

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to increase
2 awareness of, promotion of education on, and knowledge of mental
3 health problems by requiring law enforcement personnel,
4 correctional officers, and other officials under the department
5 of public safety to receive eight-hour training on mental health
6 first aid triennially.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 353C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "**\$353C- Mental health first aid training.** The
11 department shall establish a mental health first aid training
12 program for law enforcement, correctional officers, and other
13 public safety officials under the department. The program shall
14 include a mandatory eight-hour interactive training course
15 triennially that teaches the skills necessary to assist a person
16 who is developing or has developed a mental health disorder, or
17 mental crisis, and to deescalate crisis situations as needed.



1 The mandatory interactive training shall instruct officials to,
2 at minimum:

- 3 (1) Identify signs of mental crises, illness, and
4 instability;
5 (2) Identify signs of behavioral and psychological
6 patterns of mental health disorder;
7 (3) Provide initial assistance to a person with a mental
8 health disorder;
9 (4) Guide individuals requiring assistance toward
10 appropriate professional help;
11 (5) Provide comfort to a person experiencing a mental
12 health disorder;
13 (6) Assist in preventing a mental health disorder from
14 deteriorating into a more serious condition, which may
15 lead to more costly interventions and treatments; and
16 (7) Promote healing, recovery, and good mental health."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19 INTRODUCED BY: Will Eyer

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S.B. NO. 563

Report Title:

Department of Public Safety; Mental Health First Aid Training

Description:

Requires the department of public safety to establish a mental health first aid training program that includes mandatory eight-hour sessions triennially for law enforcement personnel, correctional officers, and other public safety officials under the department to teach skills used for identifying and assisting individuals with mental health disorders and crises.

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