
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOSTER YOUTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that foster youth lack
2 stable and consistent relationships with positive adult role
3 models. These relationships are critical to the lives and well-
4 being of foster youth and have been found essential to:

- 5 (1) Building the self-esteem of foster youth;
6 (2) Teaching healthy forms of communication;
7 (3) Fostering a sense of community and belonging; and
8 (4) Improving school attendance and reducing attrition.

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish a statewide
10 mentorship program for foster youth to enrich their lives and
11 improve their opportunities for future success.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§346- Hawaii foster youth mentorship program;
16 established. (a) There is established within the department of
17 human services, the Hawaii foster youth mentorship program. The
18 department shall establish and administer the program to:



1 (1) Serve foster youth from ages seven to eighteen years
2 old;

3 (2) Recruit and coordinate adult members of the community
4 as mentors; and

5 (3) Facilitate consistent, meaningful, and long-term
6 interaction between adult mentors and foster youth by
7 establishing program guidelines for mentors.

8 (b) The department shall partner with the department of
9 education, office of Hawaiian affairs, interested schools, and
10 appropriate public, nonprofit, and private agencies to establish
11 the Hawaii foster youth mentorship program; provided that the
12 department may contract with the office of Hawaiian affairs or
13 appropriate nonprofit or private organizations to provide
14 services for the Hawaii foster youth mentorship program.

15 (c) The department shall adopt rules, pursuant to chapter
16 91, to effectuate the purposes of this section."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general fund
18 of the State the sum of or so much as may be necessary for
19 fiscal year 2011-2012 to establish and administer the Hawaii
20 foster youth mentorship program.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Hawaii Foster Youth Mentorship Program

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Foster Youth Mentorship Program in the Department of Human Services to promote the well-being of foster youth. (HB721 HD1)

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