
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
OF HAWAII'S LAWS AFFECTING AT-RISK YOUTH.

1 WHEREAS, every day in Hawaii, there are teenagers living on
2 the streets, running away from foster care and abusive household
3 situations, and confronting adult issues, who are unable to
4 legally gain shelter; and

5
6 WHEREAS, teenage parents are currently unable to legally
7 make decisions for and seek custody of their children; and

8
9 WHEREAS, current law only allows for emancipation of a
10 person under the age of 18 upon marriage; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the State has a vital interest in ensuring that
13 there are legal mechanisms available to protect youth from
14 prostitution, sexual predators, and abuse, and to provide
15 necessary safety net services to prevent teenagers from "falling
16 through the cracks"; now, therefore,

17
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference
21 Bureau (LRB) is requested to conduct a study of Hawaii's laws
22 affecting at-risk youth under the age of 18 and to recommend
23 appropriate statutory changes; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include:

- 26
27 (1) An evaluation of the efficacy of Hawaii's laws
28 governing youth rights, including those governing
29 emancipation, custody by minor parents, access to
30 shelters by runaways, and access to public benefits;
31
32 (2) An examination of other states' laws for comparison
33 with Hawaii's laws governing youth rights; and



1
2 (3) An assessment of the current problems facing at-risk
3 youth;

4
5 and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lead judge of the Family
8 Court in each circuit, Director of Human Services, Director of
9 Health, Superintendent of Education, and Attorney General are
10 requested to cooperate with LRB in its investigation and study;
11 and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LRB is requested to convene a
14 working group of youth advocate stakeholders and representatives
15 of public interest groups, including but not limited to Hale
16 Kipa, Waikiki Health Center, Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition,
17 Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Na Keiki Law Center, Hawaii Youth
18 Services Network, Blueprint for Change, and GirlFest to
19 collaborate in the investigation and study; and

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LRB is requested to report to
22 the Legislature its findings and recommendations, including any
23 proposed legislation, no later than 30 days before the convening
24 of the Regular Session of 2007; and

25
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the lead judge of the
28 Family Court in each circuit, Director of Human Services,
29 Director of Health, Superintendent of Education, Attorney
30 General, and Acting Director of LRB.

31
32
33

OFFERED BY:

Mele Carroll
Rishi T.R. Anandappa
John...
John R. Hunter
Fyza B. Berg
...
...
...

Mele L.
Michael P. Kahuhua
Pro Chong
Kenno Tenda
C. Ho
Mark P. Lee
Mark Moses

MAR 15 2006