

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH.

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

1 **PART I**

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

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



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

8 The purpose of this part is to:

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

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



1 obtain advice, guidance, programs, and services. All youth
2 shall be eligible for services at the safe places. The
3 requirements to consent to emergency shelter and related
4 services, as set forth in section 346-17.6, Hawaii Revised
5 Statutes, shall apply to services provided under the safe places
6 for youth pilot program.

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

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

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

12 (3) Provide ongoing training for organizations designated
13 as safe places for youth, including training in
14 emergency response and trauma;

15 (4) Partner with the department of education, state
16 student council, peer education programs, private
17 schools, and other youth services organizations to
18 build awareness of the safe places for youth network;
19 and

20 (5) Convene an annual meeting of safe places for youth
21 organizations and other interested parties to identify



1 emerging needs, provide feedback on program
2 effectiveness, and provide an opportunity to recommend
3 improvements to the pilot program.

4 (c) The safe places for youth pilot program shall provide
5 access to and linkage with services and programs needed by
6 youth, including:

- 7 (1) Domestic violence prevention or reduction;
- 8 (2) Violence and trauma recovery and support;
- 9 (3) Human trafficking resources and prevention;
- 10 (4) Suicide prevention;
- 11 (5) Resources targeted at teenagers, including teen
12 pregnancy prevention;
- 13 (6) Tobacco cessation;
- 14 (7) Alcohol and substance abuse support;
- 15 (8) Assistance for youth to achieve their educational and
16 vocational goals; and
- 17 (9) Other relationship-building and life skills.

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



1 (e) The office of youth services shall submit a report of
2 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
3 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
4 to the convening of the regular sessions of 2021 and 2022. The
5 reports shall include a recommendation on whether the pilot
6 program should be continued, modified, or terminated.

7 (f) The safe places for youth pilot program shall cease to
8 exist on June 30, 2022.

9 (g) For the purposes of this section:

10 "Safe places" means physical and virtual places of safety
11 for youth.

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

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
17 year 2020-2021 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) safe
18 places for youth pilot program coordinator position and for
19 residential options for the pilot program.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
21 of human services for the purposes of this part.



PART II

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2 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that "status offenses",
3 conduct that would not be crimes except if committed by a minor,
4 such as truancy, are linked to a strong need for services to
5 address a myriad of family and social causes in the young
6 person's lives. The general response to status offenders is
7 involvement with the criminal justice system, even though
8 research has shown that incarceration and other forms of secure
9 detention have a severe negative impact on youth and do not
10 resolve the issues that led to the offense. Innovative programs
11 have and continue to be developed to better address status
12 offense conduct and divert youth from entering the criminal
13 justice system.

14 The purpose of this part is to:

- 15 (1) Require the office of youth services to examine and
16 report on options to reduce the use of status offense
17 laws and increase the use of diversion programs and
18 services for youth involved in status offense-type
19 conduct; and
20 (2) Appropriate funds for the office of youth services to
21 implement, through a contract with a community



S.B. NO. 1019

1 services provider, a status offense diversion program
2 for three years.

3 SECTION 5. The office of youth services shall examine
4 options to reduce the use of status offense laws and increase
5 the use of diversion programs and services for youth involved in
6 status offense-type conduct. The office of youth services shall
7 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
8 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
9 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of
10 2021 and 2022.

11 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
15 year 2020-2021 for the office of youth services to implement,
16 through a contract with a community services provider, a status
17 offense diversion program.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
19 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

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S.B. NO. 1019

1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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S.B. NO. 1019

Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Youth Services; Safe Places for Youth Pilot Program; Status Offense Diversion Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriate funds for a safe places for youth pilot program. Requires and appropriates funds for the office of youth services to reduce the use of status offense laws and implement a status offense diversion program.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

