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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PSILOCYBIN.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is heightened  
2 awareness of the detrimental effects of untreated and maltreated  
3 mental health in our population. With a shortage of mental  
4 health professionals and appropriate mental health care, the  
5 State must actively consider innovative and effective treatment  
6 options to address this pressing need.

7           The legislature further finds that psilocybin has been  
8 found to be very effective in treating a variety of mental  
9 health conditions, including but not limited to post-traumatic  
10 stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and end-of-life  
11 psychological distress. As a result, the United States Food and  
12 Drug Administration has designated treatment that uses  
13 psilocybin in a therapeutic manner for treatment-resistant  
14 depression as a "breakthrough therapy".

15           The legislature also finds that at least two states, Oregon  
16 and Colorado, have found that legalizing medicinal psilocybin is



1 a valuable tool in dealing with various mental health  
2 conditions.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the  
4 therapeutic psilocybin working group to:

5 (1) Examine the medicinal and therapeutic effects of  
6 psilocybin or psilocybin-based products vis-à-vis  
7 mental health, including post-traumatic stress  
8 disorder, depression, anxiety, and end-of-life  
9 psychological distress;

10 (2) Examine the effectiveness of medicinal and therapeutic  
11 uses of psilocybin or psilocybin-based products in  
12 treating mental health in the two states that have  
13 legalized medicinal psilocybin, Oregon and Colorado;  
14 and

15 (3) Determine and develop a long-term strategic plan to  
16 ensure the safe availability and accessibility of  
17 affordable therapeutic psilocybin or psilocybin-based  
18 products for adults twenty-one years of age or older.

19 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a therapeutic  
20 psilocybin working group within the department of health for  
21 administrative purposes.



- 1 (b) The working group shall:
  - 2 (1) Examine federal, state, and local laws, regulations,  
3 administrative rules, and procedures regarding the  
4 therapeutic use of psilocybin;
  - 5 (2) Examine medical, psychological, and scientific  
6 studies, research, and other information relating to  
7 the efficacy and safety of psilocybin or psilocybin-  
8 based products in treating mental health disorders,  
9 including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression,  
10 anxiety, and end-of-life psychological distress;
  - 11 (3) Examine existing laws, requirements, and guidelines in  
12 jurisdictions in which psilocybin or psilocybin-based  
13 products are legally used to treat mental health  
14 conditions; and
  - 15 (4) If appropriate, determine and develop a long-term  
16 strategic plan to ensure the safe availability and  
17 accessibility of affordable therapeutic psilocybin or  
18 psilocybin-based products for adults twenty-one years  
19 of age or older.
- 20 (c) The working group shall consist of the following  
21 individuals:



- 1           (1) The executive director of the office of wellness and  
2                    resilience, or the executive director's respective  
3                    designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the  
4                    working group;
- 5           (2) The attorney general, or the attorney general's  
6                    respective designee;
- 7           (3) The dean of the John A. Burns school of medicine at  
8                    the University of Hawaii at Manoa, or the dean's  
9                    respective designee;
- 10          (4) The chairpersons of the senate and house of  
11                    representatives standing committees whose purview  
12                    includes health and judiciary, or their respective  
13                    designees;
- 14          (5) The chairperson of the Hawaii state council on mental  
15                    health, or the chairperson's respective designee;
- 16          (6) A physician duly licensed pursuant to chapter 453,  
17                    Hawaii Revised Statutes, or an advanced practice  
18                    registered nurse who is authorized to prescribe  
19                    psychotropic medication and is duly licensed pursuant  
20                    to chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as invited by  
21                    the chairperson of the working group;



1 (7) A psychiatrist duly licensed pursuant to chapter 453,  
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, as invited by the chairperson  
3 of the working group; and

4 (8) Other interested parties with relevant experience and  
5 expertise, as invited by the chairperson of the  
6 working group.

7 (d) The members of the working group shall serve without  
8 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including  
9 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.  
10 No member of the working group shall be subject to chapter 84,  
11 Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the member's  
12 participation in the working group.

13 (e) The working group shall submit a report of its  
14 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
15 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
16 to the convening of the regular session of 2024.

17 (f) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2025.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2024-2025 for the therapeutic psilocybin working group.

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

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
6 2050.



**Report Title:**

Psilocybin; Department of Health; Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group; Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Therapeutic Psilocybin Working Group within the Department of Health. Requires the working group to examine the medicinal and therapeutic effects of psilocybin or psilocybin-based products vis-à-vis mental health, report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2024, and dissolve on June 30, 2025. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050.  
(SD1)

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