
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 possess weapons, and may be prone to violent behavior,
11 endangering the safety and well-being of students as well as
12 school personnel. School personnel are restricted from
13 physically holding these members and suspension from school is
14 not a deterrent for these gang members.

15 Reports also suggest that substance abuse by youth gang
16 members greatly contributes to the crime problem. Alcohol,
17 marijuana, and over-the-counter cold medications have been
18 identified as 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 often occurs 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 a sense of challenge, purpose, and
12 belonging in adolescents, 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



1 include the participation of other relevant state and county
2 agencies and shall incorporate the critical elements of law
3 enforcement and intelligence, training and community awareness,
4 community intervention, community prevention, information, and
5 evaluation.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
10 2014-2015 for the continued operation of:

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



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of human services' office of youth services for the purposes of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2014-2015 for the police departments of the counties of
9 Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and the city and county of Honolulu to
10 monitor gang activities, and establish new gang prevention
11 programs; provided that each county shall be allocated
12 \$.

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

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



1 (1) Assist the department of parks and recreation of the
2 city and county of Honolulu to plan and develop
3 programs for targeted youth groups; and

4 (2) Conduct a study of the activities offered to youths
5 between thirteen and eighteen years of age by the
6 department of parks and recreation for the city and
7 county of Honolulu in the targeted communities that
8 have yet to be determined.

9 The study shall focus on the following issues:

10 (1) Which facilities are under the jurisdiction of the
11 department of parks and recreation in the targeted
12 areas and the kinds of recreational activities each
13 facility can accommodate;

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

16 (3) Why additional activities for youths in the targeted
17 age group are not being offered by the department and
18 what would be required to offer more activities to
19 this age group; and

20 (4) The feasibility of extending facility hours.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of human services' office of youth services for the purposes of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2014-2015 for the statewide expansion of the campus
9 disturbance plan of the department of education.

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

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2014-2015 for the department of education to continue the school
17 based gang and drug prevention and intervention project
18 initiated by the Honolulu police department in 1990 at Kalakaua
19 and Dole Middle schools, and to expand the project to include
20 schools that have yet to be determined. Unexpended funds at the
21 conclusion of the authorized expenditure period in this section
22 shall be used to expand this project statewide.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of human services' office of youth services for the purposes of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2014-2015 for the department of human services' office of
9 youth services to provide and develop prevention and
10 intervention services and programs statewide for youth-at-risk.
11 These services and programs may include job-training skills,
12 mentorship programs, substance abuse programs, and language
13 access and transition classes for youth-at-risk.

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

17 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2014-2015 for the center for youth research of the



1 University of Hawaii to conduct an evaluation of the youth gang
2 response system.

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

5 SECTION 9. 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 to the department of human services' office of youth
10 services to provide personnel, equipment, office space, and
11 intrastate travel for monitoring purposes in its role as the
12 overall coordinator of this Act.

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

16 SECTION 10. The unexpended and unencumbered balance of the
17 appropriated sums shall not lapse until the close of business on
18 June 30, 2015.

19 SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Youth Gang Response System; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Youth Gang Response System.
Effective July 1, 2050. (HB643 HD1)

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

