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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is one of the  
2 safest and healthiest places in the nation for children and  
3 youth. However, many of Hawaii's youth are not immune to daily  
4 threats to their health and safety. Every year, youth run away  
5 from homes where abuse, neglect, and domestic violence are  
6 commonplace, or from schools where intolerable bullying becomes  
7 a major barrier to educational achievement. Without access to  
8 safe places, youth in these situations are vulnerable and may be  
9 victimized by predatory adults who lure them into alcohol and  
10 substance abuse or prostitution.

11           In October 2012, these concerns were discussed during the  
12 annual children and youth summit sponsored by the legislature's  
13 keiki caucus. In these discussions, youth expressed concerns  
14 over a lack of safe places. Youth were interested in accessing  
15 places where they could seek safety from intolerable home or  
16 school environments without fear of being judged, detained, or  
17 criminalized as a runaway. Youth also expressed interest in  
18 being able to access other youth-specific advice, guidance,



1 programs, and services, including guidance and counseling for  
2 suicide prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, tobacco  
3 cessation, and alcohol and substance abuse support. Finally,  
4 youth wished to access safe places where they could have fun  
5 without the fear of being harassed, bullied, or pressured by  
6 other youth or adults. At the end of the summit, participating  
7 youth identified the need for safe places as one of their  
8 highest priorities.

9 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Require the office of youth services to coordinate a  
11 two-year safe places for youth pilot program, which  
12 will coordinate a network of safe places that youth  
13 can access for safety and where they may obtain  
14 advice, guidance, programs, and services; and  
15 (2) Establish and fund the position of a safe places for  
16 youth pilot program coordinator.

17 SECTION 2. (a) The office of youth services shall  
18 coordinate a safe places for youth pilot program in partnership  
19 with private organizations. The primary objective of the pilot  
20 program shall be to coordinate a network that youth may access  
21 for safety and where they may obtain advice, guidance, programs,



1 and services. All youth shall be eligible for services at the  
2 safe places.

3 (b) There is established the position of a safe places for  
4 youth pilot program coordinator. The coordinator shall:

5 (1) Coordinate the safe places for youth network;

6 (2) Partner with an entity to maintain an updated listing  
7 of safe places statewide;

8 (3) Provide ongoing training of organizations designated  
9 as safe places for youth in areas including emergency  
10 response and trauma;

11 (4) Partner with the department of education, Hawaii state  
12 student council, peer education programs, private  
13 schools, and other youth services organizations to  
14 build awareness of the safe places for youth network;  
15 and

16 (5) Convene an annual meeting of safe places for youth  
17 organizations and other interested parties to identify  
18 emerging needs, provide feedback on program  
19 effectiveness, and provide an opportunity to recommend  
20 improvements to the pilot program.



1 (c) The safe places for youth pilot program shall provide  
2 access to and linkage with services and programs needed by  
3 youth, including but not limited to:

4 (1) Domestic violence prevention or reduction;

5 (2) Violence and trauma recovery and support;

6 (3) Human trafficking resources and prevention;

7 (4) Suicide prevention;

8 (5) Resources targeted at teenagers, including teen  
9 pregnancy prevention;

10 (6) Tobacco cessation;

11 (7) Alcohol and substance abuse support;

12 (8) Assistance for youth to achieve their educational and  
13 vocational goals; and

14 (9) Other relationship building and life skills.

15 (d) The office of youth services shall coordinate a  
16 comprehensive network of safe places for youth to assist youth  
17 in obtaining the advice and guidance they need.

18 (e) The safe places for youth pilot program shall cease to  
19 exist on June 30, 2015.

20 (f) For the purposes of this section:

21 "Safe places" means physical and virtual places of safety  
22 for youth.



1 "Youth" means any person twenty-one years of age or  
2 younger.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2014-2015 for the position of a safe places for youth pilot  
8 program coordinator and for residential options for the pilot  
9 program.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of human services office of youth services for the purposes of  
12 this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.



**Report Title:**

Office of Youth Services; Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program that will coordinate a network of safe places that youth can access for safety and where they may obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. Establishes the Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program coordinator. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2013. (HB395 HD1)

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