
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a significant
2 proportion of the individuals in the corrections and
3 rehabilitation system have experienced serious trauma during
4 their lifetimes.

5 The legislature further finds when corrections
6 professionals are trained to properly assess and interact with
7 persons who have experienced trauma, those professionals are
8 better able to engage those individuals. As a result, these
9 individuals are more likely to connect with vital services, less
10 likely to commit disciplinary infractions, and experience
11 improved rehabilitation and reduced rates of recidivism.

12 The legislature further finds that the establishment of a
13 level I trauma-informed certification program may help to ensure
14 that the State's corrections professionals are properly trained
15 in trauma-informed care. Award of a program certificate would
16 require the completion of three courses, including a basic
17 trauma-informed care course for adult corrections officers,



1 especially those assigned to the women's community correctional
2 facility. The trauma-informed care course would be based on an
3 existing course implemented by Windward community college for
4 mental health technicians at Hawaii state hospital, which has
5 already been proven successful.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to
7 Windward community college to support a level I trauma-informed
8 certification program for adult corrections officers.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to support
12 a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections
13 officers at Windward community college; provided that:

- 14 (1) Courses shall be offered in eight-week or sixteen-week
15 long blocks during the 2023-2024 academic year;
- 16 (2) Eligible courses shall be offered to adult corrections
17 officers employed by the department of public safety
18 at no cost to the adult corrections officers;
- 19 (3) The certificate shall require completion of a level I
20 trauma-informed care course designed for adult
21 corrections officers; and



1 (4) Moneys appropriated may be used for instructor costs,
2 tuition, supplies, books, any necessary class
3 materials, speaker fees, travel for instructors to
4 corrections facilities to provide skills-building
5 workshops, and other expenses.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
7 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

Adult Corrections Officers; University of Hawaii; Windward
Community College; Trauma-informed Certification Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to support a trauma-informed certification
program for adult corrections officers at the Windward Community
College campus of the University of Hawaii. Requires the
curriculum to include a level I trauma-informed care course
designed for adult corrections officers. (SD1)

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