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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PROJECT KEALAHOU.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that despite intervention  
2 efforts, girls are at greater risk than boys for sexual abuse,  
3 running away, truancy, suicide, teen pregnancy, prostitution,  
4 and further victimization. These challenges require  
5 interventions tailored to the unique psychosocial and  
6 interpersonal characteristics of girls. Accordingly, project  
7 kealahou was developed in response to broad recognition among  
8 leaders and workers in Hawaii's public child-serving system that  
9 established treatment programs do not adequately address  
10 challenges encountered by adolescent girls.

11           The legislature further finds that project kealahou is a  
12 six-year, federally funded program housed within the child and  
13 adolescent mental health division of the department of health  
14 that promotes community-based, individualized, culturally and  
15 linguistically competent, family-driven, youth-guided, and  
16 evidence-based services. In addition to these standard system  
17 of care principles, project kealahou also emphasizes gender-  
18 responsive and trauma-informed care when serving its target



1 population of adolescent females age eleven through twenty-one  
2 who have experienced significant trauma in their lives. Project  
3 kealahou offers a relatively low-cost array of community-based  
4 services and supports that provide cost-effective deterrents and  
5 alternatives to more expensive and disruptive out-of-home  
6 placements for youth and a range of cultural and recreational  
7 community-based group activities to help youth and their  
8 families reconnect with each other and their communities.

9 The legislature also finds that federal funding for project  
10 kealahou is phasing out by October 2014. State funding is  
11 therefore needed to continue and expand the array of services  
12 offered by project kealahou to at-risk youth and their families.  
13 Although services are currently offered only in limited  
14 catchment areas on the island of Oahu, ideally, these services  
15 would be expanded to include additional areas on Oahu as well as  
16 the neighbor islands.

17 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds  
18 for project kealahou.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the



1 continued funding of project kealahou, within the child and  
2 adolescent mental health division of the department of health.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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# H.B. NO. 2037

**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Project Kealahou; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates \$50,000 for the continued funding of project kealahou, within the child and adolescent mental health division of the department of health.

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