

JAN 17 2025

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 there is a need for
2 a statewide "warm line" to provide nonclinical mental health
3 support over the telephone for non-emergency situations. A
4 "warm line" is a confidential, free phone service offering
5 mental health support to individuals who are experiencing
6 psychological distress but are not actively in danger of harming
7 themselves or others.

8 A mental health warm line differs from a mental health
9 crisis line or hotline. A crisis line or hotline generally
10 provides services to individuals who require immediate
11 assistance from a licensed professional, safety planning, or a
12 referral to a secondary agency or care provider. A mental
13 health warm line is intended for callers who need someone to
14 talk to but who are not actively in crisis and do not need to go
15 to the emergency room or call 911. A warm line is typically
16 staffed by volunteers or paid peers who have personal experience
17 with mental health disorders.



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1 The legislature also finds that the department of health
2 established a warm line that is separate from the Hawai'i CARES
3 988 crisis line to assist the Maui community following the 2023
4 Maui wildfires, and that there exists a gap in the available
5 mental health system in the State that necessitates the
6 establishment of a statewide warm line.

7 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds
8 to the department of health to establish and operate a free
9 statewide mental health warm line.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2026-2027 for the equipment, training, and operational expenses
15 necessary to establish and operate a mental health warm line
16 that is available statewide at no cost to users.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
18 of health for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

20 INTRODUCED BY: *Karl Noland*



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Report Title:

DOH; Warm Line; Mental Health; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to establish and operate a free statewide mental health warm line to provide mental health support in non-emergency situations.

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

