A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the National Institute for Mental Health reports that one in five adults in the United States has a mental health condition. In Hawaii, a significant number of persons with mental illness end up in the criminal justice system. Often times, a trained mental health care professionals can significantly help individuals with mental health issues avoid the criminal justice system.

In addition, for those already in the criminal justice system, there is a long wait for mental health treatment. During 2017 and 2018, the department of public safety held two hundred seventy-five pretrial detainees who were awaiting treatment. This category of detainees spent a cumulative twelve thousand days occupying the department's bed space before they were transferred to the Hawaii state hospital.

15 The legislature recognizes that, as a matter of statewide 16 concern, action must be taken to increase the number of mental 17 health care professionals in Hawaii, not only to address the



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needs of the criminal justice system, but also the general
 public at large.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a behavioral health
4 social worker scholarship program to be administered by the
5 University of Hawaii.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to subpart B of part II to be
8 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

9 "§304A- Behavioral health social worker scholarship 10 program; service commitment. (a) There is established the 11 behavioral health social worker scholarship program to be 12 administered by the University of Hawaii. The behavioral health 13 social worker scholarship program shall assist students with 14 school tuition in return for a service commitment of five years 15 with the department of human services in the areas of 16 psychiatric and mental health, or other behavioral health social 17 work. 18 (b) The behavioral health social worker scholarship program shall cover the cost of tuition and fees for a complete 19 20 course of study that qualifies an individual for licensure under

21 chapter 467E; provided that a recipient who fails to maintain



1	satisfactory academic progress shall be terminated from the
2	behavioral health social worker scholarship program and shall be
3	required to repay the portion of the scholarship already
4	dispensed on the recipient's behalf.
5	(c) Recipients shall be required to complete five years of
6	
U	service with the department of human services. If the recipient
7	fails to complete the required five-year service commitment, the
8	recipient shall reimburse the University of Hawaii for the full
9	amount of the award received from the behavioral health social
10	worker scholarship program.
11	(d) The number of scholarships awarded annually shall be
11 12	(d) The number of scholarships awarded annually shall be determined by the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with
	£
12	determined by the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with
12 13	determined by the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the department of human services, and shall be subject to the
12 13 14	determined by the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the department of human services, and shall be subject to the availability of funds.
12 13 14 15	determined by the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the department of human services, and shall be subject to the availability of funds. (e) The University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the
12 13 14 15 16	determined by the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the department of human services, and shall be subject to the availability of funds. (e) The University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the department of human services, shall establish necessary policies
12 13 14 15 16 17	determined by the University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the department of human services, and shall be subject to the availability of funds. (e) The University of Hawaii, in collaboration with the department of human services, shall establish necessary policies and procedures to implement and sustain the behavioral health

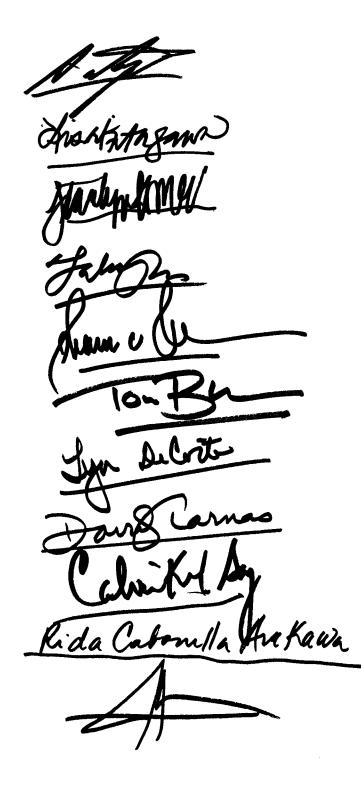


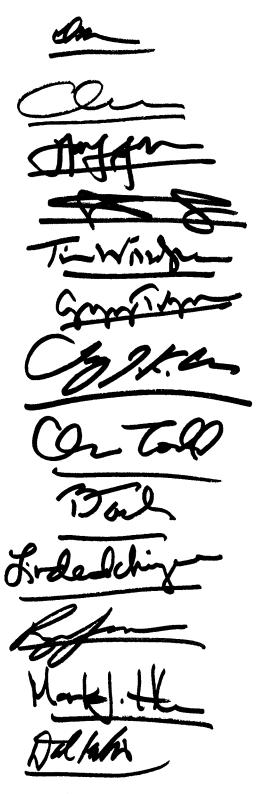
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1	(f) The department of human services shall adopt rules,
2	pursuant to chapter 91, for purposes of the five-year service
3	commitment component of the behavioral health social worker
4	scholarship program, including policies and procedures to
5	implement and sustain the five-year service commitment and terms
6	and conditions of employment."
7	SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9	much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
10	the behavioral health social worker scholarship program
11	established in section 2 of this Act.
12	The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
13	Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.
14	SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.
15	SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.
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H.B. NO. 2707-

Report Title:

Behavioral Health Social Worker Scholarship Program; UH; DHS; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the behavioral health social worker scholarship program at UH, which requires recipients of the scholarship to commit to five years of service with DHS. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

