
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The National Center for Housing and Child
2 Welfare reports that there are between one million and seven
3 million homeless youth who have run away or have been asked to
4 leave their homes. According to the National Runaway Safeline,
5 it is estimated that on any given night, there are approximately
6 1.3 million homeless youth living unsupervised on the streets,
7 in abandoned buildings, with friends or with strangers.
8 Homeless youth lack parental, foster, or institutional care and
9 are thus prone to be at a higher risk for physical abuse, sexual
10 exploitation, mental health disabilities, substance abuse, and
11 death.

12 The legislature finds that Hawaii is not immune to the
13 seriousness and prevalence of youth homelessness. A 2016
14 National Conference of State Legislatures article, "Homeless and
15 Runaway Youth," indicates that studies have shown that forty-six
16 per cent of runaway and homeless youth reported being physically
17 abused, thirty-eight per cent reported being emotionally abused,



1 and seventeen per cent reported being forced into unwanted
2 sexual activity by a family or household member. Furthermore,
3 seventy-five per cent of homeless or runaway youth have dropped
4 out or will drop out of school. The legislature recognizes the
5 necessity of establishing safe places that offer shelter,
6 programs, and support to at-risk youth.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

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

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



1 guidance, programs, and services. All youth shall be eligible
2 for services at the 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 for organizations designated
9 as safe places for youth, including training in
10 emergency 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:

- 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 office of youth services shall submit a report of
19 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
20 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
21 to the convening of the regular session of 2020. The report



1 shall include a recommendation on whether the pilot program
2 should be continued, modified, or terminated.

3 (f) The safe places for youth pilot program shall cease to
4 exist on June 30, 2020.

5 (g) For the purposes of this section:

6 "Safe places" means physical and virtual places of safety
7 for youth.

8 "Youth" means any person less than eighteen years of age.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
12 one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) safe places for youth pilot
13 program coordinator position and for residential options for the
14 pilot program.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 human services for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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H.B. NO. 2157

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H.B. NO. 2157

Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program; At-Risk Youth; Coordinator Position; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Office of Youth Services to coordinate a two-year Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program in partnership with private organizations to coordinate a network that youth can access for safety and where youth can obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. Establishes a Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program Coordinator position. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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