
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that one in ten young
2 adults who are between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five
3 years, and at least one in thirty adolescents within the ages of
4 thirteen and seventeen, experience some form of homelessness in
5 which the young adult or adolescent is unaccompanied by a parent
6 or guardian over the course of a year.

7 The legislature further finds that among the homeless
8 youth, sixty-nine per cent report mental health problems;
9 thirty-three per cent have once been part of the foster care
10 system; and fifty per cent have been in the juvenile justice
11 system, in jail or detention. Moreover, sixty-two per cent of
12 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning
13 (LGBTQ) youth report being physically harmed while experiencing
14 homelessness, while forty-seven per cent of non-LGBTQ youth
15 reported being physically harmed while homeless.

16 The legislature also finds that runaway and homeless youth
17 are vulnerable to multiple threats, including having unmet basic



1 food and shelter needs, untreated mental health disorders,
2 substance use, significant disruption to their education,
3 sexually transmitted diseases and human immunodeficiency virus
4 infection, sexual exploitation, physical victimization, and
5 suicide. As the consequences faced by homeless youth are vast,
6 coordination among various agencies, including those responsible
7 for the State's child welfare, education, health, human
8 services, and juvenile justice systems, is required to protect
9 the State's youth and ensure their safety.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish a safe spaces for
11 youth pilot program that is an inter-agency initiative to
12 provide safe spaces in each county for youth experiencing
13 homelessness.

14 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
15 of human services for administrative purposes only a safe spaces
16 for youth pilot program, which shall be an inter-agency
17 initiative to provide safe spaces in each county for youth
18 experiencing homelessness.

19 (b) The program shall collaborate with all departments of
20 the State and its political subdivisions that offer services for
21 the purpose of ensuring the well-being of youth in Hawaii,



1 including the department of education, department of health,
2 department of human services, department of public safety, and
3 county police departments, to coordinate the identification of
4 youth who are experiencing homelessness and placement of these
5 youth at a shelter for homeless youth.

6 (c) The department of human services shall enter into
7 contracts with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for
8 homeless youth. Any nonprofit organization contracted under
9 this subsection shall have the knowledge, experience, and
10 qualifications, including licenses, necessary to operate a
11 shelter for homeless youth.

12 (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a
13 shelter for homeless youth contracted under subsection (c) may
14 admit a youth into the shelter's care for up to ninety days
15 without the consent of the youth's parent or guardian.

16 (e) The department of human services shall submit a report
17 of its findings and recommendations pertaining to the safe
18 spaces for youth pilot program to the legislature no later than
19 thirty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
20 2025. The report shall include:



1 (1) A record of pilot program activities and
2 accomplishments;

3 (2) A recommendation on whether to extend the program; and

4 (3) Any proposed legislation.

5 (f) The department of human services shall adopt rules
6 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, necessary to
7 carry out the purposes of this Act.

8 (g) For the purposes of this Act:

9 "Shelter for homeless youth" means a facility that operates
10 to receive youth twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and
11 provide youth with services, including:

12 (1) Overnight lodging and supervision;

13 (2) Hot meals and hot showers;

14 (3) Access to medical and behavioral health services; and

15 (4) Education and employment support.

16 "Youth" means an individual who is at least fourteen years
17 of age but under twenty-five years of age.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to
21 fund the safe spaces for youth pilot program.



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

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2025.



Report Title:

DHS; Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program; Homeless Youth;
Shelter

Description:

Establishes the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program within the Department of Human Services. Requires the program to collaborate with all state and county departments that offer services to ensure the well-being of youth in Hawaii to coordinate the identification of youth who are experiencing homelessness and placement of these youth at a shelter for homeless youth. Requires the Department of Human Services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth. Requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2025. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. Repeals 6/30/2025. (SD1)

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