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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INTERVENTION FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

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

1           SECTION 1. Medical personnel, particularly in emergency  
2 rooms and trauma centers, regularly encounter patients who have  
3 sustained injuries or trauma resulting from the use of alcohol  
4 or other drugs. This initial point of contact in a medical  
5 setting is a recognized window of opportunity where patients are  
6 most vulnerable and open to intervention and dialogue that  
7 address their underlying alcohol or illegal drug issues. It is  
8 at this "teachable moment" that individuals can benefit from an  
9 assessment, education, counseling, or if necessary, referral to  
10 treatment.

11           The medical personnel working in the "screening, brief  
12 intervention, referral, and treatment" program may seize this  
13 "teachable moment" in medical settings by offering screening,  
14 brief intervention, education, and if necessary, referrals to  
15 appropriate care or treatment for individuals at risk for, or  
16 diagnosed with, alcohol and other substance use disorders.

17           This evidence-based, cost-effective program is recognized  
18 as a best practice model by the Substance Abuse and Mental



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

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund a pilot  
11 program for screening, brief intervention, and referral to  
12 substance abuse treatment in the State.

13 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a two-year 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 or any  
17 other facility deemed appropriate by the administering agency.

18 (b) The University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of  
19 medicine shall establish and administer the pilot program.

20 (c) The University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of  
21 medicine shall submit a report to the legislature concerning the  
22 status of the pilot program and make findings and



1 recommendations, including proposed legislation and whether to  
2 continue the program, not later than twenty days before the  
3 convening of the regular sessions of 2008 and 2009.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and  
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
8 year 2008-2009 to implement a pilot program in the emergency  
9 department of a major medical facility in Honolulu or other  
10 appropriate facility for screening, brief intervention, and  
11 referral to substance abuse treatment.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
13 of Hawaii, through its John A. Burns school of medicine, for the  
14 purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Substance Abuse; Intervention

**Description:**

Establishes a two-year pilot program for screening, brief intervention, and referral to substance abuse treatment facilities. Appropriation. (SD2)

