

JAN 27 2016

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 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;



(4) The numbers of students struggling with eating disorders, substance abuse, and self injury have increased; and

(5) Because of the growing need for services, over seventy-six per cent of college counseling directors reported that they reduced the number of visits for non-crisis patients to cope with the increasing overall number of clients.

(b) The legislature further finds that at the University of Hawaii at Manoa:

(1) College is a ripe environment for certain disorders to manifest;

(2) The average enrollment is twenty thousand students;

(3) There are only seven and one-half tenured track psychologist positions (7.5 FTE), even though the national guideline is one licensed psychologist for every one thousand to one thousand five hundred students;

(4) The non-urgent waitlist for individual psychotherapy services at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's 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; and

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 by appropriating moneys to:

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

15 (2) Establish one case full-time case manager position
16 (1.0 FTE);

17 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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



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

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
4 Hawaii at Manoa 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 much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
8 University of Hawaii at Manoa to hire one full-time equivalent
9 case manager (1.0 FTE) to provide student mental health
10 services.

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

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.
14

INTRODUCED BY:


BY REQUEST



S.B. NO. 2761

Report Title:

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

Description:

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

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