
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO REHABILITATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to require the
2 department of health to establish or contract with behavioral
3 health crisis centers to provide intervention and stabilization
4 services in each county for persons experiencing a mental
5 illness or substance use disorder crisis.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§334- Behavioral health crisis centers. (a) Pursuant
10 to the authority and functions established under sections
11 334-2.5(a) (3) (B) and 334-3(a) (5), the director shall establish
12 or contract with behavioral health crisis centers in each county
13 of the State to provide care, diagnosis, or treatment for
14 persons experiencing a mental illness or substance use disorder
15 crisis.

16 (b) Each behavioral health crisis center established or
17 contracted with pursuant to this section shall:



- 1 (1) Be designed to:
- 2 (A) Address mental illness and substance use disorder
- 3 crisis issues; and
- 4 (B) Screen, assess, admit for stabilization, and
- 5 redirect a client to ongoing care in the most
- 6 appropriate and least restrictive community
- 7 setting available, consistent with the client's
- 8 needs;
- 9 (2) Provide services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a
- 10 week;
- 11 (3) Accept all walk-ins and referrals and provide services
- 12 regardless of the client's ability to pay, subject to
- 13 subsection (c);
- 14 (4) Offer a dedicated first responder drop-off area;
- 15 (5) Not require medical clearance before admission of the
- 16 client but rather provide assessment and support for
- 17 the client's medical stability while at the crisis
- 18 center;
- 19 (6) Have the capacity to assess physical health needs and
- 20 deliver care for most minor physical health
- 21 challenges;



- 1 (7) Be staffed at all times with a multidisciplinary team
2 capable of meeting the needs of clients experiencing
3 all levels of mental illness or substance use disorder
4 crises, including:
- 5 (A) Psychiatrists or advanced practice registered
6 nurses with psychiatric specialization;
- 7 (B) Nurses;
- 8 (C) Licensed or credentialed clinicians capable of
9 completing assessments of the client; and
- 10 (D) Peers with lived experience similar to the
11 experience of the client; and
- 12 (8) Screen clients for risk of suicide and violence and
13 complete more comprehensive risk assessments and
14 planning when clinically indicated.
- 15 (c) No person shall be denied services or receive delayed
16 services at a behavioral health crisis center operating under
17 this section because of inability to pay; provided that, subject
18 to section 334-6, crisis centers shall make every reasonable
19 effort to collect appropriate reimbursement for the cost of
20 providing services to persons able to pay for services,
21 including insurance or third-party payments.



1 (d) The director shall adopt rules pursuant to section
 2 334-9 to implement this section, including rules specifying
 3 standards for behavioral health crisis center eligibility
 4 criteria, clinical procedures, staffing requirements, and
 5 operational, administrative, and financing requirements."

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
 9 the director of health to establish or contract with behavioral
 10 health crisis centers pursuant to this Act.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 12 health for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
 14 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
 15 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
 16 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
 17 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
 18 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
 19 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
 20 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
 21 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total



H.B. NO. 2698

Report Title:

Department of Health; Behavioral Health Crisis Centers;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to establish or contract with behavioral health crisis centers in each county to provide care, diagnosis, or treatment for persons experiencing a mental illness or substance use disorder crisis. Appropriates funds.

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

