
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that veterans are often
2 diagnosed for post-traumatic stress disorder, depression,
3 anxiety, and other military service-related mental health
4 conditions. Effective long-term care for veterans requires
5 comprehensive and coordinated mental health support that is
6 integrated into daily operations and aligned with federal and
7 state resources.

8 The legislature further finds that establishing an on-site
9 mental health coordinator position at the office of veterans'
10 services at Tripler Army Medical Center will improve continuity
11 of care, provide support for other staff, and ensure that
12 veterans receive timely access to appropriate services without
13 duplicating existing clinical systems.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an
15 on-site mental health coordinator position at the office of
16 veterans' services at Tripler Army Medical Center.



SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the office of veterans' services one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) mental health coordinator position at the office of veterans' services at Tripler Army Medical Center on the island of Oahu. The mental health coordinator shall be appointed by the director of the office of veterans' services and shall report directly to the director.

(b) The mental health coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating mental and behavioral health services for veterans statewide, including:

- (1) Facilitating mental health screenings and referrals for residents upon admission;
- (2) Coordinating care with:
 - (A) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
 - (B) State behavioral health programs; and
 - (C) Contracted providers;
- (3) Supporting continuity of mental health care during transitions of care;
- (4) Assisting other veterans home staff in developing trauma-informed care practices and crisis response protocols; and



1 (5) Serving as the primary point of contact for residents
2 and their families for concerns related to mental
3 health services.

4 (c) The mental health coordinator may be a licensed mental
5 health professional, or a qualified health care administrator
6 with experience in behavioral health coordination.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
10 the establishment of a mental health coordinator position at the
11 office of veterans' services at Tripler Army Medical Center.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
13 veterans' services for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Office of Veterans' Services; Mental Health Coordinator;
Statewide Mental Health Services; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Office of Veterans' Services a mental health coordinator position at Tripler Army Medical Center. Provides that the mental health coordinator is appointed by and reports directly to the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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