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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO YOUTH GANGS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a re-  
2           emerging youth gang problem in Hawaii. This is evidenced by an  
3           increase in gang membership in certain areas of Hawaii as well  
4           as an increase in gang-related graffiti, violence, and criminal  
5           activity.

6           Because many of these offenses are increasingly being  
7           committed by gang members of elementary and middle school age,  
8           negative activities may impact school campuses as well. It is  
9           reported that gang members distribute illegal drugs on campus.  
10          It is also reported that members possess weapons and may be  
11          prone to violent behavior, endangering the safety and well-being  
12          of students as well as school personnel. School personnel are  
13          restricted from physically holding these members and suspension  
14          from school is not a deterrent for these gang members.

15          It is reported that substance abuse by youth gang members  
16          greatly contributes to the crime problem. Alcohol, marijuana,  
17          and over-the-counter cold medications have been identified as  
18          being used by youth crime suspects.



1 It is reported that many youth in youth gangs are highly  
2 mobile, interact with each other, and commit crimes of  
3 opportunity wherever they travel.

4 Youth delinquency tends to appear in communities where the  
5 factors of poverty, adolescence, and social disorganization are  
6 present. Social disorganization is activated in communities  
7 that have a high rate of in-migration; in families that lack the  
8 skills, knowledge of laws and customs, or time to provide  
9 adolescents with the support and guidance they need; and in  
10 schools and communities that fail to offer the types of  
11 activities which foster in adolescents a sense of challenge,  
12 purpose, and belonging, and that fail to recognize and  
13 effectively assist youths who are at-risk. When youths turn to  
14 gangs for support and recognition, their destructive behavior is  
15 an expression of their desperate need for help from the social  
16 disorganization which they are facing.

17 Clearly, the existence of gangs is but a symptom of a  
18 larger set of problems which our communities are experiencing.

19 In 1990, the legislature created the youth gang response  
20 system through the passage of Act 189, Session Laws of Hawaii  
21 1990, to address youth gang behavior and related issues through  
22 a comprehensive and coordinated effort. The youth gang response



1 system built and maintained partnerships among state agencies,  
2 county police departments, businesses, and community-based  
3 organizations and provided meaningful and positive opportunities  
4 for youth engaging in serious gang activity.

5 The legislature finds that re-investing resources and funds  
6 in the youth gang response system is essential to maintaining  
7 control of the gang situation. While the youth gang response  
8 system was community-based, it also was statewide and systemwide  
9 and linked to schools, courts, parents, government, agencies,  
10 community organizations, and community leaders.

11 The youth gang response system was most recently  
12 administratively attached to the department of human services'  
13 office of youth services and included:

- 14 (1) Effective intelligence and law enforcement;
- 15 (2) Sharing of information;
- 16 (3) Public awareness programs;
- 17 (4) Community and school-based intervention and prevention  
18 programs; and
- 19 (5) Evaluation and research.

20 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
21 youth gang response system which shall be coordinated by the  
22 department of human services' office of youth services and shall



1 incorporate the critical elements of law enforcement and  
2 intelligence, training and community awareness, community  
3 intervention, community prevention, information, and evaluation.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
8 2014-2015 for the continued operation of:

- 9 (1) A statewide information system and information  
10 clearinghouse on youth gangs;
- 11 (2) Public education on the youth gang problem;
- 12 (3) Community support groups to help citizens confront and  
13 deal with the problem of youth gangs;
- 14 (4) A statewide training program that includes cultural  
15 identity training for public citizens and government  
16 personnel who are involved or are in contact with  
17 youth gangs; and
- 18 (5) A statewide law enforcement task force focused on  
19 resolving youth gang criminal activities.

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



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
5 year 2014-2015 for the police departments of the counties of  
6 Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai to monitor gang activities,  
7 and establish new gang prevention programs; provided that each  
8 county shall be allocated \$ .

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
10 of human services' office of youth services for the purposes of  
11 this Act.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2014-2015 to commission the center for youth research of  
17 the University of Hawaii to:

- 18 (1) Assist the department of parks and recreation to plan  
19 and develop programs for targeted youth groups; and
- 20 (2) Conduct a study of the activities offered to youths  
21 between thirteen and eighteen years of age by the  
22 department of parks and recreation for the city and



1 county of Honolulu in the targeted communities that  
2 have yet to be determined.

3 The study shall focus on the following issues:

4 (1) Which facilities are under the jurisdiction of the  
5 department of parks and recreation in the targeted  
6 areas and the kinds of recreational activities each  
7 facility can accommodate;

8 (2) How the department's facilities in the targeted areas  
9 are currently being utilized;

10 (3) Why additional activities for youths in the targeted  
11 age group are not being offered by the department and  
12 what would be required to offer more activities to  
13 this age group; and

14 (4) The feasibility of extending facility hours.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
16 of human services' office of youth services for the purposes of  
17 this Act.

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2014-2015 for the statewide expansion of the campus  
2 disturbance plan of the department of education.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
9 2014-2015 for the department of education to continue the school  
10 based gang and drug prevention and intervention project  
11 initiated by the Honolulu police department in 1990 at Kalakaua  
12 and Dole Middle schools, and to expand the project to include  
13 schools that have yet to be determined. Unexpended funds at the  
14 conclusion of the authorized expenditure period in this section  
15 will be used to expand this project statewide.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
17 of human services' office of youth services for the purposes of  
18 this Act.

19 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
22 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2014-2015 for the department of human services' office of  
2 youth services to provide and develop prevention and  
3 intervention services and programs statewide for youth-at-risk.  
4 These services and programs may include job-training skills,  
5 mentorship programs, substance abuse programs, and language  
6 access and transition classes for youth-at-risk.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
8 of human services' office of youth services for the purposes of  
9 this Act.

10 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
14 year 2014-2015 for youth research of the University of Hawaii to  
15 conduct an evaluation of the youth gang response system.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
17 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
22 2014-2015 to the department of human services' office of youth





1 services to provide personnel, equipment, office space, and  
2 intrastate travel for monitoring purposes in its role as the  
3 overall coordinator of this Act.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
5 of human services' office of youth services for the purposes of  
6 this Act.

7 SECTION 10. The unexpended and unencumbered balance of the  
8 appropriated sums shall not lapse until the close of business on  
9 June 30, 2015.

10 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

11

INTRODUCED BY:

*John M. G. [Signature]*  
*Mele Canale*

JAN 19 2013



H.B. NO. 643

**Report Title:**

Youth Gang Response System; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Youth Gang Response System.  
Effective July 1, 2013.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

HB HMS 2013-1024

