
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the senate special
2 investigative committee on the Hawaii state hospital (special
3 investigative committee) was established pursuant to S.R. No. 3
4 (Regular Session of 2014). The purpose of the special
5 investigative committee was to investigate the workplace safety
6 of all Hawaii state hospital psychiatric workers and alleged
7 improprieties concerning administrative and employment matters
8 at the Hawaii state hospital, and submit its written findings
9 and recommendations to the legislature.

10 As a result of its investigation, the special investigative
11 committee found that the Hawaii state hospital faces three main
12 interrelated challenges:

13 (1) Maintaining a safe work environment for Hawaii state
14 hospital staff;

15 (2) Meeting the current needs of Hawaii state hospital
16 patients and staff due to inefficient use of
17 facilities and patient and staff safety practices; and



- 1 (3) Providing efficient and effective human resources
2 practices.

3 The special investigative committee submitted a written report
4 of its findings and recommendations to the legislature on
5 October 23, 2014.

6 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 7 (1) Require the department of health and Hawaii state
8 hospital to consider certain recommendations made by
9 the special investigative committee; and

- 10 (2) Require the department of health and Hawaii state
11 hospital to report in writing to the legislature of
12 its status of implementing certain recommendations.

13 SECTION 2. (a) Pursuant to the final report of the senate
14 special investigative committee on the Hawaii state hospital,
15 the department of health and Hawaii state hospital shall
16 consider the following recommendations:

- 17 (1) With regard to maintaining a safe work environment:

- 18 (A) Develop standardized recording procedures to
19 accurately report assaults occurring at the
20 Hawaii state hospital;



1 (B) Educate and train all employees on workplace
2 violence; and

3 (C) Develop and implement a pervasive and appropriate
4 training program for employees to handle forensic
5 mental health patients;

6 (2) With regard to using facilities and exercising work
7 place safety practices efficiently:

8 (A) Develop and implement a patient classification
9 system that is based on patient need and violence
10 potential;

11 (B) Consider options in designating Unit H of the
12 Hawaii state hospital solely for the purpose of
13 admitting patients;

14 (C) Obtain a forensic care designation or
15 accreditation for the Hawaii state hospital;

16 (D) Facilitate the transfer of high risk patients to
17 out-of-state mental health facilities contracted
18 with the State by selecting patients that may
19 qualify and benefit from being transferred
20 pursuant to the Hawaii state hospital's adopted



1 policies and procedures and determine whether
2 such patients should be transferred;

3 (E) Explore and develop short-term strategies for the
4 physical improvement and renovation of the
5 existing Hawaii state hospital facility;

6 (F) Explore and develop long-term strategies for the
7 design and construction of a new facility for the
8 Hawaii state hospital;

9 (G) Construct a fence around the perimeter of the
10 Hawaii state hospital campus to ensure safety for
11 the surrounding community and assist in
12 preventing patient elopements; and

13 (H) Develop procedures to alert the community when a
14 patient elopement occurs; and

15 (3) With regard to providing efficient and effective human
16 resources practices:

17 (A) Collaborate with the department of health to
18 streamline internal recruitment and hiring
19 processes to expedite the filling of position
20 vacancies at the Hawaii state hospital;



1 (B) Develop policies and procedures regarding the
2 recruitment of temporary agency workers;

3 (C) Develop and implement procedures for the
4 assignment of overtime of Hawaii state hospital
5 staff;

6 (D) Control the opportunities for Hawaii state
7 hospital employees to abuse sick leave and
8 overtime benefits; and

9 (E) Strengthen and implement policies and procedures
10 regarding Hawaii state hospital complaints and
11 disciplinary actions.

12 (b) The department of health and Hawaii state hospital
13 shall submit a written status report, including any
14 recommendations and proposed legislation, to the legislature
15 regarding its efforts in implementing the recommendations under
16 subsection (a) no later than twenty days prior to the convening
17 of the regular session of 2016. The department of health and
18 Hawaii state hospital shall submit a written final report,
19 including any recommendations and proposed legislation, to the
20 legislature regarding its efforts in, completion of, and
21 impediments to implementing the recommendations under subsection



1 (a), no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
2 regular session of 2017.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Hospital; Department of Health

Description:

Requires the department of health and Hawaii state hospital to consider certain recommendations made by the senate special investigative committee on the Hawaii state hospital and submit a written report to the legislature of its status of implementing certain recommendations prior to the regular sessions of 2016 and 2017. (SD2)

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