
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children,
2 particularly young children, are the most vulnerable during, and
3 at times victimized by, homelessness. While many children
4 develop some resiliency to their situation and are able to
5 overcome the ravages of homelessness, the deficits of
6 homelessness often lead to poor health, exposure to violence,
7 poor academic performance, and a lack of positive social
8 interactions.

9 The purpose of this Act is to minimize the negative impact
10 of homelessness on children by establishing a task force to
11 coordinate resources to benefit children who are homeless.

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a task force to
13 coordinate public and private resources to benefit homeless
14 children.

15 (b) The president of the senate and the speaker of the
16 house of representatives shall convene the task force. The task
17 force shall:



- 1 (1) Be co-chaired by the chair of the senate human
2 services and public housing committee and the chair of
3 the house human services and housing committee; and
- 4 (2) Include:
- 5 (A) The superintendent of education or the
6 superintendent of education's designee;
- 7 (B) The director of health or the director of
8 health's designee;
- 9 (C) The director of human services or the director of
10 human services' designee;
- 11 (D) Four members representing the four counties
12 appointed by the mayor of each county;
- 13 (E) Four members representing not-for-profit
14 organizations that serve Hawaii's homeless
15 families, two appointed by the president of the
16 senate and two appointed by the speaker of the
17 house of representatives;
- 18 (F) The chairs of the senate and house education
19 committees; and
- 20 (G) The chairs of the senate and house health
21 committees.



1 (c) The task force shall establish findings and develop
2 recommendations on how the State can coordinate public and
3 private resources to benefit homeless children.

4 (d) The task force shall submit an interim report,
5 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
6 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session,
7 and shall submit a final report, including its findings and
8 recommendations and any proposed legislation, to the legislature
9 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2011
10 regular session.

11 (e) The task force shall include an accounting of the
12 effectiveness of the endorsed programs, as well as any
13 suggestions for preventing children from becoming homeless, in
14 its reports to the legislature pursuant to subsection (d).

15 SECTION 3. (a) There is established within the state
16 treasury the kokua na keiki special fund to be administered and
17 expended by the department of human services, and into which
18 shall be deposited:

- 19 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature into the fund;
20 and
21 (2) Any contributions by private entities.



1 (b) The moneys in the special fund shall be used by the
2 department of human services to:

3 (1) Establish and hire a homelessness coordinator
4 position; and

5 (2) Establish and hire one support staff position to
6 assist the homelessness coordinator.

7 (c) The moneys in the special fund may also be used by the
8 department of human services to provide grants for innovative
9 programs that benefit homeless children or that help coordinate
10 services for the benefit of homeless children.

11 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$750,000, or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
14 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2008-2009, to be paid into the kokua na keiki special fund.

16 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the kokua na keiki
17 special fund the sum of \$750,000, or so much thereof as may be
18 necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the same sum, or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, for
20 the purpose described in section 3.

21 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
22 of human services for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
2 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2010; provided that sections 4
3 and 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Homelessness; Children

Description:

Establishes a task force to coordinate resources for homeless children; establishes and appropriates funds to a special fund; sunset date. (SD1)

