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

12 The legislature also 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. A program certificate would require
16 the completion of three courses, including a basic trauma-
17 informed care course for adult corrections officers, especially
18 those assigned to the women's community correctional center.



1 The trauma-informed care course would be based upon an existing
2 course implemented by windward community college for mental
3 health technicians at Hawaii state hospital, and thus has
4 already been proven successful. Accordingly, providing the
5 windward community college with the ability to offer trauma-
6 informed care courses to ensure that corrections professionals
7 are properly trained is a matter of statewide concern that falls
8 under the legislature's purview pursuant to article X, section
9 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
11 public safety to collaborate with the university of Hawaii
12 windward community college to support a level I trauma-informed
13 certification program for adult corrections officers in the
14 State.

15 SECTION 2. There shall be established a level I trauma-
16 informed certification program to be placed within the
17 university of Hawaii windward community college for adult
18 corrections officers; provided that:

19 (1) The department of public safety shall collaborate with
20 and provide support to the university of Hawaii in
21 carrying out the purposes of this Act;



- 1 (2) Courses shall be offered in eight-week or
2 sixteen-week-long blocks during the 2023-2024 academic
3 year;
- 4 (3) Eligible courses shall be offered at no cost to adult
5 corrections officers employed by the department of
6 public safety or succeeding agency;
- 7 (4) The certificate shall require completion of a level I
8 trauma-informed care course designed for adult
9 corrections officers;
- 10 (5) With the approval of the governor, the department of
11 public safety, as the designated expending agency for
12 moneys appropriated for the purpose of a level I
13 trauma-informed certification program to be funded by
14 operating funds authorized during the regular session
15 of 2023, may delegate to the university of Hawaii
16 windward community college the implementation of
17 projects related or similar to the level I trauma-
18 informed certification program established by this Act
19 when it is determined advantageous or convenient to do
20 so by both the original expending agency and the



1 agency to which expending authority is to be
2 delegated; and
3 (6) Moneys appropriated may be used for instructor costs,
4 tuition, supplies, books, any necessary class
5 materials, speaker fees, travel by instructors to
6 correctional facilities to provide skills-building
7 workshops, and other expenses of the university of
8 Hawaii.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Adult Corrections Officers; UH; Windward Community College;
Trauma-Informed Certification Program

Description:

Establishes a trauma-informed certification program at the
Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawaii
for adult corrections officers. Requires the curriculum to
include a level I trauma-informed care course designed for adult
corrections officers. (CD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

