
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that screening
3 individuals for substance abuse, counseling those who show risky
4 behavior, and referring people to substance abuse treatment if
5 needed are remarkably effective techniques to reduce alcohol and
6 drug problems.

7 The purpose of this part is to ensure that a referral to
8 appropriate alcohol and drug abuse screening and counseling is
9 offered to a patient when an examining physician in a primary
10 care or emergency room setting has good reason to suspect
11 substance abuse by the patient.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 453, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§453- Alcohol and drug abuse screening and counseling
16 in emergency room or routine primary care. A physician licensed
17 under this chapter shall offer to refer a patient being examined
18 in a primary care or emergency room setting to alcohol and drug



1 abuse screening and counseling when the physician has good
2 reason to suspect alcohol or drug abuse by the patient."

3 PART II

4 SECTION 3. Medical personnel, particularly in emergency
5 rooms and trauma centers, regularly encounter patients who have
6 sustained injuries, loss, or trauma resulting from the use of
7 alcohol or other drugs. This initial point of contact in a
8 medical setting is a recognized window of opportunity where
9 patients are most vulnerable and open to intervention and
10 dialogue that address their underlying alcohol or drug issues.
11 It is at this "teachable moment" that individuals can benefit
12 from assessment, education, counseling, or, if necessary,
13 referral to treatment.

14 The "screening, brief intervention, referral, and
15 treatment" program capitalizes on this "teachable moment" in
16 medical settings by offering screening, brief intervention,
17 education, and, if necessary, referrals to appropriate care or
18 treatment for individuals at risk for, or diagnosed with,
19 alcohol and other substance use disorders.

20 This evidence-based, cost-effective program is recognized
21 as a best practice model by the substance abuse and mental
22 health services administration, an agency of the United States



1 Department of Health and Human Services. Successful screening,
2 brief intervention, referral, and treatment programs have been
3 implemented and are ongoing in other states, including
4 California, Alaska, Illinois, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas,
5 and Washington. Evidence from existing screening, brief
6 intervention, referral, and treatment programs conducted in
7 medical settings have shown dramatic reductions in alcohol and
8 other drug use among patients receiving services.

9 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to
10 establish a screening, brief intervention, and referral to
11 substance abuse treatment pilot program in the State of Hawaii.

12 SECTION 4. The University of Hawaii, through its John A.
13 Burns school of medicine, shall develop and establish a pilot
14 program for screening, brief intervention, and referral to
15 substance abuse treatment, which shall be sited at the emergency
16 department of a major urban medical facility in Honolulu.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,333,513 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
21 2008-2009 to implement the pilot program for screening, brief
22 intervention, and referral to substance abuse treatment.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
2 of Hawaii, through its John A. Burns school of medicine for the
3 purposes of this part.

4 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
6 provided that part II of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
7 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Manly B. Lee

Guthrie Hieken

Karl Nease

John M. Mizuno

Wynn Snow

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Report Title:

Substance Abuse; Screening

Description:

Ensures appropriate alcohol and drug abuse screening and counseling is offered to a patient when an examining physician in a primary care or emergency room setting has good reason to suspect substance abuse by the patient, and appropriates funds to establish a screening, brief intervention, and referral to substance abuse treatment pilot program in the State of Hawaii.

