

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is excessive
2 utilization of hospital emergency department resources by
3 homeless individuals for non-emergency needs. Many of these
4 users are considered super utilizers if they visit the emergency
5 department at least three times per week, are admitted to the
6 hospital at least three times per month, or visit the emergency
7 department at least twelve times per quarter, and suffer from
8 mental health and substance abuse issues. According to 2015
9 data from the Hawaii Health Information Corporation, the billed
10 charges for all homeless health care encounters that occurred in
11 Hawaii hospitals was \$146,000,000. These encounters included
12 repeat visits of, on average, two to three times.

13 The legislature notes Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018,
14 appropriated funds for the establishment of a one-year medical
15 respite pilot program to be administered by the department of
16 human services, in consultation with the Hawaii interagency
17 council on homelessness and any appropriate agency. Under the



1 program, a community service provider, in partnership with a
2 participating hospital, provides emergency housing for eligible
3 individuals experiencing homelessness who are discharged from
4 the hospital. The community service provider also provides, at
5 minimum, meals, case management, and medical, nursing, and
6 psychiatric care. The medical respite facilities are required
7 to comply with department of health standards.

8 The legislature further notes that this pilot program will
9 sunset on June 30, 2019, and believes that such a medical
10 respite program requires additional time for appropriate
11 determination and coordination of services. Furthermore,
12 additional time is necessary to study the results and coordinate
13 any changes in the pilot program to best serve the pilot
14 program's target population.

15 The legislature further finds Hawaii's QUEST Integration
16 project is a statewide section 1115 demonstration project that
17 provides medicaid coverage for medical, dental, and behavioral
18 health services through competitive managed care delivery
19 systems.

20 The legislature notes that the department of human services
21 has a pending request for an extension and expansion of the



1 QUEST Integration section 1115 demonstration project to enable
2 the department to provide and coordinate supportive housing-
3 related activities and services, as appropriate, with the goal
4 of promoting community integration, optimal coordination of
5 resources, and self-sufficiency for beneficiaries experiencing
6 chronic homelessness who also have a disability, mental health
7 condition, substance abuse disorder, or complex health needs.
8 Services include outreach and engagement services, supported
9 employment services, and other services identified as necessary
10 to meet supportive housing goals for the beneficiary. Thus, the
11 legislature believes that expanding the State's QUEST
12 Integration demonstration project to include a medical respite
13 pilot program will be beneficial in enabling the State to
14 provide more comprehensive care and services to a greater number
15 of homeless individuals or individuals who are at risk of being
16 homeless.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 18 (1) Require the department of human services to establish
19 and implement a medical respite pilot program to offer
20 short-term residential acute and post-acute medical



1 care for homeless individuals after being discharged
2 from a hospital;

3 (2) Require the department of human services to submit an
4 application for an amendment to the QUEST Integration
5 section 1115 demonstration project to expand its QUEST
6 Integration project to provide for the medical respite
7 pilot program; and

8 (3) Appropriate funds to the department of human services
9 for the establishment and implementation of a medical
10 respite pilot program.

11 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall
12 establish a medical respite pilot program. The medical respite
13 pilot program shall provide short-term residential acute and
14 post-acute medical care for individuals, primarily those who are
15 homeless or those with unstable living situations, who are too
16 ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury in
17 their usual living environment, but are not ill enough to be in
18 a hospital. The medical respite pilot program shall also
19 provide services to improve transitional care for this
20 population and end the cycle of homelessness by supporting



1 patients in accessing benefits and housing while also gaining
2 stability with case management relationships and programs.

3 (b) The department of human services shall establish
4 procedures and requirements for participating hospitals and
5 residential care facilities; provided that these facilities
6 shall comply with the department of health's standards of
7 accessibility, sanitation, and other requirements, as determined
8 by the department of health for facilities of similar use.

9 (c) Pilot program enrollees shall include individuals:

10 (1) With repeated incidents of avoidable emergency use,
11 hospital admissions, or nursing facility placement;
12 two or more chronic conditions; or mental health or
13 substance use disorders; and

14 (2) Who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of
15 homelessness, including individuals who may experience
16 homelessness upon release from medical or mental
17 health facilities or incarceration.

18 The department of human services shall establish eligibility
19 requirements for pilot program enrollees. Beneficiaries of the
20 State's QUEST Integration program shall be eligible to be
21 enrolled in the pilot program. Individuals who are not



1 beneficiaries of the State's QUEST Integration program may
2 enroll in the pilot program only at the discretion of the
3 department of human services, but funding in support of any
4 services provided to these individuals shall not be eligible for
5 federal financial participation.

6 (d) The department of human services, in consultation with
7 the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness and any other
8 appropriate agency, shall determine the types of services to be
9 provided to pilot program enrollees; provided that such services
10 are:

- 11 (1) Necessary to achieve or maintain medical stability,
12 which may require behavioral health interventions;
- 13 (2) Directly linked to the overarching strategies and
14 goals identified by the department of human services
15 for pilot program enrollees;
- 16 (3) Not provided for more than ninety days in continuous
17 duration;
- 18 (4) Not funded by moneys dedicated to building
19 modification or building rehabilitation; and
- 20 (5) Not covered by medicaid.



1 (e) The department of human services shall develop and
2 implement policies and procedures to require participating
3 hospitals and residential care facilities to collect data
4 related to the pilot program enrollee population and services
5 provided, share data, coordinate appropriate care, and evaluate
6 individual and pilot program enrollee population health
7 progress.

8 (f) The department of human services shall submit progress
9 reports, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
10 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
11 sessions of 2020 to 2023 and a final report, including any
12 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
13 convening of the regular session of 2024.

14 (g) The medical respite pilot program shall cease to exist
15 on June 30, 2024.

16 SECTION 3. The department of human services shall submit
17 an application to the United States Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services for an amendment to the QUEST Integration Section
19 1115 demonstration project to expand its QUEST Integration
20 project to provide for the medical respite pilot program.



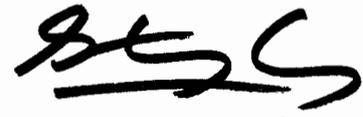
1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000,000 or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2020-2021 for the establishment and implementation of the
6 medical respite pilot program.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
8 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 432

Report Title:

Homelessness; Medical Respite Pilot Program; Medicaid; Section 1115 Demonstration Project; Department of Human Services; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates moneys for a medical respite pilot program to offer medical, nursing, psychiatric, and other care for homeless individuals after being discharged from a hospital. Requires the department of human services to submit an application for an amendment to the QUEST Integration section 1115 demonstration project to expand its QUEST Integration project to provide for the medical respite pilot program.

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