

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that scientific evidence
2 is essential for determining the effectiveness of any program,
3 policy, or intervention that promotes health and well-being in
4 specific settings and populations. Interventions backed by
5 strong scientific evidence protect taxpayer interests by guiding
6 the optimal allocation of public funds to maximize positive
7 outcomes and progress. Evidence-based decision-making can
8 improve the health of all residents of the State by identifying
9 strategies that work for specific populations and detecting
10 preventable differences in health outcomes between groups. The
11 effective use of evidence-based decision-making requires the
12 systematic gathering, evaluation, and synthesis of evidence from
13 diverse sources, including scientific studies, experimental
14 data, expert opinions, and community feedback. Application of
15 evidence from various scientific disciplines can direct
16 policymaking to well-tested programs and practices shown to
17 improve physical, behavioral, and mental health.



1 The legislature further finds that the absence of a
2 centralized, user-friendly, and continuously updated repository
3 of these programs inhibits the widespread adoption of proven
4 treatment and prevention strategies. Artificial intelligence
5 and related machine learning technologies provide powerful tools
6 to enhance the evidence ecosystem by synthesizing complex
7 scientific data, identifying effective programs, and ensuring
8 timely updates as new evidence emerges.

9 The legislature also finds that legislative efforts,
10 including the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of
11 2018 have created frameworks for evidence-building. However,
12 most government spending, domestically and internationally, is
13 not regularly guided by robust scientific evidence. Existing
14 online clearinghouses were initially established to increase
15 access to, and the utility of, evidence about what works, but
16 face challenges in user engagement, labor intensity, and
17 adaptation to innovation. The legislature additionally finds
18 that these gaps are in areas that enhancement by artificial
19 intelligence may address.

20 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
21 department of health:



1 "Cultural responsiveness" means the extent to which a
2 target population's ethnic and cultural characteristics,
3 experiences, norms, value, or behavioral patterns, including
4 relevant historical, environmental, and social forces are
5 incorporated in the design, delivery, and evaluation of targeted
6 health promotion interventions.

7 "Department" means the department of health.

8 "Evidence-based decision-making" means the process of
9 integrating the best available scientific evidence with the
10 expertise of a decision-maker, community needs, and the
11 implementation context to inform policy and funding choices.

12 "Implementation readiness" means the degree to which an
13 evidence-based intervention is available to be implemented as
14 designed and has the organizational capacity to provide
15 materials, training, and information for potential users to
16 adopt and implement the intervention with fidelity.

17 "Online clearinghouse" means the publicly accessible, web-
18 based repository established by the department of health that
19 synthesizes, evaluates, and disseminates evidence regarding the
20 effectiveness of interventions, programs, and policies,
21 including implementation procedures in the State.



1 § -2 Online clearinghouse; functions; requirements. (a)

2 The department, in coordination with the department of budget
3 and finance and office enterprise technology services, and
4 department of human services, shall establish and maintain an
5 online clearinghouse enhanced by artificial intelligence of
6 evidence-based treatment and prevention programs. The online
7 clearinghouse shall be accessible to the public and provide
8 resources for synthesizing the effectiveness of behavioral,
9 educational, health, and social interventions.

10 (b) The online clearinghouse shall:

11 (1) Aggregate and synthesize data from peer-reviewed
12 studies, federal registries, research organizations,
13 and academic databases;

14 (2) Utilize artificial intelligence tools to continuously
15 analyze and classify programs by level of evidence,
16 population served, implementation readiness, and
17 cultural responsiveness;

18 (3) Provide user-friendly, interactive, personalized
19 search capabilities for stakeholders, including
20 educators, policymakers, and community organizations;



- 1 (4) Include a feedback mechanism to incorporate
2 practitioner experience and local implementation data;
- 3 (5) Issue artificial intelligence-generated
4 recommendations according to geographic, demographic,
5 and sector-specific needs;
- 6 (6) Provide, where available, summaries of costs,
7 training, and technical assistance resources; and
- 8 (7) Allow for updates and cross-linking to scientifically
9 vetted sources of relevant information to support the
10 assessment, implementation, and adaptation of
11 recommendations.

12 **§ -3 Online clearinghouses; artificial intelligence;**
13 **integration.** (a) The department shall support the development
14 and integration of artificial intelligence and related
15 technologies into the online clearinghouse to:

- 16 (1) Augment human expertise in the screening, review, and
17 organization of evidence;
- 18 (2) Expedite the review process for evaluation and
19 literature;
- 20 (3) Increase the utility and interactivity of any
21 clearinghouse for various end users;



1 (4) Improve relevance, usability, and broad access to
2 evidence-based information for communities, schools,
3 agencies, funders, and policymakers; and

4 (5) Guide the user through an evidence-based protocol for
5 the implementation of any program.

6 (b) The online clearinghouse may serve as a model platform
7 for the integration of artificial intelligence to enhance the
8 translational process and scaling of evidence-based
9 interventions; provided that the resultant artificial
10 intelligence-enhanced clearinghouse shall be applicable to a
11 variety of other issue areas amenable to evidence-based
12 decision-making.

13 **§ -4 Interagency coordination; public-private**

14 **partnerships.** (a) The department shall collaborate with other
15 state agencies, including but not limited to the department of
16 education, department of the attorney general, and department of
17 labor and industrial relations to ensure the comprehensive
18 inclusion of multi-sectoral programs.

19 (b) The department shall encourage any public-private
20 partnership involving academic institutions, nonprofit



1 organizations, and private artificial intelligence developers to
2 contribute to platform development, maintenance, and evaluation.

3 **§ -5 Institutional knowledge; evidence-based standards;**
4 **implementation guidelines; intervention reports.** (a) The
5 department shall develop and adopt guidelines for the
6 strengthening and preservation of the collective knowledge and
7 experience, research infrastructures, and evidence-based
8 standards with respect to the online clearinghouse and related
9 activities.

10 (b) The department shall consult with scientific experts
11 and relevant agencies and organizations to produce, update, and
12 disseminate evidence standards, implementation guidelines, and
13 intervention reports.

14 **§ -6 Audits; annual report.** (a) The department shall
15 ensure that any artificial intelligence model used in support of
16 the online clearinghouse shall be subject to regular audits to
17 ensure transparency, fairness, and mitigation of bias.

18 (b) The department shall submit an annual report of its
19 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
20 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 each regular session. The report shall detail:



- 1 (1) The status, effectiveness, and changes implemented in
- 2 the online clearinghouse under this chapter; and
- 3 (2) Any legislative or regulatory action necessary to
- 4 enhance evidence-based decision-making and research
- 5 sustainability.

6 § -7 Rules. The department shall adopt rules pursuant
 7 to chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this chapter."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
 11 establishment of an artificial intelligence-enhanced online
 12 clearinghouse.

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

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

16

INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Gabbard*



S.B. NO. 2585

Report Title:

DOH; BNF; ETS; DHS; Online Clearinghouse; Artificial Intelligence; Audits; Annual Report; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Finance and Office of Enterprise Technology Services, and Department of Human Services, to establish and maintain an online clearinghouse enhanced by artificial intelligence of evidence-based treatment and prevention programs. Requires DOH to support the integration of artificial intelligence in the online clearinghouse. Requires DOH to ensure that any artificial intelligence model used in support of the online clearinghouse is subject to regular audits. Requires an annual report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

