

MAR 10 2008

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES CONDUCT A STUDY INTO SAFE SHELTER OPTIONS FOR YOUTH.

1 WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth on the street are at  
2 high risk for assault and sexual victimization, have no safe  
3 place to sleep, and lack proper nutrition; and  
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5 WHEREAS, current Hawaii law requires parents or guardians  
6 to provide consent before a minor may be admitted into an  
7 emergency shelter; and  
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9 WHEREAS, situations arise when that consent cannot be  
10 obtained because a parent or guardian either cannot be reached  
11 or refuses consent; and  
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13 WHEREAS, unless Child Welfare Services opens an abuse or  
14 neglect investigation in these instances, the youth may not be  
15 admitted into the shelter and will likely spend the night on the  
16 street; and  
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18 WHEREAS, children are entitled to emergency shelter  
19 benefits in the same way as adults and should not be denied  
20 services and forced to remain on the streets; now, therefore,  
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Youth  
25 Services and Child Welfare Services are requested to conduct a  
26 collaborative study into safe shelter options for youth  
27 concerning the following:  
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- 29 (1) How a runaway or homeless youth may access emergency  
30 shelter;  
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- 1 (2) What services and resources will be available to the
- 2 youth during the emergency shelter stay;
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- 4 (3) What longer term shelter options may be available to
- 5 the youth after short-term, emergency stays may
- 6 expire;
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- 8 (4) What is the role of Child Welfare Services during the
- 9 emergency and the longer term shelter stays; and
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- 11 (5) How the legal liability concerns of shelter providers
- 12 may be addressed; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Youth Services is  
 15 requested to submit a resulting report to the Legislature,  
 16 including findings, recommendations, and any proposed  
 17 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 18 the Regular Session of 2009; and

19  
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human  
 22 Services, the Director of Child Welfare Services, and the  
 23 Director of the Office of Youth Services.

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 26 OFFERED BY: Maame Chun Oalland  
Lee L...  
Norman Sak...  
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