
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 health's child and adolescent mental health division manages
3 community mental health centers, also known as family guidance
4 centers, that provide Hawai'i's children and youth who have
5 serious emotional or behavioral challenges access to intensive
6 mental health services. The legislature further finds that each
7 school district in Hawai'i has at least one family guidance
8 center to serve their children and youth.

9 The legislature also finds that the school district for
10 Hawai'i island originally had one family guidance center;
11 however, due to the disproportionately high number of children
12 and youth enrolled in its programs, the center's jurisdiction
13 was divided into two centers: the east Hawai'i family guidance
14 center and west Hawai'i family guidance center. The east Hawai'i
15 family guidance center operates one office located in Hilo, and
16 the west Hawai'i family guidance center operates two offices--one



1 each in Waimea and Kona. However, it has come to the
2 legislature's attention that the Kona office has been closed for
3 some time as the lease for the premises is being finalized,
4 resulting in the Waimea office serving the entire eastern region
5 of the island. As such, children and youth who reside in the
6 southern region of the island are currently required to travel
7 as far as one hundred miles to visit the Waimea office or the
8 Hilo office, and even when the Kona office reopens, some will
9 still be required to travel as far as seventy miles to reach the
10 office.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
12 health's child and adolescent mental health division to
13 establish a family guidance center office in Ka'ū in the county
14 of Hawai'i, to serve the needs of the children and youth who
15 reside in the southern region of the county, in addition to the
16 offices in Waimea, Kona, and Hilo.

17 SECTION 2. The department of health's child and adolescent
18 mental health division shall establish a community mental health
19 center office, also known as a family guidance center office, in
20 Ka'ū in the county of Hawai'i, to serve the needs of the children



1 and youth who reside in the southern region of the county, in
2 addition to the existing offices in Waimea, Kona, and Hilo.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
6 the establishment and operation of a community mental health
7 center office, also known as a family guidance center, in Ka'ū in
8 the county of Hawaii.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 health's child and adolescent mental health division for the
11 purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Community Mental Health Center; Family Guidance Centers; County of Hawaii; Ka'ū; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Health's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division to establish a Family Guidance Center office in Ka'ū in the county of Hawaii, to serve the needs of the children and youth in the southern region of the county, in addition to the offices in Waimea, Kona, and Hilo. Appropriates funds. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD1)

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