

ACT 236

H.B. NO. 2300-76

A Bill for an Act Relating to Public Assistance.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Purpose. The legislature finds that many public assistance recipients, in the same way as many citizens generally, may have need for psychotherapeutic services designed to help them adjust to living conditions and situations, better cope with and constructively change their behavior and environment, and develop their sense of worth and self-esteem. It is further determined that services to meet these objectives are offered through a wide variety of clinical techniques, by practitioners throughout the State, but that current

public assistance rules limit recipients to services which operate on the interaction of the one practitioner working with an individual client. In recognition of developing evidence that group therapy techniques, in which a practitioner may work with several clients who benefit from collective interaction, have demonstrated significant therapeutic value, the purpose of this Act is to make group therapy services available under the Medicaid program to all public assistance recipients needing and desiring such services.

SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and read:

“Sec. 346- Group therapy; reimbursement for services. (a) The department shall establish rules pursuant to chapter 91 to permit payment to providers of group therapy services to recipients under this chapter.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “group therapy” shall be defined as psychotherapeutic treatment delivery in which a patient receives treatment as a member of a group of patients receiving similar treatment, involving interaction both between the patient and the practitioner and among patients, and which is supervised by a practitioner licensed under chapters 453 or 465.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.*

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1976.

(Approved June 9, 1976.)

*Edited accordingly.