

JAN 23 2009

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, homelessness often leads
6 to poor health, exposure to violence, poor academic performance,
7 and a lack of positive social interactions.

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

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

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

17 (1) Be co-chaired by the chairs of the standing committees
18 of the senate and house of representatives having



1 primary oversight of issues concerning the homeless;

2 and

3 (2) Include:

4 (A) The superintendent of education or the
5 superintendent's designee;

6 (B) The director of health or the director's
7 designee;

8 (C) The director of human services or the director's
9 designee;

10 (D) Four members representing the four counties, with
11 one member appointed by the mayor of each county;

12 (E) Four members representing not-for-profit
13 organizations that serve Hawaii's homeless
14 families, two appointed by the president of the
15 senate and two appointed by the speaker of the
16 house of representatives;

17 (F) The chairs of the standing committees of the
18 senate and house of representatives having
19 primary oversight of issues concerning lower
20 education;

21 (G) The chairs of the standing committees of the
22 senate and house of representatives having



1 primary oversight of issues concerning health;
2 and

3 (H) Two individuals who are homeless, one appointed
4 by the president of the senate and one appointed
5 by the speaker of the house of representatives.

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

9 (d) The task force shall submit an interim report,
10 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
11 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session
12 of 2010, 2011, and 2012, and shall submit a final report,
13 including its findings and recommendations and any proposed
14 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
15 to the convening of the regular session of 2013.

16 (e) The task force shall terminate on June 30, 2013.

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

21 (1) Appropriations made by the legislature; and

22 (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 fill a homelessness coordinator
4 position; and

5 (2) Establish and fill 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 (d) Applications for grants shall be made to the
12 department of human services and contain:

13 (1) The name of the requesting organization or individual;

14 (2) The purpose for the grant;

15 (3) The service to be supported by the grant;

16 (4) The target group to be benefited;

17 (5) The cost of the grant; and

18 (6) A statement that the grant shall be used for
19 activities that are consistent with the purposes of
20 this Act.

21 (e) A grant shall be awarded only if:



- 1 (1) The applicant has applied for or received all
2 applicable licenses and permits that are required to
3 conduct the activities or provide the services for
4 which a grant is awarded;
- 5 (2) The applicant agrees to comply with applicable
6 federal, state, and county laws;
- 7 (3) The grant shall not be used for purposes of
8 entertainment or perquisites; and
- 9 (4) The applicant shall indemnify and hold harmless the
10 department of human services, the State, its officers,
11 agents, and employees from and against any and all
12 claims arising out of or resulting from activities
13 carried out or projects undertaken with funds provided
14 hereunder, and procure sufficient insurance to provide
15 this indemnification if requested to do so by the
16 department of human services.
- 17 (f) To receive a grant, an applicant shall:
- 18 (1) Agree to make available to the department of human
19 services all records the applicant may have relating
20 to the operation of the applicant's activity,
21 business, or enterprise, to allow the department of



1 human services to monitor the applicant's compliance
2 with the purpose of this Act; and

3 (2) Establish, to the satisfaction of the department of
4 human services, that sufficient funds are available
5 for the effective operation of the activity, business,
6 or enterprise for the purpose for which the grant is
7 awarded.

8 (g) Every grant shall be:

9 (1) Monitored by the department of human services to
10 ensure compliance with this Act and the purposes and
11 intent of the grant; and

12 (2) Evaluated annually to determine whether the grant
13 attained the intended results in the manner
14 contemplated.

15 (h) Grants made by the department of human services under
16 this Act may be made without regard to chapters 103D and 103F,
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ for
20 fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum for fiscal year 2010-2011
21 to be deposited into the kokua na keiki special fund.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the kokua na keiki
 2 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
 3 necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much
 4 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the
 5 purposes described in section 3.

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

8 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009, and
 9 shall be repealed on June 30, 2013; provided that sections 4 and
 10 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

11

INTRODUCED BY: Shianne Chun Clakland
 Rom Bean
 Michelle N. Suleani
 Mike Getton



Report Title:

Homelessness; Children

Description:

Establishes a task force to coordinate resources for homeless children. Sunsets on 6/30/13. Establishes and appropriates funds to the kokua na keiki special fund. Creates an administrative grant program for the department of human services to award grants for programs that benefit homeless children.

