
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT
OF HUMAN SERVICES CONVENE A WORKING STUDY GROUP TO 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 the Department of Human Services opens an
14 abuse or neglect investigation in these instances, the youth may
15 not be admitted into the shelter and will likely spend the night
16 on the 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 the Department of Human Services are requested to
26 convene a working study group comprised of representatives from
27 the following:
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- 29 (1) The Department of Human Services;
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31 (2) The Office of Youth Services;
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- 1 (3) The Judiciary;
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- 3 (4) Youth services providers; and
- 4
- 5 (5) Youth advocacy organizations.
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies and organizations
 8 invited into the working study group are requested to
 9 participate and work collaboratively to achieve the purposes of
 10 this Concurrent Resolution; and

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 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working study group shall
 13 conduct a study into safe shelter options for youth concerning,
 14 but not limited to, the following:

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- 16 (1) How a runaway or homeless youth may access emergency
- 17 shelter;
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- 19 (2) What services and resources will be available to the
- 20 youth during the emergency shelter stay;
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- 22 (3) What longer term shelter options may be available to
- 23 the youth after short-term, emergency stays may
- 24 expire;
- 25
- 26 (4) What is the role of the Office of Youth Services and
- 27 the Department of Human Services during the emergency
- 28 and the longer term shelter stays; and
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- 30 (5) How the legal liability concerns of shelter providers
- 31 may be addressed; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working study group is
 34 requested to submit a resulting report to the Legislature,
 35 including findings, recommendations, and any proposed
 36 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 37 the Regular Session of 2009; and

38
 39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director
 41 of the Office of Youth Services and the Director of the
 42 Department of Human Services, who shall in turn transmit it to
 43 the appropriate services providers and organizations for



1 purposes of the working study group, and the Director of the
2 Judiciary.

