

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the island of
2 Molokai has struggled to receive the same resources as the rest
3 of the islands across the State. Currently, Molokai is serviced
4 by only one airline, which regularly experiences cancellations
5 and delays, resulting in many Molokai residents missing medical
6 appointments on neighbor islands and further contributing to
7 greater health disparities, particularly regarding mental
8 health.

9 The legislature further finds that services provided by the
10 department of health are underfunded and the department is
11 understaffed. Recent events have further evidenced a disconnect
12 between the department of health's state office and the local
13 office on Molokai. In addition, the biggest concern to Molokai
14 residents is inadequate mental health and suicide prevention
15 services. The legislature finds that it is critical for the
16 department of health to ensure services to the Molokai community



1 by maintaining adequate staffing levels and fully funding
2 programs and services under its jurisdiction.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
4 department of health to prioritize fully funding services,
5 programs, and staff positions under its jurisdiction on the
6 island of Molokai.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall prioritize
8 funding and filling vacant positions on the island of Molokai.

9 (b) The department of health shall fully fund programs and
10 services under its jurisdiction for community health services
11 including but not limited to:

- 12 (1) Public health services;
- 13 (2) Mental health services;
- 14 (3) Health inspectors; and
- 15 (4) Other services relevant to community health needs.

16 (c) The department of health shall maintain an updated
17 list of services provided with current contact information for
18 Molokai residents to easily access.

19 SECTION 3. The department of health shall submit a report
20 of its efforts to prioritize fully funding services, programs,
21 and staff positions on the island of Molokai, including any



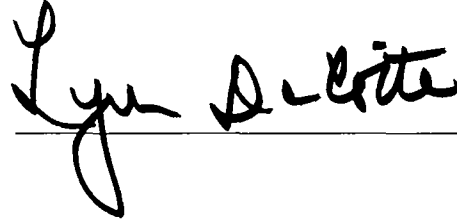
S.B. NO. 2538

1 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
2 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 2538

Report Title:

DOH; Molokai; Community Health Services; Mental Health Services; Health Infrastructure; Health Care; Program Funding; Report

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to prioritize funding for programs and services under its jurisdiction and fill vacant positions on the island of Molokai. Requires a report to the Legislature.

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

