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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO INVESTIGATE AND  
ASSESS LAWS AFFECTING AT-RISK YOUTH.

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

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

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9 WHEREAS, current state law only allows for emancipation of  
10 a person under the age of eighteen upon the person's marriage;  
11 and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the State has a vital interest in ensuring that  
14 there are legal mechanisms available to protect young adults  
15 from prostitution, sexual predators, and abuse and to provide  
16 necessary safety net services so teenagers do not fall through  
17 the cracks; now, therefore,

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

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
27 the study include:

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29 (1) An evaluation of the efficacy of Hawaii laws governing  
30 selected issues concerning youth rights in the areas  
31 of:

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33 (A) Emancipation;

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- 1 (B) Custody by minor parents;
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- 3 (C) Access to shelters by runaways; and
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- 5 (D) Access to public benefits; and
- 6
- 7 (2) An examination of other states' laws for comparison
- 8 with Hawaii's laws concerning those selected issues;
- 9

10 and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Judge of the Family

13 Court of each circuit, the Department of Human Services, the

14 Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the

15 Attorney General are requested to cooperate with the Legislative

16 Reference Bureau in its study; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference

19 Bureau is requested to consult with youth advocate stakeholders

20 and representatives of public interest groups, including, but

21 not limited to, Hale Kipa, Inc., the Waikiki Health Center, the

22 Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition, Children's Rights Council of

23 Hawaii, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Na Keiki Law Center, Hawaii

24 Youth Services Network, Blueprint for Change, and GirlFest; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference

27 Bureau is requested to meet with these youth advocate

28 stakeholders and representatives of public interest groups, as a

29 group for purposes of determining the selected issues and

30 otherwise if deemed beneficial; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference

33 Bureau is requested to report its findings and recommendations,

34 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later

35 than thirty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session

36 of 2007; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Lead Judge of the

40 Family Court for each circuit, the Director of Human Services,

41 the Director of Health, the Superintendent of Education, the

42 Attorney General, and the Director of the Legislative Reference

43 Bureau.

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