
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSED CRISIS RESIDENTIAL SHELTERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the lack of Licensed
2 Crisis Residential Shelters in Hawaii is an issue of public
3 concern. Currently the number of residential beds available for
4 people experiencing a mental health crisis is extremely limited
5 with only twenty beds on Oahu and nine beds on Hawaii Island.
6 Having a more robust inventory of available beds would alleviate
7 the pressure on emergency rooms and psychiatric units in medical
8 facilities.

9 A Licensed Crisis Residential Shelter provides a safe place
10 to stay for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.
11 Typical stays are from three to ten days. Licensed Crisis
12 Residential Shelters have nurses on staff who assist with
13 medication management and other medical needs. The shelters
14 also provide food and housing while monitoring clients for
15 suicidal behavior. Licensed Crisis Residential Shelters are
16 warranted for use in cases of suicidal or homicidal ideation or
17 intent, medication management, and symptom management.



1 While a crisis shelter is not a permanent fix for housing
2 individuals who have mental illnesses, it provides "housing
3 first" for stabilization and the opportunity for clients to be
4 linked to human services during their stay. Licensed Crisis
5 Residential Shelters would be a financial benefit to the State
6 by lowering the costs of emergency medical services in
7 hospitals. Licensed Crisis Residential Shelters also have the
8 potential to lower the rates of suicide, homicide, and drug
9 overdoses, as well as improve the lives of countless individuals
10 who may not otherwise have access to crisis services.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
12 Department of Health's Adult Mental Health Division for Licensed
13 Crisis Residential Shelters and increase the number of beds and
14 facilities available in the State.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2020-2021 to increase the number of available beds at
20 licensed crisis residential shelters statewide.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 health for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 1594

Report Title:

Crisis Residential Shelter; Mental Health; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to increase the number of residential beds available for those experiencing mental health crisis. Gives the department of health the funds to expand these programs to all counties.

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