
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 remain vulnerable to
4 daily threats to their health and safety. Every year, youth run
5 away 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 at-risk 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 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

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

20 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning on July 1, 2015, the office of
21 youth services shall implement a safe places for youth pilot
22 program in partnership with private organizations. The primary



1 objective of the pilot program shall be to coordinate a network
2 that youth may access for safety and to obtain advice, guidance,
3 programs, and services. All youth shall be eligible for services
4 at the safe places.

5 (b) There is established the position of safe places for
6 youth program coordinator. The coordinator shall:

- 7 (1) Coordinate the safe places for youth network;
- 8 (2) Partner with an entity to maintain an updated listing
9 of safe places statewide;
- 10 (3) Provide ongoing training of school personnel, community
11 members, and providers designated as safe places for
12 youth;
- 13 (4) Partner with the department of education, Hawaii state
14 student council, peer education programs, private
15 schools, and other youth services organizations to
16 build awareness of the safe places for youth network;
17 and
- 18 (5) Convene an annual meeting of safe places for youth
19 providers and other interested parties to identify
20 emerging needs, provide feedback on program
21 effectiveness, and provide an opportunity to recommend
22 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 cessation support;
- 12 (8) Behavior health counseling and education;
- 13 (9) Assistance for youth to achieve their educational and
14 vocational goals;
- 15 (10) Dating violence prevention; and
- 16 (11) Other relationship-building and life skills training.

17 (d) Providers may provide services to a consenting minor
18 if the provider reasonably believes that:

- 19 (1) The minor understands the significant benefits,
20 responsibilities, risks, and limits of the provider
21 and its services and can communicate an informed
22 consent;



- 1 (2) The minor understands the requirements and rules of
2 the provider and services; and
- 3 (3) The provider and services are necessary to ensure the
4 minor's safety and well-being; provided that the
5 provider has conducted an assessment and determined
6 that the minor does not pose a danger to the minor's
7 self or to other persons at the same location;
8 provided further that if the provider determines that
9 admitting the minor poses a danger, the provider shall
10 report the matter to an appropriate agency.
- 11 (e) A minor may consent to the provider and related
12 services if the minor understands the benefits,
13 responsibilities, risks, and limits of the provider and
14 services, and the minor agrees to adhere to the provider's rules
15 and cooperate and participate in those services recommended by
16 the provider; provided that:
- 17 (1) The provider has not, despite reasonable efforts, been
18 able to contact the minor's parent, legal guardian, or
19 legal custodian;
- 20 (2) The provider has made contact with the minor's parent,
21 legal guardian, or legal custodian, and the minor's
22 parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian has refused



1 to give consent and, based on the information
2 available to the provider, the provider reasonably
3 believes that the minor would incur harm, or would be
4 subject to threatened harm, if the minor returned
5 immediately to the home of the parent, legal guardian,
6 or legal custodian; or

7 (3) The minor has refused to provide contact information
8 for the minor's parent, legal guardian, or legal
9 custodian, and the provider reasonably believes that
10 the minor would incur harm, or would be subject to
11 threatened harm, if the minor returned immediately to
12 the home of the parent, legal guardian, or legal
13 custodian.

14 (f) Any consent given by a minor to a provider shall, for
15 the duration of the period with respect to all services, be
16 valid and binding as if the minor had reached the age of
17 majority.

18 (g) The consent given by the minor to the provider shall
19 not be subject to later disaffirmance by reason of the minor's
20 minority.



1 (h) A provider shall document in writing the efforts made
2 to contact the minor's parent, legal guardian, or legal
3 custodian.

4 (i) A provider shall report any suspected child abuse or
5 neglect to the department of human services or the police
6 department in accordance with section 350-1.1, Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes.

8 (j) The office of youth services shall coordinate a
9 comprehensive network of safe places for youth to assist youth
10 in obtaining the advice and guidance they need.

11 (k) The safe places for youth pilot program shall cease to
12 exist on June 30, 2019.

13 (l) For the purposes of this Act:

14 "Minor" means a person younger than eighteen years of age.

15 "Provider" means any organization that is designated by the
16 safe places for youth coordinator as a safe place for youth and
17 provides access to and linkage with services and programs listed
18 under subsection (c).

19 "Safe places" means physical and virtual places of safety
20 for youth.

21 "Youth" means a person younger than twenty-one years of
22 age.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to
4 establish the position of safe places for youth program
5 coordinator and provide residential options for the safe places
6 for youth pilot program.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
8 youth services of the department of human services for the
9 purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the office of youth services to coordinate a five-year safe places for youth pilot program to establish a network of safe places where youth can access safety and services. Establishes the position of safe places for youth program coordinator. Establishes rules to allow minors to consent to enter the safe places program. Makes appropriation. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB1697 HD1)

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