
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PSYCHOLOGISTS.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish a
3 three-year pilot program to allow qualified psychologists under
4 the supervision of a supervising psychiatrist to prescribe
5 certain psychotropic medications for the treatment of mental
6 illness to patients between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five
7 who are under the psychologist's care at Wilcox Medical Center,
8 Samuel Mahelona memorial hospital, or a federally qualified
9 health center located in the county of Kauai.

10 PART II

11 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning July 1, 2028, there is
12 established a three-year pilot program to be administered by the
13 state health planning and development agency, in partnership
14 with the board of psychology, to allow clinical psychologists
15 licensed pursuant to chapter 465, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to
16 prescribe psychotropic medications under the supervision of a
17 supervising psychiatrist only to patients between the ages of



1 eighteen and sixty-five years who are being treated by the
2 psychologist at a federally qualified health center located in
3 the county of Kauai; provided that psychotropic medications
4 prescribed under this pilot program shall be eligible for
5 medicaid reimbursement to the extent such prescriptions would
6 otherwise be eligible if prescribed by a psychiatrist.

7 (b) A licensed clinical psychologist may participate in
8 the pilot program established pursuant to this Act if the
9 psychologist:

10 (1) Is licensed pursuant to section 465-7, Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes;

12 (2) Has, at a minimum, completed an education and training
13 program in clinical psychopharmacology that is
14 designated by the American Psychological Association
15 to prepare licensed psychologists for prescriptive
16 authority and approved by the board of psychology;

17 (3) Has passed the Psychopharmacology Examination for
18 Psychologists or an equivalent national examination
19 approved by the board of psychology that is relevant
20 to establishing competence for prescriptive practice;



1 (4) Is employed, including as a contract provider, by
2 Wilcox Medical Center, Samuel Mahelona memorial
3 hospital, or a federally qualified health center
4 located in the county of Kauai; and

5 (5) Meets any other requirements established by the board
6 of psychology.

7 (c) The employer shall report to the state health planning
8 and development agency any adverse events, patient outcomes, and
9 escalation protocols relating to services provided under the
10 pilot program. The state health planning and development agency
11 shall report the results annually to the board of psychology.

12 (d) The board of psychology shall adopt rules pursuant to
13 chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to implement the purpose of
14 this Act.

15 (e) The state health planning and development agency shall
16 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
17 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
18 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
19 2030. The report shall include a recommendation on whether to:

20 (1) Expand the pilot program to other underserved areas in
21 the State;



1 (2) Make prescriptive authority for qualified
2 psychologists permanent statewide; or

3 (3) Permanently end the pilot program.

4 (f) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,
5 2031.

6 (g) For the purposes of this Act:

7 "Federally qualified health center" has the same meaning as
8 in title 42 United States Code section 1396d(1) (2) (B).

9 "Prescriptive authority" means the authority to administer,
10 discontinue, distribute, or prescribe without charge, drugs or
11 controlled substances recognized in or customarily used in the
12 diagnosis, treatment, and management of individuals with major
13 depressive or generalized anxiety disorder, or other procedures
14 directly related thereto within the scope of practice of
15 psychology in accordance with rules adopted by the board of
16 psychology.

17 "Psychopharmacology" means the use of psychoactive drugs in
18 the treatment and control of mental disorders or psychiatric
19 disease.

20 "Psychotropic medication" means only selective serotonin
21 reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) and serotonin norepinephrine reuptake



1 inhibitors (SNRI) related to the diagnosis and treatment of
2 mental and emotional disorders. "Psychotropic medication" does
3 not include any agent placed in schedules II through V of part
4 II of chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or the off-label use
5 of any agent not formulated or primarily prescribed for the
6 diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders.

7 "Supervising psychiatrist" means a psychiatrist licensed to
8 practice medicine in the State who supervises a licensed
9 clinical psychologist practicing at a federally qualified health
10 center located in Kauai and accepts professional responsibility
11 for the provision of psychotropic medication by the licensed
12 clinical psychologist.

13 PART III

14 SECTION 3. Section 329-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended as follows:

16 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
17 and to read:

18 "Psychologist certified to prescribe" means a clinical
19 psychologist licensed in the State who is participating in the
20 pilot program established pursuant to Act _____, Session Laws of



1 Hawaii 2026, but who is not authorized to request, receive, or
2 sign for professional controlled substance samples."

3 2. By amending the definition of "practitioner" to read:

4 ""Practitioner" means:

5 (1) A physician, dentist, veterinarian, scientific
6 investigator, or other person licensed and registered
7 under section 329-32 to distribute, dispense, or
8 conduct research with respect to a controlled
9 substance in the course of professional practice or
10 research in this State;

11 (2) An advanced practice registered nurse with
12 prescriptive authority licensed and registered under
13 section 329-32 to prescribe and administer controlled
14 substances in the course of professional practice in
15 this State;

16 (3) A licensed midwife practicing as a certified midwife
17 registered under section 329-32 to prescribe and
18 administer controlled substances in the course of
19 professional practice in this State; [~~and~~]

20 (4) A licensed psychologist certified to prescribe
21 registered under section 329-32 to prescribe and



Report Title:

SHPDA; Board of Psychology; Prescriptive Authority; Clinical Psychologists; Pilot Program; Supervising Psychiatrists; Wilcox Medical Center; Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital; Federally Qualified Health Centers; Kauai; Rules; Report

Description:

Establishes a three-year pilot program in the County of Kauai to allow qualified psychologists under the supervision of a supervising psychiatrist limited authority to prescribe certain psychotropic medications to patients between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five years under the care of the psychologist. Requires employers to report adverse events, patient outcomes, and escalation protocols relating to services provided under the pilot program to the State Health Planning and Development Agency. Requires the Board of Psychology to adopt rules. Requires the State Health Planning and Development Agency to report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/3000. Sunsets 6/30/2031. (HD2)

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

