
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

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 service providers in the State. This
3 shortage is due to a lack of appropriately educated individuals
4 and high rates of turnover in the field, which is exacerbated by
5 compassion fatigue, burnout, and inadequate preparation for the
6 provision of mental health services. The legislature therefore
7 finds that the mental health provider shortage in the State is a
8 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 an entry level mental health
12 technician certificate of competence program. Furthermore, they
13 have developed a stackable degree program that builds on this
14 certificate with another seven courses to earn a certificate of
15 achievement. All these credits can then be applied toward an
16 associate of arts or a bachelor of arts in pathways such as
17 social work and psychology.



1 The legislature additionally finds that the coursework for
2 these programs addresses the immediate and critical workforce
3 needs of preparing potential employees and upskilling existing
4 employees for the Hawaii state hospital. The coursework also
5 has the potential to do the same for employees working in entry
6 level mental health jobs at organizations across the State in
7 collaboration with their local community college.

8 Furthermore, Windward community college offers a trauma
9 informed care pathway for the Honolulu police department and
10 adult corrections officers. This too, is a stackable degree
11 program with credits that can be applied toward a certificate of
12 achievement, or degrees such as an associate of arts or bachelor
13 of arts.

14 These programs help to grow the State's overall capacity to
15 address the mental health challenges and needs of Hawaii's
16 residents.

17 The asynchronous online courses can be offered to
18 professionals working with the mentally ill and students across
19 the State, with Windward community college coordinating with
20 other community colleges in the university of Hawaii system. In
21 order for these programs to be offered statewide, additional



1 resources are needed to provide for key personnel and establish
2 a scholarship program to increase access for individuals who are
3 unemployed, underemployed, low-wage earners, or otherwise
4 interested in pursuing a career pathway in mental health.

5 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
6 university of Hawaii Windward community college for the
7 establishment of positions to support the statewide expansion of
8 the university of Hawaii Windward community college's mental
9 health-related programs.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
13 the establishment of two positions to support the statewide
14 expansion of the university of Hawaii Windward community
15 college's mental health-related programs as follows:

16 (1) \$ for one temporary full-time equivalent
17 (1.0 FTE) faculty instructor to develop and administer
18 curriculum; and

19 (2) \$ for one temporary full-time equivalent
20 (1.0 FTE) faculty outreach position to onboard new



1 cohorts, grant scholarships, and carry out any other
2 necessary administrative tasks.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
4 Hawaii Windward community college for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
6 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
8 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
9 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
10 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
11 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
12 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
13 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
14 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
15 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
16 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
17 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
18 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 19 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
20 serve the public interest; and



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1 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
2 addressed by this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

4

INTRODUCED BY: _____



JAN 18 2024



H.B. NO. 1826

Report Title:

Mental Health Professionals; University of Hawaii Windward
Community College; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds for temporary positions to support the
statewide expansion of the University of Hawaii Windward
Community College's mental health-related programs.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

