are needed to save lives. Proactive  
17 public health intervention is needed to reduce costs to our



1 public health system instead of the high costs that can occur  
2 without proactive public health intervention.

3 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for a two-  
4 year demonstration project at the Waikiki Health Center and the  
5 West Hawaii Community Health Center that includes hepatitis C  
6 testing, case management, and treatment.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or  
9 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008  
10 and the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary  
11 for fiscal year 2008-2009 to provide testing, case management,  
12 treatment, surveillance, research, and outcome assessments  
13 during a two-year hepatitis C demonstration project at the  
14 Waikiki Health Center and the West Hawaii Community Center.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Department  
16 of Health's STD/AIDS Prevention Branch for the purposes of this  
17 Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Healthcare; Hepatitis C; Two-year Demonstration Project

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to establish a two-year Hepatitis C demonstration project at the Waikiki Health Center and the West Hawaii Community Center to provide testing, case management, treatment, surveillance, research, and outcome assessments.  
(HB1467 HD1)

