
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INCREASED INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION
BETWEEN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND SOCIAL SERVICE
PROVIDERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the assistance
2 provided by law enforcement officers during interactions with
3 individuals experiencing homelessness, behavioral health issues
4 including substance use, or mental health issues is greatly
5 enhanced when the officers are part of a more coordinated and
6 collaborative approach involving social service providers having
7 specialized training and experience in addressing the needs of
8 these individuals.

9 The legislature recognizes the efforts made by the Honolulu
10 police department under the law enforcement assisted diversion
11 program, also known as the LEAD program, and other efforts made
12 by neighbor island police departments under similar pilot
13 programs. More specifically, the Honolulu program aimed to
14 improve public safety and reduce criminal behavior by connecting
15 nonviolent offenders, or individuals at high risk of arrest,
16 with social service providers in lieu of arrest. As implemented



1 within the city and county of Honolulu, the program focused on
2 individuals whose criminal activity is due to behavioral health
3 issues, and provided intensive case management services to
4 ensure that these individuals received assistance with housing,
5 substance use, and mental illness. The legislature funded the
6 Honolulu program in 2017 through the alcohol and drug abuse
7 division of the department of health, in collaboration with the
8 governor's coordinator on homelessness. A two-year program
9 evaluation report published in 2020 found that program clients
10 reported decreased use of emergency shelters, decreased hospital
11 admissions, fewer emergency room visits, and decreased
12 methamphetamine use. The report also found that clients
13 experienced greater housing stability and an overall improvement
14 in their quality of life, due to receiving more social support
15 and experiencing less stress and improved mental health.

16 Given the demonstrated success of the law enforcement
17 assisted diversion program on Oahu and in neighbor island
18 counties, the legislature believes that funding should be
19 provided to support a similar approach involving increased
20 interagency coordination and collaboration between county law
21 enforcement agencies and social service providers.



1 The purpose of this Act is to:

2 (1) Require county police departments to provide updated
3 and expanded training, in collaboration and
4 consultation with the department of health and
5 university of Hawaii, to officers who have frequent
6 contact with individuals experiencing homelessness,
7 behavioral health issues including substance use, or
8 mental health issues;

9 (2) Appropriate funds to the county police departments,
10 department of health, and the university of Hawaii for
11 coordinated and collaborative activities including
12 training activities, referrals to service providers,
13 and technical assistance; and

14 (3) Require reports to the legislature on the disposition
15 of moneys appropriated under this Act.

16 SECTION 2. 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 2023-2024 and
19 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
20 year 2024-2025 for the police departments of the counties of
21 Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and the city and county of Honolulu to



1 provide updated and expanded training, in collaboration and
 2 consultation with the department of health and university of
 3 Hawaii, to officers who have frequent contact with individuals
 4 experiencing homelessness, behavioral health issues including
 5 substance use, or mental health issues; provided that sums
 6 appropriated shall be allocated as follows:

- 7 (1) \$ to the police department of Hawaii county;
- 8 (2) \$ to the police department of Maui county;
- 9 (3) \$ to the police department of Kauai county;
- 10 and
- 11 (4) \$ to the police department of the city and
 12 county of Honolulu.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the respective
 14 county police departments for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
 18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 19 year 2024-2025 for the department of health to provide trained
 20 personnel to accompany county police officers to calls involving
 21 individuals experiencing homelessness, behavioral health issues



1 including substance use, or mental health issues, for the
2 purpose of providing assistance in addressing the particular
3 needs of these individuals, including referrals to any necessary
4 support and treatment services; provided that the department of
5 health shall also collaborate and consult with the county police
6 departments with respect to the officer training required to be
7 provided by the county police departments under section 2 of
8 this Act.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
10 of health for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
15 year 2024-2025 for the university of Hawaii to provide technical
16 assistance in collaboration and consultation with the county
17 police departments and department of health, which may include
18 the following or any combination thereof:

- 19 (1) Training and professional development opportunities,
20 which may include continuing education courses, for



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- 1 behavioral health and mental health personnel employed
2 or contracted by the department of health;
- 3 (2) The development of a school-to-work pipeline to
4 rapidly respond to the increased demand for behavioral
5 health, mental health, and other social service
6 providers, which may include the establishment of paid
7 student externships wherein students enrolled in a
8 health science or social science related program of
9 the university of Hawaii system may gain practical
10 work experience in assisting individuals experiencing
11 homelessness, behavioral health issues including
12 substance use, or mental health issues, under the
13 supervision of qualified department of health
14 personnel; and
- 15 (3) Assessment and evaluation of the current degree of
16 coordination and collaboration between county law
17 enforcement agencies, the department of health and any
18 of its contracted service providers, and any other
19 relevant stakeholders involved in assisting
20 individuals experiencing homelessness, behavioral



1 health issues including substance use, or mental
2 health issues.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university
4 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. The police departments of the counties of
6 Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and of the city and county of Honolulu, the
7 department of health, and the university of Hawaii shall each
8 submit a report of its respective findings and recommendations,
9 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
10 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
11 of 2026. Each report shall include information on:

12 (1) The disposition of moneys appropriated under sections
13 2, 3, and 4 of this Act, as applicable, including
14 categories and amounts of expenditures and recipients
15 of moneys received;

16 (2) The number of clients assisted by each entity
17 receiving moneys under this Act and the number of
18 interactions with each of those clients; and

19 (3) Any measurable outcomes that are directly attributable
20 to the entity's receipt of moneys under this Act.



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1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Act shall take effect
3 on July 1, 2023.

4

INTRODUCED BY:  _____
JAN 24 2023



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Report Title:

Policing; Interagency Coordination; Homelessness; Behavioral Health; Mental Health; Appropriation; Report

Description:

Requires county police departments to provide training, in collaboration with the Department of Health and University of Hawaii, to officers having contact with individuals experiencing homelessness, behavioral health issues including substance use, or mental health issues. Appropriates funds for coordinated and collaborative activities including training, referrals to service providers, and technical assistance. Requires reports to the Legislature.

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