Mental Health America of Hawai‘i (MHAH) serves our community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education, and service. We envision mental wellness for all. In the 2019 Hawai‘i State Legislative Session, MHAH has prioritized support for the following measures:

### Access To Care

- **Prescriptive Authority for Advanced Trained Clinical Psychologists (RxP),** to improve and increase access to comprehensive mental health services, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas and for people with low-income.

- Increased funding and improved funding stability for **Homelessness Services** by the addition of $15 million to the base budget for homelessness programs as detailed by Partners in Care.

- Improved implementation of **Assisted Community Treatment (ACT)** by funding dedicated positions, clarifying that the Office of Public Guardian has the right to consent to treatment that includes psychiatric medication, and funding a pilot program providing housing and treatment to homeless individuals with ACT or Guardianship orders.
Healthy and Supported Families

- **The Hawai‘i Dependent Care Tax Credit** update that will raise the amount of the credit and increase the income limits used to calculate a family’s benefit amount so that low-income families can receive a more meaningful benefit.

- **Continue funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program** to support respite for family caregivers.

- **Payday Loan Reform** that will eliminate payday loans that trap families in stressful cycles of debt at unfairly high interest rates.

- **Bail Reform** that will decrease family stress and the incarceration of people who are awaiting trial.

Resilient Youth

- **Erin’s Law**, which will require public schools to teach students personal body safety to prevent and report abuse.

- **The Act 13 Task Force package**, which supports minors' rights to access and consent to their own mental health services and supports minority gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation by banning conversion therapy.

Suicide Prevention

- **Establishment of a Suicide Prevention Commission** to examine, evaluate, and determine methods to prevent suicide in Hawai‘i’s correctional facilities.

- **Designating September as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month** to increase awareness of suicide prevention education, resources, and available support.

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