



# GOV. MSG. NO. 1208

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 27, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1148 HD1 SD2 CD1

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.  
**ACT 107**

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023  
STATE OF HAWAII

**H.B. NO.** 1148  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 2  
C.D. 1

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a severe  
2 shortage of mental health providers in the State. This shortage  
3 is due to a lack of appropriately educated individuals and high  
4 rates of turnover in the field, which is exacerbated by  
5 compassion fatigue, burnout, and inadequate preparation for  
6 mental health serving positions. The legislature therefore  
7 finds that the mental health provider shortage in the State  
8 addressed by this measure is a matter of statewide concern.

9           The legislature further finds that the university of Hawaii  
10 Windward community college, in collaboration with the Hawaii  
11 state hospital, has developed a mental health technician  
12 certificate of competence program. The coursework for the  
13 certificate program addresses the immediate and critical  
14 workforce needs of preparing potential employees and upskilling  
15 existing employees. These certificates are also a foundation to  
16 increasingly higher qualifications, as the initial certificate  
17 of competence opens a pathway to further training and



1 development. A one-year certificate program currently under  
2 development will build on the skills developed by the existing  
3 mental health technician certificate of competence program by  
4 adding clinical skills and knowledge necessary to perform higher  
5 job requirements in more advanced clinical settings. The  
6 coursework can also be applied toward baccalaureate degrees.  
7 These programs help to grow the State's overall capacity to  
8 address the mental health challenges and needs of Hawaii's  
9 residents.

10 The mental health technician certificate of competence  
11 program consists of three approved courses, which provide a  
12 basic foundation in mental health knowledge in a short-term,  
13 focused program of study available in person and online. The  
14 asynchronous online courses can be offered to mental health  
15 workers and students across the State, with Windward community  
16 college coordinating with other community colleges in the  
17 university of Hawaii system. In order for the program to be  
18 offered statewide, additional resources are needed to provide  
19 for key personnel and establish a scholarship program to  
20 increase access to the mental health technician certificate of  
21 competence program for individuals who are unemployed,



1 underemployed, or low-wage earners, and others interested in  
2 pursuing a career pathway in mental health.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support  
4 the statewide expansion of the university of Hawaii Windward  
5 community college's mental health-related programs.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$210,150 or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to support  
9 the statewide expansion of the university of Hawaii Windward  
10 community college's mental health-related programs, to be  
11 expended as follows:

12 (1) \$75,000 for the establishment of one temporary full-  
13 time equivalent (1.0 FTE) faculty instructor position  
14 to develop and administer curriculum;

15 (2) \$75,000 for the establishment of one temporary full-  
16 time equivalent (1.0 FTE) faculty outreach position to  
17 onboard new cohorts, grant scholarships, and carry out  
18 any other necessary administrative tasks; and

19 (3) \$60,150 for the establishment of a scholarship  
20 program, the granting of scholarships, and other  
21 necessary administrative costs.



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

3           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

APPROVED this 27th day of June , 2024



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 1148, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2024  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

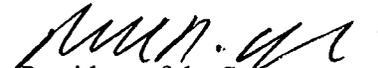


Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: May 1, 2024  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate