
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES CONDUCT A STUDY INTO SAFE SHELTER OPTIONS FOR YOUTH.

1 WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth on the street are at
2 high risk for assault and sexual victimization, have no safe
3 place to sleep, and lack proper nutrition; and
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5 WHEREAS, current Hawaii law requires parents or guardians
6 to provide consent before a minor may be admitted into an
7 emergency shelter; and
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9 WHEREAS, situations arise when that consent cannot be
10 obtained because a parent or guardian either cannot be reached
11 or refuses consent; and
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13 WHEREAS, unless Child Welfare Services opens an abuse or
14 neglect investigation in these instances, the youth may not be
15 admitted into the shelter and will likely spend the night on the
16 street; and
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18 WHEREAS, children are entitled to emergency shelter
19 benefits in the same way as adults and should not be denied
20 services and forced to remain on the streets; now, therefore,
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
24 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Office of Youth
25 Services and Child Welfare Services are requested to conduct a
26 collaborative study into safe shelter options for youth
27 concerning the following:
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- 29 (1) How a runaway or homeless youth may access emergency
30 shelter;
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H.C.R. NO. 190

- 1 (2) What services and resources will be available to the
- 2 youth during the emergency shelter stay;
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- 4 (3) What longer term shelter options may be available to
- 5 the youth after short-term, emergency stays may
- 6 expire;
- 7
- 8 (4) What is the role of Child Welfare Services during the
- 9 emergency and the longer term shelter stays; and
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- 11 (5) How the legal liability concerns of shelter providers
- 12 may be addressed; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Youth Services is
 15 requested to submit a resulting report to the Legislature,
 16 including findings, recommendations, and any proposed
 17 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 18 the Regular Session of 2009; and

19
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
 22 Services, the Director of Child Welfare Services, and the
 23 Director of the Office of Youth Services.

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 25
 26 OFFERED BY:

John M. ...
Karen ...

Tom Brown

Matt ...

Jim ...

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