
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOCIAL WORK.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is facing
2 a shortage of social workers to help people in the State manage
3 their mental health and cope with stressors in their everyday
4 lives. This shortage is of concern, as social workers already
5 have full caseloads and may be unable to provide additional
6 services, which may in turn intensify the need for help and
7 increase burnout among social workers. The demand for social
8 workers will likely continue to rise, especially during the
9 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and its aftermath,
10 because individuals experiencing depression, anxiety, life
11 transitions, and other mental health challenges will need social
12 workers' support to address difficult or stressful life
13 situations.

14 The legislature further finds that some nonviolent
15 incarcerated individuals may have experienced the need for
16 social services or may have firsthand experience receiving
17 services from social workers. These individuals may be uniquely



1 qualified to enter the field of social work as assistants after
2 undergoing training. The legislature also finds that, to
3 address the shortage of social workers and lack of social
4 services in the State, providing social work training to
5 nonviolent incarcerated individuals may help these individuals
6 reintegrate into society once their period of incarceration is
7 over.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require and
9 appropriate funds for the department of public safety, in
10 collaboration with the department of human services, to develop
11 and establish a program to train incarcerated nonviolent
12 individuals in the area of social work.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
15 and to read as follows:

16 "§353H- _____ Incarcerated individuals; social work training
17 program; established. (a) The department shall develop and
18 establish a social work training program, in collaboration with
19 the department of human services, to assist nonviolent
20 incarcerated individuals in exploring a professional pathway in



1 the practice of social work and becoming eligible for employment
2 as assistants to licensed social workers.

3 (b) The department may coordinate with accredited
4 institutions of higher education, private entities, and
5 nonprofit organizations to provide training in social work to
6 participating individuals.

7 (c) The department shall establish rules pursuant to
8 chapter 91 to implement this section."

9 SECTION 3. The department of public safety and department
10 of human services shall submit a report of the departments'
11 progress in developing and establishing the program pursuant to
12 section 2 of this Act, along with any findings or
13 recommendations and proposed legislation, to the legislature no
14 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
15 sessions of 2023 and 2024.

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to
19 develop and establish a program to train certain incarcerated
20 nonviolent individuals in the area of social work pursuant to
21 this Act.



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

3 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;
5 provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

PSD; DHS; Social Work; Training; Incarcerated Nonviolent
Individuals; Reports; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with
the Department of Human Services, to develop and establish a
program to train incarcerated nonviolent individuals in the area
of social work. Requires progress reports on the program to the
Legislature. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

