
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the COVID-19
2 pandemic challenged the social, emotional, and mental well-being
3 of youth globally. According to the Centers for Disease Control
4 and Prevention's Division of Adolescent School Health, the
5 national 2021 youth risk behavior survey revealed that
6 twenty-two per cent of high school students seriously considered
7 attempting suicide during the previous year, and eighteen per
8 cent of high school students made a suicide plan during the
9 previous year. Based on February 2021 data, the National
10 Alliance on Mental Illness Hawaii reported that one in six
11 American youth aged six through seventeen experienced a mental
12 health disorder each year, with ten thousand youth in Hawaii
13 aged twelve through seventeen experiencing depression. Of these
14 youth in Hawaii, 68.9% who have depression did not receive any
15 care in the previous year.

16 To address these serious gaps in services, care, and
17 treatment for youth, the department of health launched the



1 pediatric mental health care access project in September 2021.
2 The goals of the project were to promote behavioral health
3 integration into pediatric primary care; develop the pediatric
4 mental health care model to increase overall access; and provide
5 tele-consultation, training, technical assistance, and care
6 coordination for pediatric primary care providers to diagnose,
7 treat, and refer children with behavioral health conditions.

8 As the department of health continues to strengthen and
9 encourage the integration of mental health into pediatric
10 primary care, the legislature finds that there is a confusing
11 array of services across the State that are difficult to
12 navigate for those seeking mental health services for children
13 and adolescents. These programs span federal, state, private,
14 nonprofit, clinical, and community-based entities, covering
15 categories including crisis hotlines, direct mental health
16 services and mental healthcare providers, existing mental health
17 and community health facilities, school-based resources, and
18 after-school programs.

19 Given this array of services and programs, the legislature
20 further finds that there is a need to work with government,
21 community, and healthcare industry partners to comprehensively



1 map out these services and programs to optimize the utilization
2 of mental health resources and ensure a holistic and
3 well-coordinated approach to connect and refer children,
4 adolescents, and their families when in need of mental health
5 services.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

7 (1) Convene a working group of government, community, and
8 healthcare industry stakeholders to guide the process
9 of comprehensively and systematically mapping the
10 array of child and adolescent mental health services
11 and programs available statewide; and

12 (2) Appropriate moneys to conduct the mapping process.

13 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a child and
14 adolescent mental health services working group, to be placed
15 within the department of health for administrative purposes, to
16 guide the process of comprehensively and systematically mapping
17 the array of child and adolescent mental health services and
18 programs available statewide.

19 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
20 members or their designees:



- 1 (1) The chief of the family health services division of
2 the department of health, who shall serve as chair of
3 the working group;
- 4 (2) The administrator of the child and mental health
5 division of the department of health;
- 6 (3) The med-QUEST administrator;
- 7 (4) The superintendent of education;
- 8 (5) The chair of the senate standing committee on health
9 and human services;
- 10 (6) The chair of the house standing committee on health
11 and homelessness; and
- 12 (7) The chair of the house standing committee on human
13 services.
- 14 (c) The chair of the working group shall invite a
15 representative from each of the following organizations to serve
16 as members of the working group:
- 17 (1) The Hawaii Association of Health Plans;
- 18 (2) The Healthcare Association of Hawaii;
- 19 (3) The Hawaii Primary Care Association;
- 20 (4) Papa Ola Lokahi; and
- 21 (5) The Hawaii Community Foundation.



1 The chair of the working group may invite additional individuals
2 whom the chair deems relevant to the purposes of the working
3 group.

4 (d) Members of the working group shall serve without
5 compensation and may conduct meetings remotely to carry out the
6 purposes of the working group.

7 (e) The working group shall submit a report of its
8 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
9 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
10 to the convening of the regular session of 2025, and shall also
11 submit an update to its 2025 report to the legislature no later
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
13 of 2026.

14 (f) The working group shall cease to exist on June 30,
15 2026.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
19 comprehensively and systematically map the array of children and
20 adolescent mental health programs and services statewide.



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

3 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
4 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
5 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
6 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
7 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
8 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons
9 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
10 appropriation made in this Act is necessary to serve the public
11 interest and to meet the need provided for by this Act.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

13

INTRODUCED BY: Neve A. DeLuca

JAN 24 2024



H.B. NO. 2807

Report Title:

DOH; Mental Health; Services; Programs; Children; Adolescents;
Youth; Working Group; Appropriation; General Fund Expenditure
Ceiling Exceeded

Description:

Establishes a working group within the Department of Health to comprehensively and systematically map the array of child and adolescent mental health programs and services statewide. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

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