

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

### Advocacy Priorities 2018 Status Report 2/26/18

Mental Health America of Hawaii (MHAH) serves our community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education, and service. We envision mental wellness for all. In the 2018 Hawaii State Legislative session, MHAH has prioritized support for the following measures:

Focus Area	Objective	House	Senate
Access to care	1. <b>Prescriptive authority</b> for advanced trained medical psychologists (RxP), to improve and increase access to comprehensive mental health services, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas.	died	SB 384 SD2 HD1
	2. <b>Funding for Homeless Outreach</b> to increase the level of care provided to people with serious and persistent mental illness who are homeless.	HB 1766 HD1 (passed HSG/HHS, next FIN)	SB 2401 SD1 (WAM hearing 2/28)
	3. <b>Funding for the Housing First Program</b> , to house and provide services to people experiencing chronic homelessness.	(same as above)	
	4. <b>Funding for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program</b> , which offers resources instead of an arrest for certain victimless crimes related to mental health.	(same as above)+ in Admin budget	
Healthy and Supported Families	1. <b>Family leave insurance</b> so that workers can fund their paid leave to care for the medical needs of their families.	HB 2598 HD1 (passed LAB, FIN, next-floor)	SB 2990 SD1 (WAM hearing 2/28)
	2. <b>Funding for Kupuna Caregivers Program</b> to provide respite for working family caregivers.	HB 1912 HD1 (passed HHS, FIN, next -cross)	SB 2988 SD1 (passed CPH/HMS, WAM, next-floor)
	3. <b>Payday loan reform</b> that will eliminate payday loans that trap families in stressful cycles of debt at unfairly high interest rates.	died	SB 3008 SD1 (passed CPH, WAM, next-floor)
	4. <b>Bail reform</b> that will decrease family stress and incarceration of people who are awaiting trial.	died	died
Resilient Youth	1. <b>Erin's Law</b> , which will require public schools to teach students personal body safety to prevent and report abuse.	died	SB 2368 SD1 (passed EDU/LBR, WAM, next-floor)
Suicide Prevention	1. <b>Codify Prevent Suicide Hawaii Task Force</b> with oversight of the 2018 and future statewide suicide prevention strategic plans.	HB 2278 HD1 (passed HHS, next FIN)	No bill